



# Islamabad POST

Monday, June 20, 2022

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**Ukraine: Italian FM accuses own party of 'immaturity'**

Detailed News On Page-08

**NATO warns of a long Ukraine war**

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**Injured Osaka withdraws from Wimbledon**

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**Briefs**

**PM Sharif announces CPR training**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has announced a nationwide training programme of health Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to save human lives in emergency. He has directed the head of Strategic Reforms Unit Salman Sufi to initiate the plan immediately to save people. Salman Sufi, in a statement, said CPR training programme of international standard will help save lives of people. He said CPR will also be included in curriculum at school level besides training of every citizen during the campaign.

**FM lauds FATF's decision**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday while welcoming Financial Action Task Force's unanimous acknowledgment of completion of action plans, reaffirmed that the government of Pakistan was committed to continue this positive trajectory of reforming the financial sector as part of its larger strategic objective of strengthening the economy. The foreign minister, in a statement issued by Foreign Office Spokesperson, said that announcement by the FATF plenary of granting an on-site visit to Pakistan was a welcome development.

**Terrorist hired to kill Imran**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fayyaz Chohan on Saturday dropped a bombshell, claiming that a terrorist has been hired to assassinate former prime minister Imran Khan. "I have details that some people have ordered a terrorist named 'Cochi' in Afghanistan to assassinate PTI Chairman Imran Khan," the former provincial minister said in a tweet.

## Forces kill 6 terrorists in Balochistan

Slain BLF terrorists were involved in attacks on checkpoints, a huge cache of arms and ammunition also recovered



STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces on Sunday killed six terrorists belonging to Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) during a search operation in Paroom area in district Panjgur of Balochistan, the military's public affairs wing said in a statement. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the forces conducted an operation on a tip-off regarding the presence of terrorists in Zamran Range near Paroom. "Once the troops started a clearance operation in the area, terrorists tried to escape from their hideout and opened fire on security forces," the statement said.

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## Dangerous TTP terrorist arrested

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: In a big action in SITE area in Karachi on Sunday, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) police along with Rangers officials arrested a 'most wanted' terrorist of a banned outfit. Reportedly, in a joint operation in SITE area, the CTD and Rangers officials arrested terrorist Ilyas who belonged to disbanded Tehreek-e-Taliban. The name of terrorist Ilyas was included in the most wanted persons list in the CTD's Red Book. Ilyas was a close friend of terrorist Qari Shakir. He went to Saudi Arabia and hid there. CTD in-charge Mazhar Mashwani said that during investigation, the accused confessed to killing a man named Sher Ahmad in 2013. He also told the investigators that had joined TTP's Umar Mansoor group in 2012, Mashwani added.

## President returns the elections amendment EVM/OP bill unsigned

Says it has been very painful to him as President of Pakistan, to not sign a bill passed by Majlis Shoora

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that he has been pursuing the issue of Electronic Voting Machines and Overseas Pakistanis Voting with all governments, in the parliament, as well as with the Supreme Court of Pakistan since more than a decade. He has not signed the bill despite the fact, that the constitution that he upholds, will make it into law. He referred Article 75 (2) of constitution of Pakistan which states that: "When the President has returned a Bill to the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), it shall be reconsidered by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in joint sitting and, if it is again passed, with or without amendment, by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), by the votes of the majority of the members of both Houses present and voting, it shall be deemed for the purposes



of the Constitution to have been passed by both Houses and shall be presented to the President, and the President shall give his assent within ten days, failing which such assents shall be deemed to have been given." While expressing himself the President said that it has been very painful to him personally as President of Pakistan, to not sign a bill passed by Majlis Shoora. Therefore he must record his reasons for posterity. While enlisting the reasons, the President said that besides the proposed laws' regressive nature that he pointed out in detail

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani presenting a souvenir to the outgoing Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, who is leaving Pakistan after completing his term. - DNA

**Pak Covid positivity ratio climbs at 1.3%**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's COVID-19 positivity ratio has climbed to 1.3% after 152 new cases were detected in the country, the National Institute of Health said on Sunday. The positivity ratio has witnessed a steady rise in the last three days, moving up from 0.86% on June 17 and 1.17% a day earlier. According to fresh statistics released by the institute, 11,663 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours. NIH said that 58 patients are in critical care, whereas the government's COVID dashboard put the figure at 55. No deaths from the virus occurred in the last 24 hours, the institute reported. One death was last reported by the government dashboard on June 16. Pakistan has so far recorded 30,383 deaths from COVID-19. Fatalities have generally been on a decline since the last high of 56 recorded on September 30, 2021. The total number of cases in the country, according to the government dashboard, are 1,531,982. The caseload was perceived to have reduced in the country, however new reports have surfaced stating otherwise. In Islamabad, the district health officer has reported a "continuous increase" in patients. The positivity ratio in the capital currently stands at 4.10%, the DHO said, adding that 1,098 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, which revealed 45 people to have become infected.

## Conspiracy or interference

# Imran Khan for thorough probe

Says if the rulers had no strategy to run the country then why did they become a part of the conspiracy



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday said that the joint opposition filed the no-trust motion against him based on a false narrative of inflation to hide the foreign agenda, conspiracy or interference it should be investigated. Addressing the social media influencers, Imran Khan said that if the rulers had no strategy to run the country then why did they become a part of the conspiracy. "Was it a conspiracy or should it be investigated," Imran said. "The people involved in the conspiracy want to press the cypher issue," He said. Turning his aim at PPP chairman,

## Masses have rejected Khan's protest call

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that the people of Pakistan have rejected the negative politics of Imran Khan and his call for agitation would prove a miserable flop. In a tweet in response to former prime minister Imran Khan's call of protest on Sunday night, she said that the people of Pakistan have recognised his fake and hypocritical face.

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# Does the FATF take political decisions?

FM hails the decision; says economy to get a breather

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in its recent meeting decided to send an inspection team to Pakistan after which the body would make up its mind to take Pakistan out of the grey list or otherwise. The economic wizards believe the inspection is just a formality and in fact the organization has, in principle, decided to take Pakistan out of the grey list. Pakistan was placed in the grey list in 2018 when the incumbent PML N government was ruling the country. During PTI time efforts were made to fulfill FATF conditions which primarily related to terror financing and money laundering issues. Pakistan ostensibly did a great job by complying with the conditions even during the PTI government time however the country was not taken out of the grey list. When it comes to fulfilling the FATF conditions, there is no second opinion that the Pakistani military established led by Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa played a key role. The Establishment made sure that banned outfits are not allowed to operate. Similarly they also ensured that no financing whatsoever is made to these outfits.

All this was done when the establishment and the PTI government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan were on the same page. But despite achieving the targets set by the FATF, Pakistan was not removed from the grey list at that time simply because the then PTI government was at odds with the USA and a few FATF member countries. But soon after the removal of the PTI government, the FATF has now extended its benevolence to Pakistan. The Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari however on Sunday while welcoming Financial Action Task Force's unanimous acknowledgment of completion of action plans, reaffirmed that the government of Pakistan was committed to continue this positive trajectory of reforming the financial sector as part of its larger strategic objective of strengthening the economy. The foreign minister, in a statement issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson, said that announcement by the FATF plenary of granting an on-site visit to Pakistan was a welcome development. It also reflected the remarkable progress made by Pakistan to enhance the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime, he added. "I am certain that this good news from

FATF will restore confidence in Pakistan's economy and act as a catalyst for sustained growth and development. Let me reiterate the Government of Pakistan's high level commitment to continue aligning our AML/CFT regime with global standards," the foreign minister said. It is also a fact that both PML N and the PPP had opposed the FATF legislation. In fact both parties chose to walk out of the House when the PTI government tabled the FATF related law bills in the Assembly. The PTI Chairman Imran Khan and other leaders pointed out this fact in their speeches delivered during their Sunday's protest rallies against the price hike. It is still unclear what immediate relief Pakistan would get once taken out of the grey list. As regards terror financing issue, the matter seems to have been resolved fully but when it comes to money laundering and other financial irregularities much is still needed to be done. The core question before the inspection team when it arrives in October this year would be as follows, "Does the Pakistan authorities have brought to justice those involved in the money laundering and other financial irregularities?"

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# Government takes steps for improving quality of education

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Development, Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that the present government was taking various steps for bringing improvement in the education sector, in the first phase, we will train teachers, this was stated by Federal Minister for Education, Rana Tanveer Hussain, while addressing to the ground-breaking ceremony of Regional Campus of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) in Sheikhupura. The Minister said that AIU offers various programs of teacher training, universities should take steps by introducing a special training program for teacher training to secure the future of children. He further added that Allama Iqbal Open University could play an important role in popularizing education, training teachers and improvement of quality education in the country. Unless the direction is right, we cannot make progress. We should pay special attention to merit, transparency, and quality of education. He further said that after Covid 19, the distance education system and online education have become very popular all over the world. The education minister said that Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum is one of the most active Vice-Chancel-

lors and he can bring further improvement to this education system. He said that Saudi Arabia has made an excellent setup of an e-learning and communication system education system consisting of 20 TV channels. The Government of Pakistan is sending Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum to Saudi Arabia in the first week of July to review Saudi Arabia's communication education system to further improve Pakistan's distance education. Rana Tanveer Hussain further said that he gets peace of mind for contributing to the betterment of the region or the country. The Federal Minister for Education said that Open University is the second-largest university in South Asia. The establishment of a campus in Sheikhupura will also provide free education to the needy children of the area which will increase the number of 1.2 million students at the university over many times. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum said that the Deputy Commissioner, Rana Shakeel Aslam, and the Ministry of Education were assisting in the acquisition of land for the Sheikhupura Campus. Laying the foundation stone of the Federal Minister of Education in his hometown with his own hands is a sign of positive attitude towards education. The Vice-Chancellor said that the Open University is on a mission to expand its educational network and build

campus buildings, laying the foundation of a regional campus in Gwadar soon, going to Attock, Sargodha, and inner Sindh as well. The Vice-Chancellor further said that the Open University is also bringing out-of-school children into the educational net in collaboration with various institutions. "Identify out-of-school children and we will include them in the education network without any charges," he said. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum said that the Open University is providing free education to eunuchs and prisoners to make them useful citizens and integrate them into the national mainstream. He further said, that after digitalization, it has become necessary to have a TV channel. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the TV channel of the university will be launched soon. Credit for providing higher education opportunities to the Sheikhupura campus and its residents goes to Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain. Director-General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmad Khan, and Regional Director Sheikhupura, Nasreen Akhtar Mirza also addressed the function. He said that with the construction of the campus, every effort would be made to bring the rate of education in Sheikhupura and Nankana Sahib to 100% and would fulfill the dream of the Minister of Education for quality education.



SWAT: Sardar Waqar Shahzad advocate National Commissioner Pakistan Boy Scouts Association had meeting with Adam Mulawarman Tugio- Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia. – DNA

## PML-N came to power just to save Pakistan from bankruptcy

SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) came to power and formed government just to save the country from bankruptcy. Addressing a public gathering, after inaugurating Rahatabad grid station here at Madyan, Amir Muqam said that the poor economic and financial policies of Imran's government had put the country at the verge of bankruptcy. He said PTI government had pushed the country to an economic quagmire, resulting into devaluation of rupee and inflation. Muqam said previous government took record foreign loans in the country's history and had no idea how they will repay these loans. The PM aide said that the current price hike and increase in petroleum products was due to wrong economic and fiscal policies of the PTI



government. "Previous government had signed agreements with IMF and agreed to withdraw subsidies on the petroleum products but Imran Khan intentionally delayed withdrawal of subsidies on petroleum and electricity, knowing that his days in power was numbered and left economic landmines for the present government." Muqam said the PML-N led government was left with no other options but to abide by these agreements in or-

der to prevent the country from bankruptcy. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had offered KP Govt to provide discounted wheat flour for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it was not reciprocated well. For the purpose, flour stock had been increased in utility stores across KP, he added. Muqam said the Rahatabad grid station and new feeders would help resolve the problems of low voltage and provide uninterrupted power supply to consumers of the area. He said people of Madyan, Behrain, Fatehpoor, Shahr and others areas of SWAT would be largely benefited. The adviser congratulated the nation for exiting the FATF's grey list that was a big achievement of PML-N led government. Muqam said that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had made Pakistan's an 'atomic power' while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would make the country an economic power. – APP

## Italy played vital role in promoting 'Olive Culture' in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Sunday said that Italy was playing vital role in promoting 'Olive Culture' in Pakistan for improving olive value. Talking to a state media, he said there was full potential of olives in Pakistan in which Italy has been playing its role for the betterment and promotion of olive culture in Pakistan. He said that Italy would cooperate with Pakistan worth 1.5 million for the promotion of olive culture in Pakistan. He said that olive culture means olive supply value chain and procession, without which development in this sector would not be easy in Pakistan. Replying to a question, he said that "Olive Culture" project worth 1.5 million shall be executed in 26 months in suitable areas by CIHEAM Bari in cooperation with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) through the Pakistan Oilseed Department. He said that it represents a continuum with all the work done by Italy in the past, with a holistic approach encompassing all stages and stakeholders. Ambassador Andreas said that Pakistan had a lot of potential for olive production and the country could earn foreign exchange by increasing olive production and using it for commercial purposes. He said that Italian olives were the best in the world in terms of quality. Pakistan could import olives from Italy. Olives, he said, were an integral part of the entire Mediterranean

civilization without which life and culture would be incomplete. The Ambassador said that Italy had always supported Pakistan's journey in the field and "We are happy to continue with an aim to develop a sustainable, modern and rich olive culture in Pakistan." He said that it would not only provide quality edible oil for the Pakistani people but also help reduce the import bill of the country. Rather, he said, "We look forward to the times when Pakistan would be among leading olive-producing and exporting countries in the world". While talking to media, Project Coordinator, CIHEAM Bari International Olive Culture, Marco Marchetti said that there was a need to work more on the olive supply chain in Pakistan, the lack of which at present could not reap the benefits in Pakistan. He said that consumption of edible oil in Pakistan is 4.5 million tons for which the market needs to introduce the best olive oil for human health. Marco Marchetti said that for the promotion of olive oil culture in Pakistan, there was a need to introduce the technology, including awareness to the farmers. He said that there was a need to reduce the cost of production in the olive supply value chain with the acquisition of technology, by improving the cost of production, local farmers can be given opportunities to sell olive oil in the market at a good price. "Olive culture has been around for thousands of years in Italy, where we have been associated with Mediterranean civilization, where olives have been cultivated for thousands of years," he said.

