



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Prime Minister Shahbaz urged to reduce duty of paper

Detailed News On Page-07

NATO plans to upgrade rapid reaction force

Detailed News On Page-08

Gwadar offers vast avenues for Kazakhstan

Detailed News On Page-03

Paris' goodwill gesture hailed

France suspends Pak loans payment

Amount was to be initially repaid between Jul-Dec, 2021: The agreement was signed by Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Federal Secretary for Economic Affairs Division and Nicolas Galey, the Ambassador of the French Republic to Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD, The Government of Pakistan on Monday signed suspension of loans worth USD 107 million with France, under the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) framework. The Government of Pakistan has signed a Debt Service Suspension Agreement with the French Republic, amounting to suspension of loans worth USD 107 million, under the G-20 DSSI framework. This amount, initially repayable between July and December 2021 will now be repaid over a period of six

years (including one-year grace period) in semi-annual installments. The agreement was signed by Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Federal Secretary for Economic Affairs Division and H.E. Nicolas Galey, the Ambassador of the French Republic to Pakistan in Islamabad on Monday. The GOP has already signed agreements with the French Republic for suspension of USD 261 million. Due to the support extended by the development partners of Pakistan, the G-20 DSSI has provided the fiscal space which was necessary to deal with the urgent health and economic needs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The total amount of debt that has been suspended and rescheduled under the DSSI framework, covering the period from May 2020 to December 2021, stands at USD 3,688 million. Pakistan has already concluded and signed 93 agreements with 21 bilateral creditors for the rescheduling of its debts under the G-20 DSSI framework, amounting to rescheduling of almost USD 3,150 million. The signing of above-mentioned agreements brings this total to USD 3,257 million. Negotiations for remaining agreements to be signed under the G-20 DSSI are on-going.

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ISLAMABAD: The agreement was signed between Federal Secretary for Economic Affairs Division Mr. Mian Asad Hayaud Din and Ambassador of French Republic to Pakistan H.E. Nicolas Galey. — APP

Briefs

Ishaq Dar to return home

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is likely to return to Pakistan to take charge of the Finance Ministry, sources told this news agency. According to sources the Senator-elect is also expected to take oath of his office. It is learnt that the PML N supremo Nawaz Sharif is not happy with the hitherto performance of the incumbent Finance Minister Miftah Ismael. Financial experts say after the return of Dar, the financial situation of the country is likely to improve a bit.

Imran Khan to lead Islamabad protest

PTI Rawalpindi and Islamabad organisations were issued special instructions to speed up their preparations and public mobilization campaigns to make the rally a historic

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan announced that he would lead Islamabad protest at Parade Ground on July 2 against the imported government imposed on Pakistan through US regime change conspiracy. The PTI high-level political committee meeting was held here on Saturday with Imran Khan in the chair, wherein the overall country's political situation, back-breaking inflation and future course of action of the party were threadbare. The meeting was attended by Central Secretary General Asad Umar, PTI KP President Pervez Khattak, Asad Qaiser and Aamir Mehmood Kiyani along with others central and regional leadership. During the meeting, they condemned in the strongest terms the worst lawlessness witnessed during the first phase of local body elections in Sindh. They also expressed deep concerns over the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) failure to hold fair, transparent and credible elections. The participants showed great reservations over the rising complaints of pre-polls



LHC orders ECP for issuance of reserved seats

DNA
LAHORE, The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to issue a notification of new MPs on five reserved seats of Punjab Assembly. Justice Shahid Waheed passed the orders while allowing a petition filed by Zainab Umar, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPA challenging ECP's decision of delaying the notification of new MPs on five reserved seats of Punjab Assembly till by-poll on 20 general seats. During the proceedings, petitioner's counsel Barrister Ali Zafar argued before the court that the ECP was duty bound to issue a notification of new members on reserved seats after de-notifying the dissident members but the ECP was not issuing the same. He submitted that the commission had decided to issue the notification of new MPs after by-polls on July 17.

Economy to be put on track: Ahsan

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has underlined the need for collaborating efforts to put the country's economy on right track. Talking to media in Islamabad on Monday evening, he said the real objective of Tuesday's Turnaround Conference is to find solutions to the country's current economic issues. The Minister said the Conference will provide a platform to academia, experts and other stakeholders to devise short term plans for the betterment of country's economy.