## FIA arrests two human traffickers

PESHAWAR: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday claimed to have arrested two accused involved in human trafficking during operation carried out at Chowk Yadgar Peshawar. The FIA spokesman said that arrested people were involved in cheating and depriving people of money on pretext of sending them abroad for jobs. He said that human traffickers kept youth under detention near Iranian border and subject them to torture and demand money from their families by sending videos. A case has been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway. – APP

## Court Notice

In the court of Miss Mehwish Shazadi Civil Judge Jhelum  
Title of Case: Haris Matloob etc vs Haseef Rasib etc

Respondent (Num) 1: Tauseef Rasib s/o Rasib Hussain (2) Abubakar rasib s/o Rasib Hussain r/o Dhok Awan Tehsil Dina Distt Jhelum

Claim: Suit for Declaration

In each case, the respondent's 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 22-06-2022 at 8:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

## 18 provided jobs on orders of Ombudsman Punjab

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: On the orders of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, 18 complainants from different districts of the province have been provided regular government jobs in public sector departments including agriculture, education, health, finance, district accounts office, highways, cooperative societies and deputy commissioner's office. This legal relief has been provided under Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants

(Appointment and Terms of Employment) Rules, 1974. The spokesman of the office of ombudsman Punjab disclosed in a statement issued on Sunday that Moin Hamza of Sahiwal, Muhammad Awais Sanwal of Vehari, Muzammil Batool of Khushab, Faraz Latif of Narawal, Muhammad Farooq of Bhakar, Zargam Farooq of Dera Ghazi Khan and Qais Amir of Nankana Sahib were among those recruited as junior clerks in provincial government departments in BS-11. The spokesman added

that some other plaintiffs including Yasir Mahmood of Narawal, Muhammad Asif Shah of Multan, Tahir Ahmad Manzoor Butt of Sialkot, Muhammad Shahzad of Nankana Sahib and Muhammad Mubashir Siddiq of Vehari have been recruited as naib-qasid after the involvement of provincial ombudsman office. Meanwhile, the order suspending the recruitment of one Syed Fida Ali Zaidi from Faisalabad as naib-qasid under Rule 17-A (category b medical retirement) has been withdrawn.

## JKSM for probe into unmarked graves

SRINAGAR: JK Salvation Movement (JKSM) on Sunday in its appeal to people of occupied J&K asked to pay tributes to martyrs killed in fake encounter and in mysterious circumstances. More than ten thousand unknown persons are buried in these graves and most of the graves are in Kupwara, Handwara, Bandipora in north Kashmir and far-flung areas of Jammu. Besides those killed in fake encounters are not handed over to their families and instead are buried without performing their last religious rites, he said. – DNA

## NAB asks citizens to file applications against fake housing schemes

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has asked the people cheated by illegal housing scheme's management, companies, individuals to submit their complaints/compensation claims by July 20 for getting back their looted money. According to an announcement of NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the bureau was conducting investigations against Messers Qartaba Model Town, Peshawar, on the allegations of receiving money from the people by fraudulent means by promising them plots in aforementioned housing scheme. The applications of complaints and compensation claims should be submitted

to Deputy Director (Coordination), Investigation Wing, II, NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar. Meanwhile, the NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has sought compensation claims from the people cheated by different housing schemes, including management of Al Haram Society, Kohat, Pakistan Railways Employees Housing Society, Nowshera, and individuals including Faheem ur Rehman, Waseem ur Rehman sons of Abdul Aziz, Shahzada son of Abdul Wadood, Akhtar Nawaz Khan son of Umer Daraz Khan, Adil Khan son of Abdullah Khan, Shahada Yar Khan son of Mehboob Khan, Peshawar, Hakeemullah son of Naseebullah, Tehsil Bat Khela, District Malakand and others to submit their compensation claims to Deputy Director (Cooperation), Investigation Wing III, NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar by July 7, during office hours. The applications along with supporting documents including a copy of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC), authentic copies of original documents, payment receipts of the looted money, affidavit should be submitted to Deputy Director (Cooperation), Investigation Wing III, NAB, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Phase V, Hayatabad, Peshawar within the stipulated time. – APP

## Kumrat Valley – Exploring bounties of nature


KUMRAT: Bewitching natural beauty, cultural richness and unparalleled hospitality of the diverse tourist's destinations in Pakistan have always contributed to captivate the attention of local and exotic nature as well as generate handsome revenues. Bestowed with uncountable benediction, Pakistan's plains and hilly areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Northern areas present ample opportunities of amusement to hundreds of thousands tourist thronging these places every year. Kumrat Valley, situated in the Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is also one of the beautiful discoveries of the social media with all its attractions of green pastures, snow clad mountains, the river Panjkora, foggy mounds and imperturbable beauty of the forest. "The year 2016 proved as a turning point for the hidden beauty of Kumrat Valley to be revealed through social media and soon it became one of the famous tourist's destinations for the visitors", Assistant Commissioner, Sheringal, Muhammad Yar Khan said. "Before 2016, there was not even a single hotel in the valley for the tourists to stay but later on small hotels were constructed in the forests by the local people to facilitate visitors," he added. The place is so beautiful that despite a 48 kilometer dilapidated track from Sheringal, Union Council in Upper Dir, tourist embark on this journey to visit the heavenly place.

Although, this track was repaired sometimes back but damaged again due to frequent snowfall. "Despite the poor road conditions, around 6,000 visitors entered Kumrat Valley on the first day of Eid-ul Fitr, 8,000 on the second and 10,000 plus on the third day of Eid," Muhammad Yar Khan said. He said for facilitation of the visitors the administration maintains strict law and order. "Not even a single crime was reported during last one year of my posting therefore visitors can freely roam around the valley without any threat." Muhammad Yar however mentioned to dearth of good doctors, educationists and other professionals in the area as most

of the people after getting good education move to cities or abroad for job purposes. Former Prime Minister, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif visited the place during his tenure and wanted to give it the status of a National Park. But, local people resisted this proposal fearing that their land and forests would be confiscated by the government. Pakistan People's Party government established Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University in Sheringal in 2016 and the PTI government in KPK also focused on forest conservation and promotion of tourism in the areas. Meanwhile, an official of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Zaman Khan said that Deputy Inspector

General of Police has issued strict instruction to maintain law and order in the area. "We follow instructions and try to keep the area crime free," he said but mentioned to language barriers and overcharging by hotels when asked about complaints registered by the visitors. "Most of the visitors complain of language barriers, extra charging by shops and car parking as well as dilapidated roads," he added. Around one million tourists visit the valley during the peak four months of summer season with most of them coming from Punjab and Sindh. This rising number of visitors has risen the number of locally constructed two star hotels to 45 in addition to small huts. The hotels capacity sometimes fall short to accommodate the visitors that make local people to fleece the tourists charging them Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000 per night. "This is irritating. We go there for leisure time but the local fully benefit from our presence over there by charging much more than the actual price," said a visitor Adnan Chaudhry, hailing from Faisalabad. "If the nature has bestowed them with its bounties, they should care for the fellow visitors. Provincial authorities should devise a pricing mechanism for the tourists visiting this area," he said. He said, "we can understand that they have only seasonal income as there are lesser opportunities of earning during harsh winter. But, the rates should be convenient to both sides." – APP





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For further information please contact the following.

**Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman**  
**Mobile: 0300 8553342**

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JUNE

June 02 / <b>Italy</b>	National Day/ Independence Day
June 04 / <b>Finland</b>	Armed Forces Day
June 07 / <b>Sweden</b>	National Day
June 10 / <b>Portugal</b>	Portugal Day (National Day)
June 10 / <b>Jordan</b>	Arab Revolution & Army Day
June 11 / <b>United Kingdom</b>	Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth
June 12 / <b>Philippines</b>	Independence Day
June 12 / <b>Russian Federation</b>	Day of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation (National Day)
June 13 / <b>Zambia</b>	Armed Forces Day
June 17 / <b>Iceland</b>	National Day
June 18 / <b>Seychells</b>	National Day
June 25 / <b>Croatia</b>	National Day
June 25 / <b>Mozambique</b>	National Day
June 26 / <b>Azerbaijan</b>	Army Day



## Hotels & Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Rawal Town.....	5773343

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: Wives of diplomats taking interest in various handicrafts items during an exhibition held at Islamabad Serena Hotle. – DNA

# Budget figures seen as fluid: IPS seminar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The figures in the provisional budget, presented on June 10, are extremely fluid and would not remain the same in the final budget that will be approved at the end of the month. At this time, the political instability, which is coinciding with the economic instability, has created a critical situation for efficient budget planning and approval. This was observed during a hybrid seminar titled 'The Federal Budget 2022-23: A Review', organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) to evaluate the federal budget for the next fiscal year and its economic direction through the lens of policy. The session – co-chaired by Professor Dr. Abdul Saboor, dean, Social Sciences, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, and Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS – was addressed by eminent economic policy analysts including Abbas Raza, former chairman, National Tariff Commission, Dr. Perwaiz Tahir, former chief economist Planning Commission of Pakistan, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, former SAPM on revenue and former secretary finance, Zaheeruddin Dar, founder, Centre for International Entrepreneurship and Trade, Dr. Salman Ahmed Shaikh, director Islamic Economics Project, and



Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary. Zafar ul Hasan Almas, joint chief economist, Planning Commission of Pakistan also participated in the discussion. Dr. Perwaiz Tahir was of the view that the present budget indicates no seriousness and philosophy behind its preparation. He noted that despite setting growth targets, Pakistan is not moving towards growth because of inherent challenges and limitations in its economic structure. Many problems and challenges would continue to exist for some time before actual growth is visible. He further pointed out certain challenges

including the low long-term investment rate and direction of the growth target. Confronting the criticisms made on low growth rate of five per cent, he stated that a growth rate beyond 6% can create a crisis for Pakistan. Talking about the role of the IMF in budget approval or planning, he said that Pakistan would have been in a different position if it had done its planning without the intervention and role of the IMF. Zaheeruddin Dar pointed out that it is too early to visualize the effect and outcome of this budget as the figures are expected to change and the actual picture will become evident

at the end of the fiscal year through closing accounts. He stated that Pakistan is already going through a default state in terms of balance of payments, but has not announced it. This is because by doing so, it is the elite class that would have to pay the price, while in the current scenario it is the poor who are paying the price. Sharing his insights on tax evasion, he elaborated how the collection is increasing every year, only to result in a declining tax-to-GDP ratio. He said that the capacity to pay taxes is decreasing every year, resulting in a continuous increase in tax rates, a decrease in tax-to-GDP ratio, and decreased economic activity. He also highlighted the ignorance of the politicians and policymakers concerned on this important issue.

Dar said that Pakistan faces several challenges due to the Ukraine conflict and to meet those challenges the country must invest in its economy timely to generate productivity. Abbas Raza was of the view that the budget presents a very bleak state of the economy faced with trade deficit, on the one hand, and unmanageable foreign and domestic debt, on the other hand. While confronting the silence of the budget on various issues, he highlighted the failure to propose effective policies and measures for debt retirement, domestic revenue mobilization, industrial revival, control of POL prices, and inflation control.

## Capital's polluted natural drains await STPs

ISLAMABAD: Once known for its scenic beauty, habitat and natural streams, the federal capital has been fast losing its elegance due to unruly population and housing societies growth threatening its ecosystem and serenity. Its natural streams flowing out of perennial and seasonal springs of the Margala Hills have turned into filthy and stinky drains as city manager had failed to put in place proper waste disposal mechanism. Rapid growth in population and massive construction in catchment areas continued to pollute streams emanating unpleasant odor throughout the city, besides turning brooks into breeding habitats of mosquitoes.

The Capital homes about 26 small and large streams, passing through the hill torrents embracing rainwater and tossing over different residential sectors finally converging into two main streams outside Islamabad. "Due to discharge of domestic waste and leakage of municipal sewers, these streams are highly polluted and spew foul odour and breed mosquitoes," says an official of Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (Pak-EPA). "This is a continuous threat to capital's environment, habitat and human health. Therefore, there is dire need to focus this dilemma," the official said. In the initial master plan of Islamabad, the natural streams were left open with large spaces on both sides to make them flow smoothly along their natural courses. Later on, the encroachments were built by narrowing them to create space for residential and commercial plots. Over-flowing choked sewerage lines and plastic waste dumping into nullahs besides poor waste management as the citizens, Capital Development Authority and Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation had seemingly failed to fulfill their responsibilities. "It was our collective responsibility. But, on one side citizens showed negligence in keeping these tributaries clean and one the other side the city managers failed to put in place proper waste disposal system," said a CDA official. "If you observe the tributaries of these various drains they show pure and crystal clear water, but they become dirty and smelly while passing through the human settlements," the official said on condition of anonymity. "At some spots, sewage water flows directly into natural streams thanks to broken lines. It becomes worse at night," he added. The information with CDA also reveals that initially rainwater and sewage drains were laid separately. But, later on completion certificates were issued to house least caring for this principle. "Such actions encouraged people and they stopped laying separate lines for sewage and rainwater to save meager cost of pipelines and started discharging sewage into rain drains," the official informed. Just to talk of sewage treatment plants, there is one sewage treatment plant (STP) functional in sector I9 treating up to six million gallons sewage per day (mgd) against its total capacity of 14 mgd due to broken network of sewage supply lines in various sectors. If running on full capacity, this plant can provide ample amount of water for horticulture in capital. – APP

## Shops to close at 9 pm

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Following in the footsteps of Sindh and Punjab, Islamabad has also decided to limit the operational hours of markets, shopping malls, wedding halls and restaurants in an effort to tackle the current energy crisis.

Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon shared the notification on Twitter early on Sunday. The order stated that all shops, shopping malls, bakeries and confectionaries, offices, storerooms, godowns, warehouses and cattle markets would close at 9pm. Further, the timings of marriage halls, marquees and exhibition halls would be limited to 10:00pm.

## Minister confirms seeking US support

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Jun 18 (DNA): Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha has confirmed seeking United States support for revival of International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. According to details, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha has confirmed that Pakistan had reached out to the United States in a bid to revive \$6 billion IMF programme. Talking to journalists after standing committee meeting, the State Minister pointed out that talks were underway with the IMF as the global lender was seeking clarification on many issues. Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha further said that while the former rulers damaged the country's credibility the current government was seeking better relations with all the nations. "We have reached out to United States for the revival of IMF programme," she added. The State Minister noted Pakistan's relations with the United States were improving. "Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's visit to the United States was also successful", she added.

## Police arrest five gamblers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police have arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 10,450 stake money, three mobile phones and valuables from their possession here on Saturday, a police spokesman said. He informed that Rattaamral police conducted a raid and arrested five gamblers namely Ali, Mithu, Hanif, Amir Bakhsh and Qasim. A case has been registered against all of them while further investigation is under process. – APP

## LG polls in ICT to be held on July 31

ISLAMABAD: The polling for Local Government election in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) will be held on July 31. As per revised schedule issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the conduct of Local Government Election in ICT, the consolidation of results will be on August 4. – APP

## 9 outlaws held, drugs and weapons recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested 09 outlaws during the last 24 hours from different areas of the city, a police spokesman said. He said that a massive crackdown against criminal elements in the city is being carried out. During this crackdown Tarnol police team has arrested two drug peddlers during special checking identified as Saud Abbas and Nauman and recovered 220 gram hashish. Similarly, Golra police team has arrested a drug peddler namely Arshad Khan and recovered 1275 gram hashish. Likewise, Shehzad Town police on the tip of arrested a notorious drug peddler namely Nazakat Hussain and recovered 1030 gram heroin and one 30 bore pistol. Lohi Bher team has arrested an accused Moez involved in aerial firing and recovered one 30 bore pistol.

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## Briefs

**'Raising taxes on tobacco products step in right direction'**

ISLAMABAD: Health experts, in a press release on Saturday, expressed satisfaction over government's decision to increase taxation on tobacco products while putting forward recommendations for future to save millions of lives from harms of tobacco products. The Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) applauded the government's move to increase taxes on tobacco products for the first time in four years, said the press release. SPARC Programme Manager Khalil Ahmed Dogar stated that government should have considered the growing inflation rate while finalizing the taxes on tobacco products for fiscal year 2022-23. Due to a rise in inflation and upward trend in the dollar price, the prices of tobacco products should be raised accordingly, he added. He said that although this was a small step but it was in right direction, which would not only reduce the tobacco consumption and its accessibility, but would also keep the minors off from tobacco.

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) Country Head Malik Imran Ahmed said that every year tobacco industry tries to manipulate policymakers in order to fill its coffers at expense of lives of more than 170,000 people who die due to diseases caused and aggravated by the usage of tobacco products. He expressed satisfaction that this year the government has not listened the deceptive tactics of big tobacco industry and raised taxes on tobacco products. Chromatic Trust CEO Shariq Ahmed stated that the country was facing a severe shortage of funds to combat the poverty crisis. "The government needs to remain steadfast to overcome any challenge thrown by big tobacco industry. The next steps are strict implementation of laws regarding graphic health warnings, promotion and advertising bans and smoke-free places", he said. - APP

**Robbers looted house**

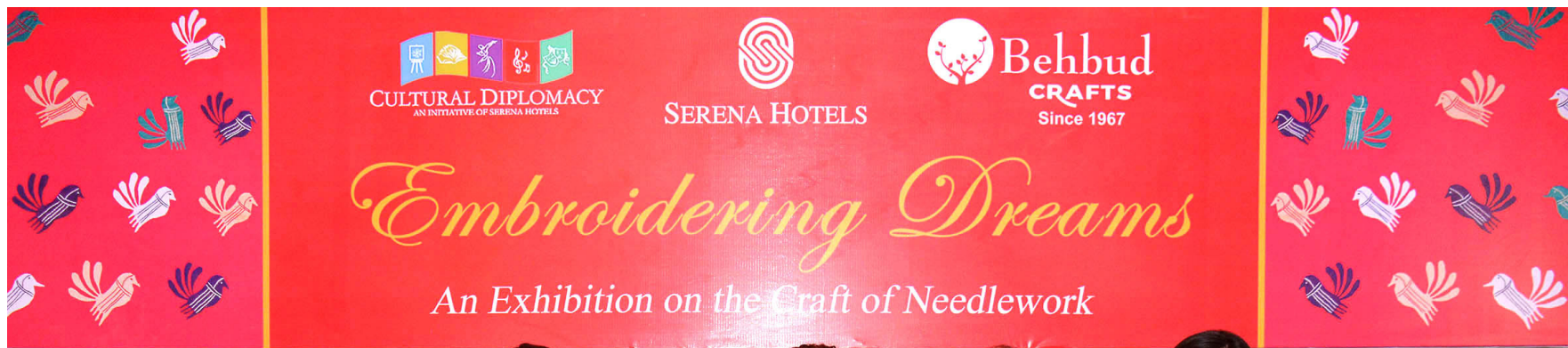
FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Armed robbers equipped with different weapons looted a house in over two million heist by making the family hostage on gunpoint in the Pindighe police precincts on early hours of Sunday. Mehoob Ahmed - a native of Nowshera village reported to Police that he was sleeping with his family when three armed men equipped with different weapons entered in to his house by scaling the wall and made all family members hostage on gunpoint. Later they searched the house and fled with looted booty including cash worth Rs 0.7 million, five tola gold ornaments and his motorcycle.

**RWMC continues cleanliness operation**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) continues to perform cleanliness operation despite the heavy rains during the last three days. According to the RWMC spokesman, the waste management company carried out the cleanliness of nullahs and choked drains during the continued rainfall to ensure sanitation in several city areas. He informed that Managing Director Awais Manzoor Tarrar had directed the officials to ensure cleanliness from where some sanitation-related problems were pointed.

The spokesman said that the company had deputed additional sanitary workers for cleaning and dredging major drains to avoid any flood-like situation. He said RWMC workers removed hundreds of tons of waste in the Rawalpindi city areas while drains blocked during the rain had been opened immediately to have no problem with drainage in the city. He informed that complaints received on social media platforms were also being addressed instantly. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Wife of the Turkish Ambassador Mrs. Yurdakul flanked by wife of Ambassador of Azerbaijan on her right and others inaugurates the exhibition titled Embroidering Dreams at Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA

**Pak-Kyrgyzstan trade accords a catalyst for regional integration**

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev on Sunday said that the bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan would not only increase the trade volume between the two countries but also act as a catalyst for regional economic integration. Talking to APP, Ulanbek Totuiaev said the implementation of the PTA would serve as a prolific accelerator for enhancement of trade between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. "In this regard, I consider it meaningful for both our governments and, especially, concerned authorities to point out specific areas of interest, in which bilateral trade can be the most efficient and mutually profitable." The ambassador said by completing this process, both sides will have all necessary information for designing, successful implementation, and further effective



usage of the PTA. Replying to a question, he said that since Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan had highly developed agricultural sectors, there was a great potential for the devel-

opment of cooperation in this sphere. "In particular, Kyrgyzstani agricultural companies can export dairy products, meat, dry fruits, honey, raw leather, and some cultivated crops such as beans to Pakistan," he added. Ulanbek Totuiaev said that businessmen from the Pakistani side can more actively cooperate with Kyrgyz companies in terms of exporting wheat, flour, citrus fruits, and sugar with further re-exporting it to the countries of Eurasian Economic Union. He said the same operations could be done in spheres of industrial manufacturing, textile, construction materials and others. Ambassador Totuiaev said that in particular, there were great opportunities with regard to exporting of pharmaceutical products from Pakistan to Kyrgyzstan. "The effective trade between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan is possible in various spheres. However, in order to effectively use the existing potential, businessmen and companies should pay more attention to the trade

opportunities and more actively interact with partners from each side." Responding to another question, he said the bilateral trade between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan had a huge potential, which was, however, not fully explored and utilized. "I call upon both sides to actively cooperate in order to overcome the problems which are influencing this issue," he added. The ambassador said that first of all, there was a lack of mutual awareness and as the representatives of business-circles of both side were not completely aware of the trade-economic and investment opportunities. In order to deal with this issue, the Embassy of Kyrgyzstan in Islamabad, together with Pakistani partners is actively working on the organization of mutual business visits, various seminars and conferences, as well as on the permanent basis informing the businessmen from both sides on the existing great trade-economic and investment opportunities, he said.

**Construction underway at 10 sites of Dasu HPP**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To meet the deadline, construction is underway simultaneously at 10 sites of Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) in Upper Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, according to Gwadar Pro. Chairman WAPDA Naveed Asghar Chaudhry on Friday chaired a progress review meeting on HDPP. "Work on 10 project sites is underway to meet the 2026 deadline for power generation," the meeting was informed. The sites include diversion tunnels, underground powerhouse, flushing and traffic tunnel, right bank access roads, 132 KV transmission line, WAP-

DA colony and offices, etc.

Besides WAPDA officials, representatives of the consultants and the contractors of the project attended the meeting. "Dasu is a key project to generate low-cost and environmentally friendly electricity for the socio-economic development of the country," said Mr. Chaudhary while emphasizing over the timely completion of the project. The 4320 MW DHPP is being constructed in two stages. At present, WAPDA is constructing Stage-I with installed generation capacity of 2160 MW and annual energy generation of 12 billion low-cost and environment-friendly electricity. Stage-II, when implemented, will also provide nine billion units to the Na-

tional Grid. On completion of the both Stages, Dasu will be the project with highest annual energy generation in Pakistan i.e. 21 billion units per annum on average. WAPDA is spending Rs17.34 billion on CBM schemes for economic and social development in the project area. About 3,300 jobs, including 1,808 for locals, have so far been created, which will increase to 8,000 during the peak construction period of the project, as per the authority. China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) has been working on DHPP as the Main Works Contractor since 2017, which is one of the top green and low-cost energy projects in the country.