MQM-P: PPP violated its agreement

DNA
KARACHI: Senior MQM-P leader and former mayor of Karachi, Wasim Akhtar, on Monday accused coalition partner PPP of violating their agreement and "stealing" his party's mandate during the first phase of Sindh's local government elections. The ruling PPP in Sindh and the MQM-P had signed a deal in March this year against the PTI-led government, with the former assuring the latter of meeting all its years-old demands if it supported the opposition alliance.

G7 states promise Ukraine military, financial support



NEWS DESK
SCHLOSS ELMAU: Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) on Monday reaffirmed their commitment to Ukraine, vowing to continue "financial, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support ... for as long as it takes." After discussions with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy via video link, the leaders announced their intent to hit Moscow with more sanctions and take other measures such as higher tariffs and a price cap on Russian oil. "We reiterate our demand that Russia put an end to this war of choice, and immediately, unconditionally cease all hostilities and withdraw its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine within its

internationally recognized borders," read a joint statement issued on the second day of the ongoing G7 summit in Germany. This is the first in-person gathering of the world's seven leading economies since Russia's war on Ukraine began on Feb. 24, and a key point on the agenda was the war-driven food and energy crises. The leaders pledged to "help Ukraine defend itself," saying they will expand collaboration in intelligence, information sharing, maritime security and other areas. According to reports, US President Joe Biden is also expected to announce the purchase of an advanced surface-to-air missile defense system for Kyiv. "We will continue supporting Ukraine in defending its networks against cyber incidents and expand our cooperation in the fields of energy security, the safety and secu-

urity of nuclear material and facilities, environmental, and water use issues," the statement said. The G7 will expand targeted sanctions to further restrict Russia's access to key industrial inputs, services, and technologies produced by Western economies, particularly those supporting Russia's armament industrial base and technology sector, it added. A separate White House statement said the US will hike tariffs on more than 570 groups of Russian products worth approximately \$2.3 billion. On the global food crisis sparked by the war, the G7 pressed Russia "to cease, without condition, its attacks on agricultural and transport infrastructure and enable free passage of agricultural shipping from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea."

Pakistan ready to work with BRICS states, says FO

Pakistan congratulated China on successful hosting of BRICS meetings

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Monday said Pakistan stands ready to work with all developing countries, including the BRICS members for addressing the challenges faced by the global community. Responding to media queries about a "High-level Dialogue on Global Development" held virtually on sidelines of the BRICS meetings, the FO spokesperson said. Pakistan congratulated China on the successful hosting of the BRICS meetings. "We have noted that this year a "High-level Dialogue on Global Development" was held as a BRICS side event in which a number of developing and emerging economies were invited," Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said. The FO spokesperson said China being the host country engaged with Pakistan prior to



China highly values Pakistan's role

DNA
BEIJING: China says Pakistan is an important member of the group of friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian during a regular briefing in Beijing Monday said that China highly values the important role of Pakistan in advancing implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for a sustainable development. "China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperative partners. Pakistan is an important member of the group of friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI)," he said. "China highly values the important role of Pakistan in promoting global development and advancing implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for a sustainable development and booting regional cooperation," he said.

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Continued on Page 06

421 Sikh yatrees arrive Darbar Sahib Kartarpur

LAHORE: A delegation comprising 421 Sikh yatrees reached Darbar Sahib Kartarpur from Lahore to perform rituals and pay their respects at the burial site of the founder of Sikh religion Baba Guru Nanak Dev Jee. The Sikh yatrees are on a 10-day visit to attend the 183rd death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Sardar Inderjeet Singh of the Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee extended a warm welcome to the yatrees upon arrival at the Darbar Sahib Kartarpur and members of Sikh Parbhandak Committee. Rose petals were strewn on their path while the yatrees were presented rose garlands. Sardar Inderjeet Singh told APP that the Sikh yatrees would stay overnight at the Darbar Sahib Kartarpur and travel to Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Lahore after breakfast the next morning. A sumptuous 'langar' (communal free kitchen) awaited the yatrees where they were served different dishes. A medical camp has

also been set up for the visitors. Maharaja Ranjit Singh established the Sikh empire (1799-1839) at the age of 18 and ruled for forty years the 19th most populous (3.5 million population) country in the world as per records of 1831. Ranjit Singh defeated the invaders. The Sikh empire's frontiers spread over Khyber Pass in the West to Tibet in the East, and Mithankot in the South to Kashmir in the North. The Samadhi has been built at the site of Ranjit Singh's cremation and is a holy site for the Sikhs. The yatrees will attend rites to commemorate the 183rd death anniversary of the founder of Sikh empire Maharaja Ranjit Singh. They will perform Akhand Path as part of rituals to mark death anniversary at Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in Lahore on June 29 (Wednesday).

The visiting Sikh yatrees told APP they were delighted to visit the Sikh holy sites in Pakistan and the visit was realization of their life's dream. They said

what makes them happier is the hospitality and love of the people of Pakistan who host them like no other. 'Love of Pakistan pulls us here and we return to the Indian Punjab immersed in the care and affection for the years to come', remarked Urmeet Kaur, adding that the Sikh nation could never reciprocate love of the people of Pakistan. The yatrees also hailed Pakistani government for security provided to the yatrees, adding that the Sikh religious sites have been very well looked after in Pakistan. Habibur Rehman Gilani, Chairman Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), said Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh is a revered site and has been preserved as per the Sikh traditions.

He said the 183rd death anniversary would be observed with religious fervor and all arrangements have been made to facilitate the yatrees. The Sikh yatrees had reached Pakistan via Wagha Border on June 21 and will depart for India via Wagha Border on June 30. - APP



KARACHI: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon inaugurating Intra-District Peoples Bus Service near Avari Towers (Fatima Jinnah Road). - DNA

Five people killed over land dispute

DNA

ATTOCK: Five people, including four members of a family, were killed in a clash over land dispute in Fatehjang tehsil of Punjab's Attock district, on Monday. According to Police source, the incident happened when two parties clashed over the possession of land that left five people killed, including four of a family. A police spokesperson has said that the deceased persons include father, son, uncle, and nephew. District Police Officer (DPO) Umar Salamat has taken notice of the issue, while a heavy contingent of police reached the spot. The spokesman further said that teams have been formed to arrest the accused, while the police have launched search operations in the area.

Bilawal inaugurates Intra-District People's Bus Service

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Monday unveiled a plaque to formally inaugurate a fleet of 140 Intra-District Bus Service out of 240 at Fatima Jinnah Road here on Monday. He took round in the bus after the inauguration. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Minister for Transport and Information Sharjeel Inam Memon, Sindh Minister for Labour Saeed Ghani, Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahab and PPP MPAs including Sharmila Farooqi were also present on the occasion. The modern hybrid buses will operate on seven routes of the metropolis, initially, it has been made operational on one route from Malir to Tower. The service on other routes would also be made operational soon. - APP

FCCI president hails Shah Abdul Aziz medal to COAS

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has welcomed the conferment of the highest civil award of Saudi Arabia "Shah Abdul Aziz medal of excellence" to the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in reorganization of his meritorious professional services and said that it is indicated of the confidence of Saudi Arabia in the unmatched capabilities of the Pakistan armed forces. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are closely linked in religious bonds and their relations are excellent throughout the history of the two countries. He particularly mentioned the recent official visit of the Saudi investors to the FCCI and said that they were here to explore the business opportunities and interact with Pakistani counterparts to launch joint ventures in different fields of mutual interest. He said that Mr. Bajwa is the symbolic strength of Pakistan and its recognition at global level would bring much needed economic stability in the country.

UNIDO holds commemoration of MSME day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized a commemoration of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day to recognize the MSMEs' contribution to the economic growth and sustainable development in Pakistan, and to identify synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Additional Secretary of Ministry of Industries and Production, Govt of Pakistan, Mr. Iftikhar Ali Sahoo who was the Chief Guest of the event commended the contribution of UNIDO in strengthening the MSMEs in Pakistan and shared his remarks saying "SMEs play a pivotal role in the high-income sector. The Government of Pakistan's SME policy is comprehensive, conducive, and user-friendly. UNIDO's Country program is very much aligned with the national objectives. UNIDO has developed a valuable partnership with NRSP to strengthen and improve the incomes of the rural communities." With this, he also extended a special thanks to UNIDO for developing this very important sector. Earlier, opening the ceremony, Ms. Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Representative, extended appreciation to the guests and said, "the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution, in April 2017, recognizing the crucial role MSMEs play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". She highlighted the COVID impact and said "Pakistan has managed the COVID-19 pandemic remarkably well as compared to other countries in the world. However, MSMEs are still in dire need of support for the enhancement of their business portfolios". She reiterated "UNIDO is geared and focused on spurring innovation, creativity, and decent work for all so that this