**'Over 46 m mobile phones assembled in 11 months'**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Engineering Development Board (EDB) Almas Hyder Sunday disclosed that a record number of 46 million smart and feature mobile phones were assembled in Pakistan in 11 month of current fiscal year. He said during the period under review, 20 millions smart mobile phones were assembled of which 99 percent so far sold in markets while 26 million feature mobile phones were pieced together of which 97 percent were purchased, said a press release. He said mobile phone parts valued \$1.9b were imported to Pakistan by the assemblers. He said a total of 31 local and foreign mobile phone companies were awarded licences of which 21 are operational while remaining are in process of setting up plants for production including Nokia. Almas said only one foreign company imported 3.8 million feature phones during this period which is also now going to establish plant in Pakistan. Almas Hyder said the best quality locally assembled smart and feature mobile phones equipped with ultra modern technology has restored the confidence of buyers in Pakistan which he added is much cheaper and most economical than foreign assembled mobiles. - APP

**HSSC exams being held under foolproof arrangements**

RAWALPINDI: Higher Secondary School Certificate, Intermediate annual exams 2022 which started in Rawalpindi Division from June 18 being held under foolproof arrangements. As many as 173 examination centers were set up for HSSC annual exams 2022. According to Controller Examinations, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Rawalpindi, Prof. Nasir Mehmood Awan, foolproof arrangements had been made for transparent and smooth holding of HSSC annual exams 2022. The roll number slips had been dispatched to the students by the Board, he said adding, the roll number slips of private candidates were sent to the students at their mentioned addresses while slips of regular candidates were uploaded on the portals of their related institutes. Apart from the Board's office at Morgah near Attock Oil Refinery Rawalpindi, the students could also contact the Controller Examination's phone number 051-5450917-18 in case of any difficulty. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Employees of PIMS Hospital hold a protest against the MTI Bill. - DNA

**Ombudsman calls for resolving overseas' grievances**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Thursday called for resolving the grievances of more than 9 million overseas Pakistanis, who are not only helping their families back at home. He said they were also taking part in the socio-economic development of Pakistan by remitting around 30 billion dollars annually to the country. He was chairing a high level meeting to resolve the grievances of overseas Pakistanis and to review the functioning of One Window Facilitation Desks (OWFD) at the international airports in Pakistan. During the meeting, the Grievance Commissioner for Overseas Pakistanis briefed that 54,000 complaints of overseas Pakistanis were resolved in the year 2021 including

39604 complaints handled and disposed of at OWFDs. He further said that 22,295 complaints of overseas Pakistanis have been resolved in the first quarter of 2022 with the increase of 112% as compared to 10,473 in 2021. The grievance commissioner said that the number of complaints have increased due to robust awareness campaign launched to sensitize the overseas about the functioning of the Office of the Federal Ombudsman. Addressing the meeting, Federal Ombudsman said that being a public servant, we are duty bound to serve the overseas Pakistanis with utmost zeal. He directed the Special Secretary Foreign Affairs to start holding open courts once a month in the Pakistan's missions abroad to

resolve grievances of the overseas Pakistanis. He also directed to appoint an officer of BS-20 as focal person in their respective departments for liaison with the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat (WMS). He took a serious note of non-functioning of the OWFD at Quetta International Airport and directed the concerned authorities to ensure its functioning within a week. The Director Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) assured that the OWFD would be revived in the shortest possible time. The Ombudsman further directed all the heads of the departments to constitute monitoring team to randomly check the functioning of OWFDs. Taking cognizance of delay in submission of monthly progress reports by the Paki-

stan missions, the Ombudsman directed that an online interface with the Foreign Office should be established through the complaint management information system (CMIS) of the WMS to avoid delays. The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary Foreign Affairs Khalid H. Memon, Acting Chairman NADRA Brig. Khalid Latif, DG Bureau of Immigration Dr. Tahir Noor, DG Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), Director Immigration FIA Mr. Masood Bangash, Director ASF Mr. Ehsanullah, Director CAA Mr. Sadiq ur Rehman, AC Customs Islamabad Int. Airport Dr. Shaista, Director Central Health Services, GM(Coord) PIA, senior representatives of other relevant departments, and senior officers of WMS. - APP

**ANF recovers 42 kg charras**

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Karachi and ANF Intelligence in a joint operation on Sunday recovered 42 kg charras and arrested an accused. According to ANF Headquarters spokesman, the ANF Karachi and ANF Intelligence, acting on a tip-off, conducted a raid near Al-Asif Square and recovered 42 kg charras from secret cavities of a Toyota Single Cabin vehicle. An accused namely Muhammad Ismail resident of Chaghi was rounded up during the operation. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. - APP

**PM's Initiative of National CPR training to kick start soon: Sufi**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed for the launch of a national initiative of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training throughout the country. In this connection, the prime minister has issued direction to PM's Strategic Reforms to immediately launch the initiative, head of PM's Strategic Reforms Salman Sufi said in a press statement on Sunday.

He further informed that a comprehensive strategy would be announced next week. He said that CPR had saved countless lives around the world at places where immediate medical assistance was limited. The CPR is a lifesaving technique helpful in different emergencies, such as in case of a heart attack or near drowning, leading to choking of someone's breathing or heartbeat, he added. Sufi said that the CPR training to save lives would be made a part of the educational curriculum, whereas, each citizen would be imparted training under the drive. - APP

**Human rights declared as cornerstone of Pakistan's domestic policy**

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Human Rights on Saturday declared protection and promotion of human rights as a cornerstone of Pakistan's domestic policy. An official of the Ministry informed APP that Pakistan has ratified several key international human rights instruments, which have been transposed into the domestic regime through a wide variety of Federal and Provincial laws. He said that these included a range of obligations contained in seven of the nine core human rights treaties of which Pakistan was a signatory party. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention against Torture (CAT), he added. - APP

**Red algae defaces beauty of Dal Lake**

ISLAMABAD: A vast stretch of Dal Lake has turned brick red due to the presence of rampant red algae. The red algae bloom is an indicator of heavy pollution in the water body. According to Kashmir media service, the blooming of red algae speaks volumes about the ineffective de-weeding mechanism and strategy of the Lakes and Conservation Management Authority (LCMA). The blooming of red algae has defaced the beauty of this lake. LCMA blames people for the presence of red algae as it says that they (Dal dwellers) use extensive fertilizers and pesticides that pollute the lake, however, locals say LCMA has never shown interest in cleaning Dal Lake. - APP

## Covid-19: Far from being over

SEVERAL parts of the world are experiencing a spike in Covid-19 cases. From countries in Europe to Asia, infections are on the rise yet again.

The latest uptick has been put down to the original omicron variant BA.1 and the newer variants BA.4 and BA.5. In recent days authorities in the EU have pointed at rise in positivity rates and hospitalisations with Covid-19. While the US has dropped Coronavirus testing requirement for travellers, cases have plateaued in the world's biggest economy at around 100,000 new daily infections. This is much higher than previous lulls in the US.

India recorded a big jump of over 12,000 daily Covid-19 cases this week for the first time in more than a 100 days as infections spiked across the country again.

Given the sharp increase in cases, authorities in the UAE have tightened the regulation around Covid-19. Under new rules, heavy penalties will be imposed on those not wearing masks in all indoor places.

"We are witnessing a significant increase in Covid-19 infections in the country by more than 100 per cent in less than a week. It was also noted that the rate of hospitalisation has increased," Dr Taher Al Buraik Al Amiri, official spokesman for the National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA), noted a few days ago. Under new Covid-19 rules in the UAE, the validity of the Green Pass on the UAE's official Alhosa app has been reduced to 14 days from 30 days. The UAE recorded 1,464 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday, as daily infections continue to show a rise. A total of 1,401 people recovered in the latest 24-hour period. Two Coronavirus-related deaths were confirmed in the UAE.

Let us be clear here. The fight against Covid-19 is a long-drawn one and the past two years have taught us a lot of lessons.

As a society and community, our guard needs to be up at all times. Complacency has no scope in a situation, where waves of infection come and go as the pandemic still lurks. Does this mean that we limit our daily routine? The answer is no. The solution lies in opting for maximum caution – masking up at all times in public and office spaces; sanitising our hands as much as possible and watching out for any symptoms. The fight against Covid is on. We simply need to hold tight, cooperate with authorities and get to the finish line.

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## Julian Assange's extradition

THE decision by Priti Patel, the home secretary, to extradite the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the US ought to worry anyone who cares about journalism and democracy. Mr Assange, 50, has been charged under the US Espionage Act, including publishing classified material. He faces up to 175 years in jail if found guilty by a US court. This action potentially opens the door for journalists anywhere in the world to be extradited to the US for exposing information deemed classified by Washington. The case against Mr Assange relates to hundreds of thousands of leaked documents about the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, as well as diplomatic cables, which were made public by WikiLeaks, working with the Guardian and other media organisations. They revealed horrifying abuses by the US and other governments that would not otherwise have been disclosed. Despite claiming otherwise, US authorities could not find a single person, among the thousands of American sources in Afghanistan and Iraq, who could be shown to have died because of the disclosures. Mr Assange, who has a reputation for being a brilliant but difficult character, has suffered enough. Until 2019 Met police had waited seven years for him to emerge from the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Since then he has spent three years in Belmarsh high-security prison without being convicted of any crime. The use of the Espionage Act to prosecute him should be seen for what it is: an attack on the freedom of the press. As the Knight First Amendment Institute's Carrie DeCell wrote in 2019, when the charge sheet was published, "soliciting, obtaining, and then publishing classified information ... [is] what good national security and investigative journalists do every day". The UK could have decided that Mr Assange faces an unacceptably high risk of prolonged solitary confinement in a US maximum security prison. Instead, Ms Patel has dealt a blow to press freedom and against the public, who have a right to know what their governments are doing in their name. It's not over. Mr Assange will appeal. The charges against him should never have been brought. As Mr Assange published classified documents and he did not leak them, Barack Obama's administration was reluctant to bring charges. His legal officers correctly understood that this would threaten public interest journalism. It was Donald Trump's team, which considered the press an "enemy of the people", that took the step. It is not too late for the US to drop the charges. On World Press Freedom Day this year, the US president, Joe Biden, said: "The work of free and independent media matters now more than ever." Giving Mr Assange his freedom back would give meaning to those words.

## China and the Middle East: Heading into choppy waters

James Dorsey

NATO needs Turkey even if its center of gravity, for now, has moved to Eastern Europe. By the same token, Turkey needs NATO, even if it is in a better position to defend itself than the Gulf states are

CHINA could be entering choppy Middle Eastern waters. Multiple crises and conflicts will likely shape its relations with the region's major powers, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey. The laundry list of pitfalls for China includes the fallout of the Ukraine war, strained US relations with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Turkish opposition to Finnish and Swedish NATO membership, the threat of a renewed Turkish anti-Kurdish incursion into northern Syria, and the fate of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 international agreement that curbed Iran's nuclear program. Drowning out the noise, one thing that becomes evident is that neither the Gulf states nor Turkey have any intention of fundamentally altering their security relationships with the United States, even if the dynamics in the cases of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Turkey are very different.

Saudi Arabia recognizes that there is no alternative to the US security umbrella, whatever doubts the kingdom may have about the United States' commitment to its security. With next month's visit to Saudi Arabia by President Joe Biden, the question is not how US-Saudi differences will be papered over but at what price and who will pay the bill. Meanwhile, China has made clear that it is not willing and not yet able to replace the United States. It has also made clear that for China to engage in regional security, Middle Eastern states would first have to get a grip on their disputes so that conflicts don't spin out of control. Moves to lower the tensions between Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt by focusing on economics are a step in that direction. Still, they remain fragile, with no issue that sparked the differences being resolved. A potential failure of negotiations in Vienna to revive the Iran nuclear deal could

upset the apple cart. It would likely push Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia to tighten their security cooperation but could threaten rapprochement with Turkey. It could also heighten tensions in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq, where Iran supports a variety of political actors and militias. None of this is good news for China, which like other major players in the Middle East, prefers to remain focused on economics. The dynamics with Turkey and Iran are of a different order. China may gleefully watch Turkish obstruction in NATO, but as much as Turkey seeks to forge an independent path, it does not want to break its umbilical cord with the West anchored in its membership in NATO. NATO needs Turkey even if its center of gravity, for now, has moved to Eastern Europe. By the same token, Turkey needs NATO, even if it is in a better position to defend itself than the Gulf states are. Ultimately, horse-trading will resolve NATO's most immediate problems because of Turkish objections to Swedish and Finnish NATO membership.

Turkey's threatened anti-Kurdish incursion into northern Syria would constitute an escalation that no party, including China, wants. Not because it underwrites Turkish opposition to Swedish and Finnish NATO membership but because with Syrian Kurds seeking support from the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, Turkish and Iranian-backed forces could find themselves on opposite sides. Finally, Iran. Despite the hot air over Iran's 25-year US\$400 million deal with China, relations between Tehran and Beijing are unlikely to fully blossom as long as Iran is subject to US sanctions. A failure to revive the nuclear agreement guarantees that sanctions will remain. China has made clear that it is willing to push the envelope in violating or circumventing sanctions but not to the degree that would make Iran one more major friction point in the already fraught US-China relationship. In a world in which bifurcation has been accelerated by the Ukraine war and the Middle East threatened by potentially heightened tensions in the absence of a nuclear agreement, Gulf states may find that increasingly the principle of 'you are with us or against us' becomes the norm. The Gulf states hedged their bets in the initial months of the Ukraine war, but their ability to do so may be coming to an end. Already Saudi Arabia and the UAE are starting to concede on the issue of oil production, while Qatar is engaging with Europe on gas. Bifurcation would not rupture relations with China but would likely restrain technological cooperation and contain Gulf hedging strategies, including notions of granting China military facilities. Over and beyond the immediate geopolitical and security issues, there are multiple other potentially problematic issues and powder kegs. A prominent Saudi-owned newspaper, Asharq Al-Awsat, recently took issue with an increasingly aggressive tone in Chinese diplomacy. "China isn't doing itself any favours ... Chinese officials seem determined

to undermine their own case for global leadership ... Somehow Chinese officials don't seem to recognize that their belligerence is just as off-putting...as Western paternalism is," the newspaper said in an editorial. China's balancing act, particularly between Saudi Arabia and Iran, could become more fraught. A failure to revive the nuclear agreement will complicate already difficult Saudi Iranian talks aimed at dialling down tensions. It could also fuel a nuclear, missile, and drone arms race accelerated by a more aggressive US-backed Israeli strategy in confronting Iran by striking at targets in the Islamic republic rather than with US backing in, for example, Syria. While Chinese willingness to sell arms may get a boost, China could find that both Saudi Arabia and Iran become more demanding in their expectations from Beijing, particularly if tensions escalate.