sector would flourish as well". She also underscored UNIDO's mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) which implies that no one is left behind and all parts of society benefit from industrial progress, which also provides the means for tackling critical social and humanitarian needs. The event featured detailed presentations on the results achieved by UNIDO Pakistan from a series of successful projects supporting the MSMEs through the years, and an overview of Renewable Energy Investment Projects Support for Small Businesses and Micro Enterprises funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This was followed up by special remarks by Dr. Rashid Bajwa, CEO of NRSP in which he presented the partnership of UNIDO with NRSP and its impacts which showed improved lives of smallholder farmers and micro-enterprises especially woman-owned small businesses. The event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Industries and Production, Ministry of Climate Change, national and international development organizations, Microfinance banks, and academia. The participants appreciated the efforts of UNIDO on MSME's development initiatives. UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations focusing on inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the developing world. UNIDO works on different projects which are directly or indirectly related to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, Climate Change, Trade, etc. In all projects where UNIDO provides technical assistance, it is ensured that the project is sustainable and adaptable for the private sector. UNIDO is fully working on its theme of ISID (Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development) which refers active participation of women along with men in all aspects of Inclusive and Sustainable industrial.

MMBL partners with foodpanda

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), the largest digital bank in Pakistan, has partnered with foodpanda HomeChefs, the nation's leading platform for home-based restaurants, and AdalFi, a Techlogix subsidiary focused on digital financing, to initiate short-term micro-financing solutions for household chefs. Being a first-of-its-kind initiative, this strategic alliance will offer weekly loans of up to PKR 50,000 for HomeChefs to help resolve supply chain, marketing, and food quality issues, ultimately driving higher revenues and branding benefits for these home-based business ventures. The HomeChef market in Pakistan is a significantly diverse and growing segment.

Pakistani British woman in UK police

KAMRAN GUJJAR



JHELUM: Maher Amir Bhatti has said that Pakistani British women can be a part of the British police force and play a very positive constructive role in the society. It is a pleasure to be a part of the British police, which is a great honor for me. Maher Amir Bhatti is counted among a few British Pakistani women. Meher got great success in the British police recruitment examination and joined the police. Maher Amir Bhatti has started his services by becoming a part of the Bradford police force.

Court Order

In The court of Khudayar Civil Judge Class IstGujrat. Title Zafarqbal.versus: Province of Punjab etc. Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief

Notice to: Ansarqbal S/o. Mian Khan Cast Gujjar R/o. RajpurGari Tehsil Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 15-07-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Court Order

In The court of UmarRizwan Civil Judge Gujrat. Title Zarrar Ahmad.versus: Province of Punjab etc. Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief & Permanent Injunction

Notice to: 5-7. Rafay Ahmad, Kahab Ahmad Sons Muhammad Jamil, Salman Basharat S/o. Kahab Ahmad Cast Jutt R/o. Gotriala Tehsil KharianDist. Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 15-07-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

CM for effective measures to control spread of lumpy skin disease

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan on Monday directed to expedite preventive measures to stop spread of lumpy skin disease in animals. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting on lumpy skin disease in cattle. During the meeting, the officials concerned gave a briefing to the participants about

the latest situation of the disease in the province. The first case of lumpy skin disease in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was reported in April this year in Dera Ismail Khan and presently 25 districts of the province have been partially affected by the disease. The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to intensify preventive measures against the disease and devise an effective monitoring system to keep an eye on the

situation in all districts. He also directed the finance and livestock departments to finalise funds for procurement of more vaccines for the treatment of lumpy skin disease. The provincial government, Khan assured, will provide all financial resources for this purpose on priority basis. The meeting was informed that cases of lumpy skin diseases would likely to increase on the occasion of Eid, for which the provincial government was taking

emergency measures to control it. The KP government has also setup a task force for effective control of the disease in cattle, besides setting up check posts at all entry points in the province and districts. The officials further said that so far more than 800,000 cattle had been sprayed to control the disease and over 275,000 infected cattle had been vaccinated against lumpy skin disease, adding that mortality rate in infected cattle was 5%.