A joker in the pack is China's repression of Turkic Muslims in its north-western province of Xinjiang. A majority of the Muslim world has looked the other way, with a few, like Saudi Arabia, openly endorsing the crackdown. The interest in doing so goes beyond Muslim-majority states not wanting to risk their relations with a China that responds harshly and aggressively to public criticism. Moreover, the crackdown in Xinjiang and Muslim acquiescence legitimises a shared opposition to any political expression of Islam.

The problem for Muslim-majority states, particularly those in the Middle East, is that the era in which the United States and others could get away with the application of double standards and apparent hypocrisy in adhering to values may be drawing to a close.

China and, for that matter, Russia is happy to benefit from the global South's reluctance to join condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and sanctions against Russia because the West refuses to apply the principle universally, for example, in the case of Israel or multiple infractions of international and human rights law elsewhere. However, China and Middle Eastern states sit in similar glasshouses. Irrespective of how one judges recent controversial statements made by spokespeople of India's ruling BJP party regarding the Prophet Mohammed and Muslim worship, criticism by Muslim states rings hollow as long as they do not also stand up to the repression of Muslims in Xinjiang.

For some in the Middle East, a reckoning could come sooner and later. Turkey is one state where the issue of the Uighurs in China is not simply a far-from-my-bed show. Uighurs play into domestic politics in a country home to the largest Uighur exile community that has long supported the rights of its Turkic brethren in China and still boasts strong strands of pan-Turkism. These are all elements that could come to the fore when Turkey goes to the polls next year as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Turkish republic. The question is not whether China will encounter choppy waters in the Middle East but when and where.

## Investment Dialogue & establishing a board

Zechariah J. Dean



Establishing a board from scratch is no mean feat. In this article, I share my opinion on the six key factors entrepreneurs should consider when looking...

ONE of the critical junctions in an investment dialogue with investors is the revelation of who resides on your board. It's common knowledge that investors largely invest in the entrepreneur, their team, the progress which has been made against historical plans and the robustness of the business plan moving forward.

However, there is often a hidden item which seals the deal, which is who sits on the board of this company. It's not essential to have a board when you first set up your venture, but when you begin to raise funds from sophisticated investors, they would place some emphasis on who is overseeing the governance of this company. In short, the board provides investors comfort that a) their investment is protected and b) an eagle eye is kept on the management team to ensure they do not veer away from what the company is out to achieve.

**Access to investors:** One way of accelerating the success of your venture is to attract a board member who has access to a large pool of investors. If such individuals agree to become a part of your board and are willing to open their network of investors, this can be of immense assistance and can help you accelerate dialogues with investors with whom they have established relationships with.

**Industry knowledge, network & contacts:** Individuals who have deep knowledge of the industry in which your venture operates can help you initiate and secure commercial relationships. Such relationships enable you to validate the commercial viability of your proposition and prove to incoming investors that your venture is able to deliver in the marketplace and hopefully generate revenue. In other instances, such relationship may not (necessarily) generate revenue, but enable you to build a case study so other similar

companies would be willing to sign-up and work with your business. Ingrained knowledge of the venture lifecycle

Having a board member who has intimate knowledge of the challenges of designing, growing and exiting a venture can prove extremely useful. There is a raft of challenges an entrepreneur faces when their business grows. From regulatory to human resources, legal and sales risks, being guided by someone who knows where the landmines are buried can help you avoid making critical and (at times) catastrophic mistakes.

**Track record, reputation & exits:** The positive reputation of certain individuals on your board can also drive immense value. Investors would be buoyed by the track record and exits of certain individuals and how their influence can drive value in the business. Having experienced the journey multiple times and knowing the science behind build successful businesses, investors will be attracted to having such investors overseeing the governance of a future investment.

**Ensure there is chemistry:** Ensure there is chemistry between you and the individuals you attract to the board. Whether their position on the board is due to their industry knowledge, track record of exits or ability to attract investors, it is imperative that such individuals are able to understand your mindset, can serve as good mentors.

**Remuneration:** There are essential items related to remuneration and the structure of equity that is awarded to board members. From experience, trying to defer such remuneration and issuance of equity until milestones have been achieved is always in the best interest of the entrepreneur and the venture at large.

— Zechariah J. Dean is the Chief Dreamer of Dean Venture Studio.

## Impact on a common man if Pakistan is out of the FATF list

Huma Arshad

Pakistan's removal from the list will smoothen foreign direct investment and give a much-needed boost to the country's ailing economy, and if it will not happen then it will be difficult for Pakistan to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the country. This will have the worst impact on the citizens of Pakistan as Pakistan is dependent on IMF and other allies for monetary funding to run the country

FINANCIAL Action Task Force ( FATF) standards increase transparency and enable countries to take effective actions against the illicit use of their financial system. The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

The international body was initially set to develop measures to combat money laundering, but after the 9/11 attacks, its role expanded to prevent terrorist financing. FATF delegates represent 206 members of the global network and its observers, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations, and the World Bank . Removal from the grey list would be a big boost for Pakistan during this serious economic crisis the country On June 17, 2022, the Financial Action Task Force announced in Berlin that Pakistan has fully met all 34 action items in its 2018 action plan. But, still Pakistan is not being removed from the grey list. It will be removed if the on-site visit finds its actions are sustainable. A formal announcement would follow the October visit. However, the FATF personals ' visit will decide Pakistan's destiny to move out of grey list or not. Pakistan is working hard to get out of the list. Pakistan's economy is dependent on international investors. If the country remains on FATF's grey list, it will continue to impact its imports, exports, and remittances and limit its access to international loans. But if Pakistan is out of this list then investors or banks would no longer have to worry about any

reputational risks associated with doing business with Pakistan. It will remove barriers to foreign direct investments.

Pakistan needs the votes of Turkey, China, and Malaysia to get off the list, and all three countries have assured the Pakistani authorities of full support for the purpose, the News International reported. The decision on Pakistan's status on the list will be taken during the current meeting which was being held from June 14 to 17 in Berlin, Germany. During the recent visits of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar to different countries, important discussions took place regarding FATF. Pakistan has implemented almost all points of the FATF Action Plan, except for the penalties, and Pakistan has made prosecutions and all relevant legal amendments. Pakistan has so far avoided being on the black list with the help of close allies like China, Turkey, and Malaysia. Pakistan's removal from the list will smoothen foreign direct investment and give a much-needed boost to the country's ailing economy, and if it will not happen then it will be difficult for Pakistan to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the country. This will have the worst impact on the citizens of Pakistan as Pakistan is dependent on IMF and other allies for monetary funding to run the country. Keeping in view the oil price graph and international market scenario , the news of Pakistan likely being out of FATF in near future is a ray of hope for the country.

## Briefs

## FIFA reveals 16 cities to host 2026 World Cup

DNA

NEW YORK: FIFA revealed the host cities for the 2026 World Cup early on Friday, with 11 venues picked from the US. FIFA World Cup said on Twitter that the 16 cities chosen to host the 2026 World Cup are Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco Bay Area, and Seattle in the US, Guadalajara, Mexico City, and Monterrey in Mexico, and Toronto and Vancouver in Canada.

It will be the first World Cup to be co-hosted by three countries, and the tournament will feature 48 teams, up from 32 previously. The US last hosted the World Cup in 1994. Mexico, on the other hand, hosted the World Cup finals twice, in 1970 and 1986. Meanwhile, for the first time, Canada will host a men's World Cup tournament.

## Forces kill 6 terrorists in Balochistan

FROM PAGE 01

The BLF terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire, it added. The ISPR said the slain terrorists were involved in attacks on check-posts of security forces as well as improvised explosives device attacks on security convoys in Paroom and surrounding areas of Panjgur.

The forces also recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition which, according to the ISPR, were to be used by terrorists for disrupting peace in the area. "Security forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability, and progress of Balochistan," the military statement said.

On June 7, security forces had killed four terrorists during operations in North Waziristan tribal district and Balochistan's Noshki district.

## President returns the elections amendment EVM/OP bill unsigned

FROM PAGE 01

when he referred the bill back to Parliament, he strongly believes that technology today, specially with EVMs when used judiciously contains many solutions that reduce the impact of confusion, discord and accusations in our 'ever-marred' and challenged election processes. Technology can also improve transparency, make elections inclusive with the vote of our Overseas Pakistanis, build confidence and reduce polarization to finally achieve our elusive dream of free and fair elections, he added.

More than that, he wants Pakistan to leapfrog into the world of tomorrow, not to solve today's problems only through the lens and experiences of yesterday but through newer and better scientific approaches that are available, or even 'birthing' today. He does understand that this cannot happen without confidence building measures across the aisles, and broad stakeholder involvement. Why was this not done and why the obvious was not visible to the opinion and decision makers will remain an enigma to him, he added.

The President observed that the present and future governments and parliaments will be facing two choices, whether to allow the past to drag Pakistan down or allow the lessons from the past and technologies of today to boost us into the bright progressive and dynamic future of Pakistan that has been our dream. He further observed that many such decisions will continue to challenge us, and history shows that those who make the right decisions 'rise', and those who don't, squander opportunities that obstruct their path to glory.



ISLAMABAD: Defence Attaches of various countries posing for a picture on the occasion of COSA Golf fixture 2022. – DNA

## Sports Deptt organizes eight events during KSF 2022

The event of Murree Cycle Race was conducted from Lower Topa to Bhurban Cricket Ground. Dozens of enthusiastic boys featured in the cycle race. The race of Murree Marathon was run from Lower Topa to Bhurban Cricket Ground



KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Sports Department Rawalpindi on Sunday successfully organized eight sports events under Kohsar Sports Festival 2022, at Bhurban and Gharial grounds. The players appreciating the arrangements of the festival urged the authorities concerned to annually organize such programmes to provide opportunities to the players to take part in such healthy activities.

They also acknowledged the earnest efforts done to make the sports festival a success by Punjab Sport Board and Sports Department Rawalpindi. Matches of football, table tennis, archery, skating, running and volleyball were organized by Sports Department

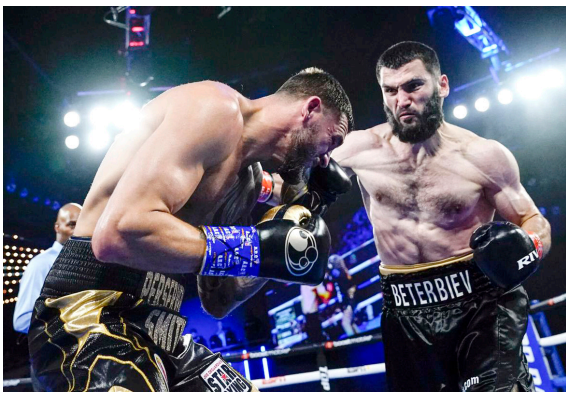
Rawalpindi with the help of Rawalpindi district administration. According to a district administration spokesman, the players from across the country participated in the event and enjoyed Kohsar Sports Festival. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz had inaugurated Kohsar Sports Festival at a grand colourful opening ceremony at Mall Road, Murree on June 13. The Secretary had also unveiled the trophy of Kohsar Sports Festival at a mega ceremony attended by athletes, thousands of enthusiastic fans and families. Sufi, Cultural and Gymnastic performances were also presented at the inaugural ceremony. Attractive fireworks and regional songs won huge appreciation from a large crowd. Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Divisional Sports Officers



Waheed Babar, Manzar Shah, Ata-ur-Rehman and District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah also attended the inauguration ceremony. On the occasion, the Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz said the competitions of eight games – table tennis, marathons, tug-of-war, football, archery, skating and cycling and volleyball being organised in Kohsar Sports Festival. Kohsar Sports Festival would prove a major event and it would help promote sports at regional level, he added. Meanwhile, the competitions of Murree Cycle Race, Murree Marathon, Inter-Club Football Cup, Inter-Club Volleyball Cup and Tug-of-War were organized on the second day of Kohsar Sports Festival on June 14. The event of Murree Cycle Race was conducted from

Lower Topa to Bhurban Cricket Ground. Dozens of enthusiastic boys featured in the cycle race. The race of Murree Marathon was run from Lower Topa to Bhurban Cricket Ground. Around 200 boys from Rawalpindi division took part in the marathon contest. The race was inaugurated by Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser and Divisional Sports Officer Rawalpindi Waheed Babar. The Inter-Club Football Cup was played at Gharial Football Ground. Inter-Club Volleyball Cup was played at Bhurban Cricket Ground while the event of Tug-of-War was conducted at Bhurban cricket ground. Skating was arranged at Gharial Camp, Para-Archery at Bhurban Cricket Ground while the closing ceremony of the festival was organized at Mall Road Nighat Park.

## Artur Beterbiev beats Joe Smith Jr to secure WBO light-heavyweight title



NEW YORK: Artur Beterbiev, the WBO light-heavyweight world champion, knocked out American opponent Joe Smith Jr in two rounds to add the WBO title to his WBC and IBF titles at Madison Square Garden.

Before the fight was inter-

rupted with just over 40 seconds left in round two, the unbeaten Canada-based Russian landed three knockdowns. Beterbiev now has an 18-0 record, with all of his victories coming via knockout. The 37-year-old is currently putting his atten-

tion on a unification battle with Russia's WBA champ Dmitry Bivol for the undisputed light-heavyweight title, though Anthony Yarde of the United Kingdom is another likely opponent. "I've had two unification fights, and unification fights are more interesting," Beterbiev said. "I prefer to unify. I want to be undisputed." Smith, who had gotten off to a good start but was rapidly overwhelmed by his opponent, was transported to the hospital after the fight. At the end of round one, he had a standing count, and after barely surviving a barrage of devastating strikes from Beterbiev at start of round two, there was no way back, and referee Harvey Dock had no choice but to stop it. – DNA

## Injured Osaka withdraws from Wimbledon

DNA

PARIS: Former world number one Naomi Osaka pulled out of Wimbledon for the second successive year on Saturday, blaming an Achilles injury. "My Achilles still isn't right so I'll see you next time," the four-time Grand Slam title winner posted on Twitter. Osaka, 24, was already considering not playing over the ATP and WTA tours decision to strip Wimbledon of ranking points after the All England Club banned Russian and Belarusian players in response to the invasion of Ukraine. Osaka's tweet, although not mentioning Wimbledon specifically, was accompanied by a photo of herself on a grass court, and an emoji of a blade of grass.

## Won't make any prediction before Indo-Pak match: Harbhajan

NEW DELHI: Former Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh has opted not to make any prediction before the high-intensity match between India and Pakistan at the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year. The arch-rivals will meet on October 23 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) one year after the Men in Green outclassed their neighbours by ten wickets at Dubai International Stadium. The 41-year-old, before the game in Dubai, had asked the Pakistan cricket team to give a walkover to India as they had never managed to beat them in the World Cup (50 and 20-overs both). "I told Shoaib Akhtar that there's no sense in Pakistan participating; you should give us a walkover. You'll play, you'll lose again, and you'll be upset." On Star Sports, Harbhajan Singh had remarked, "Our squad is extremely solid, very powerful, and they will easily beat you guys." After the match, the former off-spinner was trolled badly by the Pakistani fans, including cricketers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Amir. The fear of losing to Pakistan has made Harbhajan into thinking as he has decided to refrain from making any remarks before the match and said: "We have another T20 World Cup and this year, I won't be giving any statement and won't talk over who will win [between Pakistan and India]," he told to Shoaib Akhtar in a conversation on an Indian sports website. – DNA

## Turkey to continue efforts for Balkan stability: FM

"Turkish investments here also provide employment – employment for over 10,000 Kosovars," Çavuşoğlu said, indicating that the figure of Turkish investment in the country stood at \$410mln

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkey will not allow the Balkan region to turn back to the dark days of the 90s, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said on Sunday, underlining Ankara's support for the stability of Kosovo as well as that of the region. During a press conference with Kosovo's Foreign Minister Donika Gervalla-Schwarz in Pristina, Çavuşoğlu said: "As Turkey, we have frequently voiced that we will not allow the region to return to the dark days of the 90s. For this purpose, we are engaging in all kinds of work. As a country that is on good terms with and has a dialogue with all the region's countries, we will continue our efforts in this regard. Therefore dialogue is vital for the region's permanent peace and stability.

"We started in Belgrade, we gave the same messages there. We support the ongoing Belgrade-Pristina dialogue process, that means, the dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. We believe that an agreement must be struck through diplomacy. We see that tensions are rising in the region."



"We discussed what we can do to further increase our bilateral relations," he added. "Today we also had the chance to reiterate once again our support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political unity of Kosovo. We care about the strengthening of Kosovo's state institutions, its regional and

international integration," Çavuşoğlu said, emphasizing that Ankara also supports the membership of Kosovo in European-Atlantic institutions. Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008. The United States and most of the West recognize the declaration, but Serbia does not and continues to lay

claim to the territory. Ethnic Serbs are Kosovo's biggest minority group and are entitled to having 10 representatives serving as lawmakers in the country's 120-seat parliament, as well as in governmental posts.

Kosovo has always stood by Turkey in challenging times, Gervalla-Schwarz said for her part, indicating also that similarly, Ankara has extended support to problems in the Balkan region. The two top diplomats during their meeting discussed relations and regional developments while signing a memorandum of understanding on civil aviation aimed at increasing tourism and trade. Saying that economic ties between the two countries are accelerating, Çavuşoğlu said: "Our free trade agreement went into effect in 2019. We have seen that some malevolent circles have engaged in campaigns against this free trade agreement. However, the contribution of these agreements on our economic ties is obvious. Our trade increased by around 53% last year." He added that in order to further increase the bilateral trade volume, the Joint Economic Commission meeting has to be conducted as soon as possible, while business people need to come together routinely.

## Imran Khan for thorough probe

FROM PAGE 01

Imran Khan said that. Bilawal marched in the name of inflation but now they all are silent over the historical inflation. Meanwhile the PTI chairman and other leaders addressed the protest rallies. Imran Khan, while addressing the protesters across the country via a video link, condemned the inflation and said the incumbent government organized inflation march when the PTI govt hiked petrol price by 12 rupees, but they have raised it by 85 rupees. He said that the incumbent government cannot lessen the crises as they are incompetent. He rejected the notion that the current woes are due to PTI signed IMF deal.

The protests were held at Islamabad's F-9 Park, Karachi's Shahrah-e-Quaideen, Lahore's Liberty Chowk, Faisalabad's Ghanta Ghar Chowk, Rawalpindi's Commercial Market, Multan's Sahah Abdullah Chowk and Peshawar's Hasht Nagari Gate. The demonstrations are also being held in other cities of the country.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan had called on the masses to hold demonstrations across the country against the "imported" government today, as he hopes to launch a fresh round of protests after halting them last month.

"This Sunday, all of you have to protest at 9pm and I will address all of you via video link at 10pm," the PTI chief had told his supporters and people in a video message, asking them to hold "peaceful" demonstrations. Khan had invited political parties and women to join the PTI's protest against rising inflation. "It is our democratic and constitutional right to protest; we have always held peaceful protests."

## Masses have rejected Khan's...

FROM PAGE 01

Taking a jibe on Imran, she said that those who ran away on the night of May 25 now wanted to spread chaos and anarchy in the country over inflation caused by their own inefficient regime as the PTI's narrative of "foreign conspiracy" had been buried. Why should the people take to streets for those who sold national interest for a few diamonds, she asked. She said why should the people come to protest on the call of a hypocrite who plundered national wealth when in power. Why should the people come out for a person who deprived the working class of employment and their livelihood, she said, adding, why should the people respond to the call of those who were responsible for inflation, economic catastrophe and unemployment in the country. She said that the people would not respond to the call of those who created the "storm of inflation" and signed agreements with the IMF on weak grounds.

Why should the people come out on the call of those who increased flour price from Rs 35 per kg to Rs 90, and sugar price from Rs 52 to Rs 120. The minister maintained that the people would not pay any heed to the protest call of those who had launched a "bloody march" last month and shot dead policemen performing their duty. "Why should the people go out to protest for those who wanted the country divided into three parts and who sold national interest in exchange of diamond rings for four years.

## Doyle becomes first female jockey to win French classic

PARIS: Hollie Doyle became the first female jockey to win a French classic race when she rode favourite Nashwa to victory in the French Oaks (Prix de Diane) at Chantilly on Sunday. The 25-year-old English jockey had finished third on Nashwa in the Epsom Oaks earlier this month but made no mistake this time riding a brilliant race to prevail. She was congratulated by her fellow jockey and husband Tom Marquand on passing the post but Doyle refused to get swept up in what she had achieved. "I am just privileged to be in this position," she said. "I would not be sitting on this classily fully but for Imad al Sagor (the owner) asking me to ride for him in 2020." – APP

## Briefs

## Chinese, Pak institutions signs MoU

**DNA**

BEIJING: China's Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) (designated by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan at an online signing ceremony held in Kunming and Beijing, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. While addressing the ceremony, Dr Wang Jihua, president of YAAS, noted that years of collaboration between YAAS and PARC have yielded fruitful results in areas such as wheat, potato, sugarcane, plant protection and banana. Dr Wang further emphasised, "the effective information sharing in desert locust early warning and prevention and the collaborative research on wheat disease and breeding have become good examples of China-Pakistan sci-tech cooperation."

## Thai air guitar contestants give their all

**AGENCIES**

BANGKOK: What happens when Donald Trump, a Bangkok moto-taxi driver, and a Squid Games contestant take the stage in a Bangkok bar late on a Saturday night? It can only mean one thing: an air guitar battle for peace. The cosplaying individuals were gathered at the second annual Thai air guitar championship for the chance to represent Thailand in the beloved World Championships in Finland later this year. The hallowed international event, founded in Finland in 1996 to promote world peace - "hold air guitars, not guns" is the tongue-in-cheek motto - has given rise to good-natured and over-the-top competitions around the world. "This is going to be the greatest thing you have never seen," roared co-host and organiser Jacob "Airtectic Eel" Conga, bouncing across Brownstone venue's stage following his exuberant performance to warm up the crowd.

## Floods in Bangladesh kill four

**NEWS DESK**

DHAKA: At least four people were killed and several others injured in separate landslides at a hilly site in Bangladesh's southern port city of Chattogram late Friday, according to official sources. "We have been confirmed about four deaths caused by heavy rain since last (Friday) night," Ilias Chowdhury, civil surgeon of the Chattogram district, told Anadolu Agency over telephone on Saturday. The deceased were identified as members of two families in the city's Akborshah area. According to official data by the Chattogram district administration, over 1,600 families have been living at different slopes and sites of 18 hills in the city, famous for readymade garment industry, the main exporting sector of the South Asian nation of 170 million people, with life risks during rough weather, especially in the monsoon season. Over 200 people have been killed in several landslides in the hilly regions of the city over the past 15 years. The most-deadly incident killed 127 people in 2007. Chowdhury said they are prepared to address any untoward situation as heavy rain is gradually inundating the city and adjacent areas, risking the outbreak of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases. "Medical staff at all government and private hospitals are ready to serve the flood-affected patients," the government's chief medical officer assured. Meanwhile, the flood situation in the country's northeastern border district of Sylhet is deteriorating as heavy rain is still continuing. Tens of thousands of residents have taken shelter at different government houses and other concrete settlements, crossing long way on foot as vehicular movement in most of the areas has been completely disrupted.