Sardar Tanveer denies any split in PTI AJK

MIRPUR Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan on Monday dispelled the impression of any split in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) AJK. He made clear that there was complete unanimity within the rank and file of the party (PTI). "There is complete unity and consensus within the PTI parliamentary party, cabinet and government." The consultations were held at all levels and that process would continue even after the approval of the budget, he said while talking to various delegations which called on him. Sardar Tanveer hailed the political acumen of AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary, under whose guidance, he said, the AJK government was moving forward. He said there was no discord between him and President Sultan. There was no truth in the propaganda being peddled in that regard. He said Barrister Sultan was the most senior politician, who enjoyed respect, support and trust from all across Azad Kashmir. - APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

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



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Bomb Disposal.....	15
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& Rescue Services..	4451122
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Corporation.....	9209224
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Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Gwadar port offers enormous avenues for Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Yerzhan Kistanfin called on the Federal Minister for Science and Technology (MoST) Agha Hassan Baloch at his office here on Monday. The minister welcomed the Ambassador and said that Pakistan highly values the ties with Kazakhstan and wants to further expand bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, said a press release. He highlighted the tremendous opportunities for cooperation that exist between the two countries which need to be explored for the immense benefit of both sides. He expressed the desire for a broad-based and deeper relationship with the Republic of Kazakhstan. Agha Hassan Baloch said that Pakistan is very fertile and full of potential that must be explored. He said that Gwadar port offers enormous avenues for Kazakhstan for promoting trade with the Middle East and other countries of the world. He said soon the Gwadar will be the trade hub and landlocked republics will avail access to the world through the development of Gwadar port which will bring about socio-economic uplift in the whole region. He also mentioned the rich mineral resources in Balochistan and the strategy for developing the mineral sector there. Both the dignitaries discussed the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a joint research council for cooperation in the field of science and technology that is likely to be inked in the next couple of months. Expressing satisfaction at the growing cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, the federal minister said that we are motivated for developing cooperation among young generations and science and technology are



the future. An MoU with Al-Frabi Kazakh National University Kazakhstan and the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) is also on cards. Agha Hassan Baloch said that an implementation plan should follow the MoU in the future so that both entities work on strategies these strategies. H.E. Yerzhan Kistanfin briefed the federal minister about an international gathering that was arranged in Kazakhstan in the recent past on the philosophy and services of Dr Muhammad Iqbal, the poet of the east. He

also mentioned the trade Summit in Expo Centre, Kazakhstan this year where Pakistani companies showcased their products to the Kazakhstan business community. He underlined the need for enhanced bilateral ties with Pakistan in the field of science and various economic sectors. This is time to revive the relationship between two brotherly Muslim countries. The Ambassador said that Pakistan possesses a remarkable and perfect location on the map of the world and all possible practical measures will be taken to have

utmost benefits from this location. Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch said that collaboration in scientific research can be a cornerstone in increasing the capability of the countries. He praised the Prime Minister's commitment to all the possible measures in this regard. The Ambassador presented souvenirs to the Federal Minister for Science and Technology. Joint Secretary and Technical Advisor Ministry of Science and Technology Mr Zain ul Abidin also attended the meeting. - APP

1100 policemen to ensure polio teams' security

RAWALPINDI: As many as 1100 police personnel have been deployed to ensure the security of 874 polio teams during a 7-day anti-polio campaign. According to a police spokesman, senior police officers have also been deployed with the teams. To ensure the security of the teams the police station's staff have also been directed to conduct patrolling in their respective areas. Deputy Commissioner TahirFarooq has also appealed the parents to cooperate with the anti-polio vaccination teams. - APP

ANF recovers 315 kg charras; arrests an accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Monday conducted an operation and managed to recover 315 kg charras besides netting an accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF conducted a raid at Pakistan International Container Terminal, Karachi and recovered 315 kg charras from a container being sent to Dubai. Charras was tactfully concealed in 157 potato bags.

The container was booked by Abdul QadirBhatti, a resident of Karachi. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. The spokesman informed that raids were being conducted to net accomplices of the accused. - APP

Bid to smuggle wheat flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Monday foiled a bid to smuggle wheat flour besides seizing over 28 tons of flour. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad police confiscated a vehicle loaded with 28 tons of wheat flour. A driver namely KhialZada was also sent behind the bars and police impounded a vehicle, he added. The authorities concerned had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi TahirFarooq had instructed the authorities to strictly monitor the movement of wheat and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. The spokesman said that all the exit points of Rawalpindi division were being monitored round the clock to control wheat smuggling. - APP