## Kazakhstan's President answers questions on relations with Russia

**DNA**

NUR SULTAN: President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took part in the plenary session of the 25th edition of the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum. Along with the leader of Kazakhstan, Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the plenary session, while Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi participated via videoconference. In addition, President of China Xi Jinping sent a video message to the participants of the forum. In his remarks, Tokayev emphasized the forum was taking place in a situation of increased political and economic turbulence. "Global shocks associated with the pandemic and increasing geopolitical tensions have led to a new reality. Globalization has been replaced by an era of regionalization with all its virtues and inherent flaws. Anyway, the process of reformatting traditional economic models and trade routes is accelerating. The world is changing rapidly. Unfortunately, in most cases, not for the better," said the Kazakh President. Tokayev spoke about the ongoing large-scale political and economic reforms in the country aimed at reformatting public administration and building a New and Fair Kazakhstan. "Our efforts are focused on ensuring economic growth has a proportional impact on improving the well-being of citizens. We aim at sustainable development of trade and economic relations, opening new production facilities, creating condi-



tions for growth of human capital and innovations," said the President of Kazakhstan. Tokayev called the strengthening of the potential of the Eurasian Economic Union an urgent task. "In my opinion, it would be appropriate and useful to work out a new trade strategy within the EAEU taking into account the new reality. Instead of counter-sanctions, which are unlikely to be productive, we should pursue a more active and flexible trade policy with a wide coverage of Asian and Middle Eastern markets," he said. Another priority, he said, was further expansion of trade and economic cooperation with third countries. Therefore, Tokayev did not rule out the prospect that in the coming decade traditionally friendly countries such as China, India, the nations of the Middle East, South and South-

east Asia, may become major investors in the economies of the region. "China has already become Kazakhstan's main economic and foreign trade partner. This country has already invested over \$22 billion in our economy over the past 15 years. Deepening multilateral cooperation with China is an extremely important task for our country," the President said. In his speech, the leader of Kazakhstan also touched on issues related to climate change. In particular, he talked about plans to expand opportunities for growth of green investments and to solve environmental problems. "We are working to reduce the energy intensity of GDP, to expand the renewable energy sector and to reduce transit losses in this sector," the President said. Tokayev also named quality human cap-

ital and constructive intercultural dialogue as reliable sources of economic growth. In this context, he confirmed the continued commitment to the policy of preserving the cultural diversity of Kazakhstan and the promotion of inter-civilizational dialogue at the international level, reporting on the upcoming Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions this September. Summing up, Tokayev expressed his firm belief that building a peaceful, stable, and economically strong Eurasia would be a powerful factor for sustainable development and inclusive growth on a global scale. After the speakers' presentations, an open discussion in question-and-answer format took place. In particular, Tokayev answered the question about the attitude in Kazakhstan to Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine. "There are different opinions,

we have an open society. Modern international law is the UN Charter. Two UN principles, however, have come into contradiction - the territorial integrity of the state and the right of a nation to self-determination. Since these principles contradict each other, there are different interpretations of them," he stressed. According to him, "if the right of a nation for self-determination is realized, more than 500 states will emerge on the Earth and there will be chaos. For this reason, we recognize neither Taiwan, nor Kosovo, nor South Ossetia and Abkhazia. In all likelihood, this principle will be applied to quasi-state entities, which, in our opinion, are Luhansk and Donetsk," he said. "Using this rostrum, ... I would like to take an issue with some statements of a few Russian parliamentarians, absolutely incorrect statements about Kazakhstan, inaccurate statements from, so to speak, journalists and even people of the arts," said Tokayev. "I am grateful to Vladimir Putin, who today has comprehensively set out the position of the top leadership, the Kremlin, in the end, in relation to Kazakhstan, and other countries, and especially to my country. Indeed, we do not have any issues that can be manipulated in one way or another, sowing discord between our nations and thereby causing damage to our people and to the Russian Federation itself. I do not really understand these statements. These individuals in some strange way comment on the decisions made by the Kazakh leadership or the events taking place in our country, whose mill they are watering, so to say?" President Tokayev emphasized.

## CPEC- ACC to facilitate Chinese companies

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (ACC), a newly established centre at Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR), will conduct policy research and facilitate Chinese companies to work in the agriculture sector while promoting institutional cooperation. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday, CPEC-ACC can be helpful for the investment of Chinese investors and Pakistani corporations working together in the fields of seed technology, agriculture material and machinery, agriculture product processing and supporting service systems such as warehousing, cold chains and logistics to promote the transformation and upgradation of Agriculture sector. During a seminar held on Pak-China Agriculture cooperation under CPEC, Prof Dr Azam Khan, Director CPEC-ACC briefed participants on the role and importance of the newly established centre. He said that this university has dual linkages with farmers and the corporate sector, adding that "we can work together to improve agriculture productivity as harsh weather, unscientific farming systems and expensive inputs have marginalised the agriculture sector". He underscored that a platform for the Pakistani and Chinese agriculture-based companies can be established to work together for the introduction of high-yielding Chinese crop genes. "Currently in Pakistan farmers have started high-density plantation of fruits trees, especially Mango, citrus and guava which need highly efficient technologies for cultural practices like pruning, spraying and harvesting", he added.

## BOI invites D-8 countries to invest in CPEC SEZs

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary Ms Fareena Mazhar invited D-8 countries to come and invest in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) developed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. "CPEC Industrial Cooperation is open to third party participation and D-8 countries are welcome to invest in CPEC Initiatives", she said while delivering a detailed presentation and apprising the audience at D-8 Investment Conference, held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the D-8 Organisation in Istanbul. The Federal Minister for BOI & Special Initiative, Chaudhary Salik Hussain also attended the conference. "There are immense opportunities for D-8 nations to invest in Pakistan's 22 SEZs which are being established

secure and an agriculturally surplus country," Minister for BOI expressed while addressing the D-8 Investment Forum. Mr Hussain also interacted with the delegates from the Developing 8 countries and welcomed them to explore the immense investment, especially in Pakistan's special economic zones. "The Government of Pakistan is working with a vision to transform Pakistan into a high-end commercial, technology and manufacturing hub," he said. The D-8 is a global arrangement (Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey). As the composition of its members reflects, it was established with the objective of economic cooperation to improve member states' position in the global economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, besides enhancing participation in decision-making at international level. 16th June 2022 marks the Silver Jubilee of the Organisation.

## Russian TV airs videos of two missing Americans

MOSCOW: A Russian state TV channel aired videos on social media of two Americans who went missing last week while fighting alongside the Ukrainian army, stating they had been captured by Russian forces. United States President Joe Biden had said earlier Friday he did not know the whereabouts of Alexander Druke and Andy Huynh, both US military veterans whose relatives lost contact with the pair. The missing Americans - including a third identified as a former US Marines captain - are believed to be part of an unknown number of mostly military veterans who have joined other foreigners to volunteer alongside Ukrainian troops. On Friday evening, Russian journalist Roman Kosarev - who works with state TV RT channel - posted a video on messaging platform Telegram of Druke speaking facing the camera. - Agencies

## Pakistan govt gifts precious stones to City govt of Biratori

**DNA**

TOKYO: The Government of Pakistan gifted stones of Nefrit, Lapis, and Black Granite to the local Government of City of Biratori. These stones were laid by Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial, Charge d' Affaires (a.i.) at the Etonbea-Smanonno Hi Park. Mr. Endoh Keiichi, Mayor of Biratori city and Mr. Masato Kimura, Chairman, Atom Co. Ltd. were also present on the occasion. All the participants appreciated the gift of stones for a local stone park commemorating Ainu history. Addressing the audience on this occasion, Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial said that Pakistan and Japan have enjoyed uninterrupted, friendly relations for past 70 years. Further enhancement of these bilateral relations is an ongoing effort. Pakistan will look forward to further working with the Government and people of Hokkaido and Biratori to deepen bilateral relations in all aspects of life.



## New Gwadar Airport likely to be inaugurated by March 23

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal directed the authorities to ensure inauguration of the new Gwadar Airport by March 23, 2023 along with shifting flight operations from the old airport to the new one. According to Gwadar Pro, the minister was chairing a meeting to enhance Balochistan's national and international air connectivity. He said that Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif had directed for opening the new Gwadar Airport on March 23 as a Pakistan Day gift for the people of Balochistan. Ahsan Iqbal also directed for starting international flights from Quetta Airport by August 14 this year. - DNA

## Armenian Army shells Azerbaijani positions

**NEWS DESK**

BAKU: Armenian armed forces have shelled Azerbaijani military positions located in the liberated Kalbajar region, the Defence Ministry reported. On the evening of June 18 and the night of June 19, members of the Armenian armed detachment on Azerbaijani territory, where the Russian peacekeepers are temporarily deployed, used large-calibre small arms to fire on positions of the Azerbaijani Army in the settlements of Yukhar Ayrim, Barmagbin and Zivel of the Kalbajar region, the ministry said. The Azerbaijani army units took appropriate retaliatory measures to suppress the opposite side in the said directions, the ministry said. About 2,000 Russian peacekeepers have been deployed for five years in Karabakh under the trilateral ceasefire deal signed by Baku, Moscow and Yerevan on November 10, 2020.

## Ecuador declares state of emergency

**AGENCIES**

LONDON: Ecuador declared a state of emergency in three provinces late Friday amid violent protests by Indigenous people demanding cuts in fuel prices. "I am committed to defending our capital and our country," President Guillermo Lasso said on television. The state of emergency is declared in three provinces, including the capital Quito. On Monday, Indigenous groups in Ecuador took to the streets, protesting against the government's economic policies. The demonstrators blocked roads in the Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Pastaza, Napo, and Tungurahua provinces, according to the local press.

## China-Pak mango co-op to give impetus to industry

**DNA**

BEIJING: China-Pak mango cooperation will give impetus to king of fruit industry, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday. There is a dire need for joint ventures with China for establishing quality enhancement centres, fruit processing units, dehydration plants, drip irrigation and cold storage chains so Pakistani fruits could be exported in line with international standards," Ehsan Chaudhry, Senior Vice President of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) said. From January to September 2021, Pakistan exported 37.4 tons of fresh and dried mangoes to China, which is more than 10 times the 3.6 tons in the same period in 2020. Even so, it is still less than 0.36 percent of China's total imports of 10,500 tons of mangoes during the same period. Facing a market with huge potential, how to increase the production of mangoes in Pakistan and let more Chinese consumers feel the charm of this "king of fruits" is undoubtedly an urgent problem for bilateral practitioners. Commonly known as the "king of fruits" locally, Pakistani mangoes are delicacy and delight that everyone is waiting anxiously for in summer season. It has also won the hearts of people living beyond the borders due to its enticing aroma, high sweetness and fine fiber. However, local farmers are extremely worrying about production reduction of the succu-

lent, yellow fruit caused by various factors. According to an official of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan last year produced around 1.7 to 1.8 million tons of mango. And Pakistan's yearly mango exports amount to 150,000 metric tons, which earns around USD 90 million for 100 million to the nation annually. It is undoubtedly a good deal for Pakistan, which is in desperate need of foreign exchange reserves. Worryingly, "the production figure may be confined to 0.9 million tonnes this year, or less," according to All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters Association (PFVA) Patron in Chief Waheed Ahmed. So, what on earth is going on here? Farmer's dreams of raking in big profits



were shattered by an unusual spike in temperatures coupled with water shortages and unexpected windstorms in the months of March and April. "Severe water shortages in Sindh leave us without enough water to irrigate fruit trees. And extreme weather, such as hot hurricanes, makes it hard to guard against," Muhammad Khoso, a Mango Orchard Contractor from Hyderabad told CEN, "There are only 20 percent of mango production left in the areas with the worst reductions." Besides, heavy windstorms in the first week of May caused major fruit-shedding. The huge blow to Pakistani mango industry caused by water shortages and abnormal temperatures brought about

by global warming is obvious. The South Asian nation is currently facing huge water shortages due to less snowfall and rains-triggering widespread protests by farmers. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has listed Pakistan among 23 countries facing drought emergencies. In addition, as a light-loving tropical-subtropical plant, excessive temperature can also cause severe sunburn on mango flowers and fruits. "Unusual temperatures in March and April have wreaked havoc on mango production, causing a significant reduction in its quantity," said Shahid Hameed Bhutta, a grower from northeastern Multan city, a big mango producing district. Temperatures soared to 38-42 degrees Celsius in March and April in Multan, at least 6 degrees higher than usual causing massive fruit-shedding. In addition to natural factors, rising fuel, transportation, labor, and packaging costs are also poised to lower the production, thus boosting the domestic prices of mangos and affecting exports. Global warming is the common problem that farmers in China and Pakistan need to face, not only mangos, but all crops will face the increasingly rigorous challenge of climate change in the next few years and even decades. "Our advanced facility agriculture will be able to systematically improve the reduction of mango production in Pakistan due to extreme weather," said Wang Yan, General Manager of Yangling Qingpita Garden Dragon fruit Demonstration Base in Shaanxi Province.

**Briefs**

**Russia says eastern attack going well**

**NEWS DESK**

MOSCOW: Russia said on Sunday that its offensive against Sievierodonetsk in eastern Ukraine was proceeding successfully after it took control of a district in the outskirts of the city. "The offensive in the Sievierodonetsk direction is developing successfully," Russian Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in a video statement. He said the settlement of Metyolkine, on the eastern outskirts of the city, had been taken. "The armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to strike military targets on the territory of Ukraine," he said. Konashenkov said long-range Kalibr cruise missiles struck a command centre in the Dnipropetrovsk region, killing Ukrainian generals and officers, including from the general staff. Reuters was unable to independently verify the details or toll of Russia's strikes on Ukraine. Russia also said it had destroyed 10 155-mm M777 howitzers and up to 20 military vehicles in the Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv that had been supplied by Western countries over the past 10 days.

**Italian FM accuses own party of 'immaturity'**

**WEB DESK**

ROME: Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio on Sunday accused his own 5-Star Movement party of undermining government efforts to support Ukraine and weakening Rome's standing within the European Union. His outburst could signal an imminent schism in the group he once led, with 5-Star officials due to meet later on Sunday to consider Di Maio's position following their recent broadsides. The internal party feuding also creates problems for Prime Minister Mario Draghi as he faces an important vote in parliament on Tuesday over Ukraine, with some 5-Star members looking to limit Italy from sending further weapons to Kyiv. Italy, like many EU countries, has been dispatching arms to Ukraine to help it battle the Russian assault. In a statement, Di Maio said the government had to defend the values of democracy and freedom, adding that while everyone wanted peace, Russian President Vladimir Putin was pursuing war. Against this backdrop, he said 5-Star leaders were attacking him with "hatred" and causing trouble for the government with its European partners. "(This is) an immature attitude that tends to create tensions and instability within the government," he added.

**Indian courts succumb to Hindutva influence**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The Indian judiciary, with its anti-Muslims verdicts, has become an instrument in the hands of the Narendra Modi government that continues to oppress minorities and deny them justice. The time-to-time verdicts of Indian courts on religious matters have proved that the institution is openly siding with Hindutva and has failed the Muslim community. This June, the Indian Supreme Court appeared as the "biggest tormentor of the minorities" after it refused to stop the government from razing houses of Muslims. The top court said, "We cannot stop demolitions," in response to a petition by a Muslim group in Uttar Pradesh who said that state government had been punishing members of India's 200-million-strong Islamic minority for participating in protests. Muslims in India are not facing such a situation for the first time as the history is replete with such incidents of state-sponsored persecution of Muslims particularly in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Delhi and Gujarat.

**Islamophobia: Pak calls for criminalizing hate speech**

Among the priority actions proposed by the Pakistani envoy was for government interventions to "domestically criminalize certain manifestations of hate speech, such as racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and incitement to violence"

UNITED NATIONS: Voicing serious concern over growing hate speech worldwide, Pakistan has called for a collective effort to counter its manifestation such as Islamophobia, racism, xenophobia and incitement to violence. "Hate is a threat to everyone; Combating it must be a collective effort," Ambassador Amir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said in a remarks at an event organized by Morocco in connection with the first-ever International Day for Countering Hate Speech. Among the priority actions proposed by the Pakistani envoy was for government interventions to "domestically criminalize certain manifestations of hate speech, such as racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and incitement to violence."



"Hate speech is on the rise worldwide, with the potential to incite violence, undermine social cohesion and tolerance based on xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, hatred and other forms of intolerance and discrimination," Ambassador Amir Khan warned. "History has shown us that genocide and other atrocity crimes begin with words – there is a collective responsibility to address hate speech in the present day to prevent further violence in the future."

He hoped that, under the umbrella of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, bold actions will be taken to respond to intolerant, inflammatory and prejudiced narratives that are stoking and intensify racial and religious fears, hostility and hatred. Among other actions, the Pakistani

envoy proposed were:

- To build consensus on the imperative to strengthen education, a powerful tool, to counter hate speech and set out concrete recommendations in this regard, and, .
  - Social media companies urgently review their policies, and to effectively regulate hate speech and disinformation online, an effort that would require governments and relevant technological companies to work together.
- Meanwhile, at a briefing in connection with the Day, the UN Special Adviser on Genocide, Ms. Alice Nderitu, was asked by a Pakistani correspondent about rising Islamophobia in India. "We have quite a number of situations of concern, and, of course, that's that's one of them," she said. In a message issued to mark the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said hate speech incites violence, undermines diversity and social cohesion and "threatens the common values and principles that bind us together." He added, "It promotes racism, xenophobia and misogyny; it dehumanizes individuals and communities; and it has a serious impact on our efforts to promote peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development."

**Pak faces inflows of asylum seekers from Afghanistan**

**MONITORING DESK**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is facing new inflows of asylum seekers from neighboring Afghanistan, following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, according to the UN refugee agency. Speaking to Anadolu Agency on the eve of World Refugees Day, observed on June 20 every year, the spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Pakistan, Qaiser Khan Afridi, said more than 250,000 Afghans seeking asylum have trickled into Pakistan since January 2021. "UNHCR is aware that over 250,000 Afghans seeking asylum are reported to have arrived in Pakistan since January 2021, however, the overall number of Afghans with international protection needs is likely to be higher," said Afridi. "We are currently discussing with the government of Pakistan the way forward on registration and documentation of asylum-seekers, predominantly from Afghanistan," he said. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans fled to Pakistan and Iran since the fall of Kabul to the Taliban last August. Many, who worked or associated with the previous regime, left the country, even before the capture of Kabul fearing a backlash from the hard-line group, with others finding it an opportunity to emigrate to the US or Europe.

**Met forecasts floods as rains leave 10 dead**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Thunderstorms are expected to begin in different parts of the country from June 22 as a heavy monsoon system is entering Pakistan tonight, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said on Sunday. The monsoon comes on the heels of pre-monsoon rains that have already wreaked havoc in Balochistan and some parts of Sindh, killing ten people. Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces have also received pre-monsoon rains and the monsoon system could cause flooding. The Met Office on Sunday alerted the concerned departments to stay alert as the heavy rains accompanied by thunder and lightning are expected to start across Pakistan from June 22. The Met warned that the heavy thunderstorms may cause damage to the weak infrastructure and generate flash floods in nullahs in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Jhelum, and Nowshera. The Met Office also warned of landslides in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). It advised people to stay cautious and obtain information on weather situations before visiting any tourist spot. Different parts of the country witnessed overnight downpours which submerged the houses and roads in the low-lying areas. The wall of a house in Awan Market of Lahore also collapsed, killing five members of a family while at least five people were killed and three injured when their car was swept away in a flash flood flowing through Beji stream in Balochistan's Kohlu district on Sunday.

**Pak frees 20 Indian fishermen**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan has released 20 Indian fishermen among whom four are Muslims. According to details, the Pakistan government on Sunday freed 20 Indian fishermen who were incarcerated in Malir Jail, Karachi. They would be repatriated to India through Wagah Border. The fishermen were arrested by the Pakistan marine force for unlawfully entering country's territorial waters. The released fishermen batch is also included four Indian Muslims. It is pertinent to mention here that there are still more than 500 Indian prisoners who are spending their days in the Malir Jail.



**TEHRAN: Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan met with Mohammad Ali Farahnakian, Deputy Minister of Energy for International Affairs during his 4-day visit to Tehran to discuss the import of electricity from Iran. – DNA**

**Tajikistan eyes total control of troubled east**

ALMATY: Tajikistan's mountainous province of Gorno-Badakhshan is home to a rickety highway that is among the world's great road adventures. But the region famed for its lunar landscapes and verdant valleys has a darker side. In recent weeks, Tajikistan's authoritarian government has cracked down hard on the restive region, which borders China and Afghanistan, and which tried to break away from Dushanbe in 1992. At least 17 people were killed and over 200 arrested during what the authorities call "an anti-terror operation", with a communications blackout limiting information coming out of the region. Critics, however, argue that the real aim of the crackdown is to crush local leaders, who in the past have resisted veteran President Emomali Rakhmon's rule. State information bulletins have trumpeted the operation as a success. On Friday the state information service Khovar said that "12 leaders of organized criminal groups" had been detained during the operation and 16 people "neutralised" after resisting arrest. – APP

**India blocks UN listing of Indian national**

UNITED NATIONS: In a blatant misuse of its UN Security Council's membership, India has blocked a proposal to proscribe an Indian national, Gobinda Patnaik Duggivalasa, by a 15-member body's panel, known as the 1267 Sanctions Committee, according to the informed sources. The Committee procedures require consent of all Council members to accept a listing request. The proposal for listing of Gobinda Patnaik Duggivalasa was tabled in the Committee because of his role in financing and supporting terrorist attacks against Pakistan, including the 13 July 2018 suicide bomb attack in Mastung, Balochistan, that he planned, coordinated and executed. Over 160 individuals lost their lives and more than 200 were injured in that attack. Duggivalasa was also involved in suicide attack on a bus carrying Chinese nationals in Dalbandin, Balochistan, on 11 August 2018, the sources said. This individual is part of India's state-sponsored terrorist network responsible for unifying various Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) factions in the past in Afghanistan, they said. Recent reports of the U.N. Monitoring Team focusing on the global threat posed by Al-Qaeda, Daesh and related groups have highlighted increasing cross-border terrorist threat posed by proscribed TTP to Pakistan from the Afghan soil as result of the re-unification of the group in Afghanistan. – Agencies

**Kazakhstan introduces non-visa regime for Iran**

**NEWS DESK**

TEHRAN: Kazakhstan introduces non-visa regime for Iranian citizens for 14 days TEHRAN. KAZINFORM In the course of his official trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev held a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi. Kazinform learned from the Akorda press service. Prior to the talks, the President of Iran officially welcomed Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Saadabad Palace. Chief of the Guard of Honor gave report to the leaders of the two countries. After the performance of the national anthems of Kazakhstan and Iran, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Ebrahim Raisi introduced the members of the official delegations to each other. The meeting of the two countries' presidents was held after the ceremony in a closed-door format. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev thanked Ebrahim Raisi for the invitation. "I would like to express

my gratitude for a warm welcome and hospitality. I was pleased to accept your invitation. This is my first visit to Iran on the post of the President of Kazakhstan. This visit is of great importance. I am confident that today's talks will

the Caspian region and a reliable partner. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev also mentioned an important date – the 30th anniversary since establishment of the diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and Iran. He said that during this time

parliamentary and business councils. Despite the existing barriers, trade and economic cooperation is expanding significantly. In the first half of 2022, mutual trade reached 50%. The next goal is not to slow down this pace, but to accelerate it. We have all the necessary potential for this. I highly appreciate your contribution to the development of our partnership. I am ready to make every effort to promote our cooperation", said Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The Head of State emphasized that an important decision was made during today's visit. "We are introducing a visa-free regime for Iranian citizens for a period of 14 days. This measure is aimed at further expansion of cooperation in various areas, including boosting contacts among the representatives of business community, attracting more tourists. I believe that Iranian businessmen will take full advantage of this decision", the President of Kazakhstan noted.



give a fresh impetus to the development of cooperation between our countries. The Kazakhs say: "The right of a neighbor is the right of the Almighty Allah". Our country has always lived in peace and harmony with its neighbors. Iran is our closest neighbor in

the relationship has strengthened and the friendship between our countries has become stronger. "Our comprehensive contacts are developing dynamically. This is the result of a political dialogue based on mutual trust. We have intergovernmental,

**NATO warns of long Ukraine war as battles grind on**

"losses are significant. Many houses have been destroyed; civilian logistics have been disrupted"

KYIV: The war in Ukraine could last for years, the head of NATO said on Sunday, calling for steadfast support from Ukraine's allies as Russian forces battle for territory in the country's east. Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said supplying state-of-the-art weaponry to Ukrainian troops would boost the chance of freeing its eastern region of Donbas from Russian control, Germany's Bild am Sonntag newspaper reported. After failing to take the capital Kyiv early on in the war, Russian forces have focused efforts on trying to take complete control of the Donbas, parts of which were already held by Russian-backed separatists before the Feb. 24 invasion. "We must prepare for the fact that it could take years. We must not let up in supporting Ukraine," Stoltenberg was quoted as saying. "Even if the costs are high, not only for military support, also because of rising energy and food prices." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who visited Kyiv on Friday with an offer of training for Ukrainian forces, also said on Saturday it was important Britain provide support for the long haul, warning of a risk of "Ukraine fatigue" as the war drags on. In an opinion piece in London's Sunday Times, Johnson said this

meant ensuring "Ukraine receives weapons, equipment, ammunition and training more rapidly than the invader". Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who has rallied citizens with daily filmed messages, said he had visited forces in the southern Mykolaiv region, about 550 km (340 miles) south of Kyiv. "Their mood is assured: they all do not doubt our victory," he said in a video on Sunday that appeared to have been recorded on a moving train. "We will not give the south to anyone, and all that is ours we will take back." In Mykolaiv and Odesa regions, Zelenskiy said he had heard reports on destruction from Russian strikes. "The losses are significant. Many houses have been destroyed; civilian logistics have been disrupted," he said. A top target in Moscow's offensive to seize full control of

Luhansk region - one of the two provinces making up the Donbas - is the industrial city of Sievierodonetsk, where the Ukrainian military said fighting and shelling continued. "All Russian claims that they control the town are a lie. They control the main part of the town, but not the whole town," Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai told Ukrainian television, adding that fighting made evacuations from the city impossible. Russia's defence ministry said it had taken control of Metyolkine, just southeast of Sievierodonetsk, with Russian state news agency TASS reporting that many Ukrainian fighters had surrendered there. Ukraine's military said Russia had "partial success" in the area. Analysts at the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based

think tank, wrote in a note that "Russian forces will likely be able to seize Sievierodonetsk in the coming weeks, but at the cost of concentrating most of their available forces in this small area". In Sievierodonetsk's twin city of Lysychansk, residential buildings and private houses had been destroyed, Gaidai said. "People are dying on the streets and in bomb shelters," he added. In Ukraine's second largest city Kharkiv, northwest of Luhansk, Russia's defence ministry said its Iskander missiles had destroyed weaponry recently supplied by Western countries. Russian forces were trying to approach Kharkiv, which experienced intense shelling in the first two months of the war, and turn it into a "frontline city", a Ukrainian interior ministry official said. West of Donbas, Russian missiles hit a fuel storage depot in Novomoskovsk, killing two people and injuring 13, the regional administration chief said. Video verified by Reuters showed thick black smoke rising into the air. To the south, Western weaponry had helped Ukrainian forces advance 10 km (6 miles) towards Russian-occupied Melitopol, its mayor said in a video posted on Telegram from outside the city. – Agencies