Tea imports increase by 8.17 percent in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: The tea imports witnessed an increase of 8.17 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The tea imports during July-May (2021-22) were recorded at \$580.911 million against the imports of \$537.010 million during July-May (2020-21), according to data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the tea imports decreased by 2.04 percent during the period under review as these went down from 238.941 metric tons last year to 234.062 metric tons during the current fiscal year, the data revealed. The overall food imports increased by 11.93 percent from \$7,550 million last year to \$8,450 million during the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the tea imports declined by 1.05 percent during the month of May 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. The tea imports during May 2022 were recorded at \$48.519 million against the imports of \$49.033 million in May 2021. - APP

Russia-Ukraine conflict affecting Pakistan economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, said that the conflict in Ukraine was negatively affecting Pakistan's economy owing to supply chain blockages, rising oil prices, and an impending food crisis. He gave these remarks while speaking at an eminent speaker series talk on the Russia-Ukraine crisis organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Monday. Ambassador Fatemi expressed his concern about overcoming the expected 3 million tonnes wheat shortage in the country because of the war in Ukraine, as Russia and Ukraine together contribute a large share to the world's grain production. Ambassador Fatemi maintained that

like the neighbouring Belarus and unlike the other republics that emerged out of the disintegration of the USSR in 1991, Ukraine had longstanding historical, religious, and cultural links with Russia dating back to 10th century. Therefore, he argued, Moscow had always hoped to have strong relations with Belarus and Ukraine after the independence of the two republics and deemed Western plans to include Ukraine in NATO in breach of their earlier commitments with Russia. Ambassador Fatemi was of the view that the Ukrainian army was giving tough resistance to the Russian troops, notwithstanding being largely outnumbered by the latter. The resistance, he added, had dashed Russian hopes of a quick military success. Moreover, with the military intervention in Ukraine, according to Ambassador Fatemi,

Russia had caused a rejuvenation of NATO, which was in a disarray prior to that. While agreeing that the Russian economy was not hit as badly by the sanctions as had been anticipated, he maintained that the impact was still quite substantial. Responding to questions about Sino-US relations, Ambassador Fatemi stated that Chinese decisionmakers would not be easily provoked over Taiwan. He added that China needed at least another 35 years to achieve its developmental goals and a military conflict over Taiwan was not in its best interest. Ambassador Fatemi emphasized the need for the international community to work together to bring an end to the conflict that had brought great pain and suffering to the people of Ukraine and also impacted negatively on global growth and development.

NHMP has penalized over 500 over-speeding vehicles

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) has chased and penalized over 500 over-speeding vehicles since June 1 under its campaign 'NoMore'. On the directions of Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) Khalid Mahmood, over-speeding vehicles are being chased and penalized with heavy fines, said a statement. HMP was running a campaign titled "#NoMore" aiming to ensure commuters' safety and enforcement of the law on Motorways. Inspector General NHMP said in a video statement that over speeding motorists will face heavy fines and patrol cars have been instructed to chase and apprehend on violations, adding that violations in lane discipline would be rigorously monitored and fined. Violators were being identified by using intelligently deployed spotters, next generation speed cameras and drone cameras. All NHMP field officers were also equipped with body-worn cameras that transmit live footage to a state-of-the-art command centre, ensuring transparency and confidence. Additionally, various messaging signboards were also being installed to warn and guide violators to stop. - APP

RCB imposes ban on sale, purchase of sacrificial animals on roads

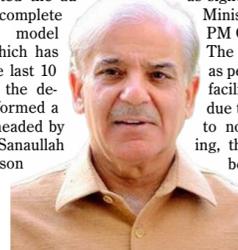
RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has imposed a ban on the sale and purchase of sacrificial animals on roads and open places in cantonment areas. According to a RCB spokesman, the board on the directives of Cantonment Board Executive Officer Imran Gulzar had formed teams to check the illegal cattle markets in Cantonment areas, adding that no animal vendor would be allowed to bring sacrificial animals in the residential areas. The sale and purchase of sacrificial animals on the roads and streets would be banned and all-out efforts would be made to keep the cantonment area neat and clean during the Eid-ul-Azha days. The authorities concerned had been instructed to strictly implement standard operating procedures (SOPs). Strict action would be taken against vendors found violating the orders besides im-

position of heavy fines and confiscation of their animals. The board had established a cattle market at BhattaChowk on Misrial Road for the sale and purchase of the sacrificial animals. He said that the board had auctioned the contract to establish temporary cattle market at BhattaChowk on Misrial Road at Rs 80.6 million. He said that the contract was awarded in a transparent manner to the highest bidder, Moeen Khan, who offered Rs 80.6 million in an auction in which 35 bidders participated. He said the contractor would charge Rs2,000 per goat and sheep and Rs3,000 per cow and bull from the buyer. The market was set up on modern lines where besides water, veterinary doctors were also available to check the health of the animals. - APP

PM forms committee for fast completion of model jail project

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the authorities concerned to complete the under-construction model prison in the capital, which has been facing delay for the last 10 years. Taking notice of the delay, the prime minister formed a six-member committee headed by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan to review the prison project. Other members include secretaries of the Ministries of Interior, Housing and Planning, the Chief Commissioner Islamabad and the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA). The prime minister sought the report from the committee within a week.

The notification of the directive was issued as signed by Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Tauqueer Shah, the PM Office said. The construction of Islamabad jail as per international standards and facilities could not be completed due to unavailability of funds. Due to non-construction of the building, the Islamabad prisoners have been accommodated in Adiala Jail for the last six decades. The modern 90-acre jail being built in Sector H-16 adjacent to the motorway will house around 2,000 inmates. Schools, mosques, training centers, playgrounds, and Islamabad Capital Territory courts will also be built in the premises. - APP



NHA, FWO ink agreement for electronic toll plazas

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An agreement on installation of electronic toll plazas on motorways was signed between the National Highway Authority and Frontier Works Organization at the National Highway Authority headquarters here today. Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood was the chief guest on the occasion. The Federal Secretary for Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, Director General of Frontier Works Organization Maj. Gen. Kamal Azfar, Inspector General of National Highways and Motorways Police Mr. Khalid Mahmood and the Senior Officers of Ministry of Communications and NHA also attended. Director IT Frontier Works Organization Brig (R) Asif Siddique gave a briefing on the Electronic Toll Collection System. Mr. Muhammad Azhar, Member Finance from National Highway Authority (NHA) and Brig @ Mr. Asif Siddique, Director IT from Frontier Works Organization (FWO) signed the agreement. Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services, Mr. Asad Mahmood said, that the duration of this agreement for the collection of motorway toll tax through electronic system is 7



years, which can be extended for another 3 years. The tolling system includes the installation of modern machinery, operational and management services and other related services. The purpose of this fiber connectivity is to collect accurate data regarding toll revenue through utilization of modern technology i.e Electronic collection instead of manual payment of toll tax. Mr.

Asad Mahmood said that the main objective of e-tolling is to keep traffic and commercial activities flowing and to ensure complete safety of passengers. Connecting and coordinating all the toll plazas on the motorways will save time and smooth flow of traffic will be ensured. Mr. Asad Mahmood said that electronic toll system would be gradually extended to the national highways of the coun-

try. He hoped that the plan for electronic collection of toll tax on motorways would be completed in 8 months. Ongoing projects of the National Highway Authority should be completed as soon as possible with national spirit, he added. It is pertinent to mention here that FWO has the capability and experience to install and operate the electronic toll tax collection system on technical basis. The toll tax is being done electronically on certain lanes at Islamabad, Ravi, Kala Shah Kaku and Sambarial toll plazas by the Frontier Works Organization. Implementation of the contract will ensure collection of toll tax electronically on motorways network of the country. Finally, Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha presented special shields on behalf of NHA to Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood and Director General Frontier Works Organization Major General Mr. Kamal Azfar. On behalf of Frontier Works Organization, Director General FWO Major General Mr. Kamal Azfar presented shields to Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood, Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Capt. (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha and Inspector General National Highways and Motorways Police Mr. Khalid Mahmood.

Briefs

Govt's reforms to empower PWDs

ISLAMABAD: Head of the Prime Minister's Strategic Reforms Salman Sufi said on Monday that government under the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has taken a historic step of strategic reforms in the field of healthcare research and development to empower persons with disabilities. In an exclusive interview with PTV News, he said that the present government was taking practical steps to strengthen infrastructure that empower persons with disabilities, adding that the modified wheelchairs for patients with cerebral palsy and devices to help other disabled citizens would be manufactured in Pakistan at low cost. He said that public and private organizations engaged in manufacturing Cerebral Palsy prostheses would be assisted and their number would be increased on merit. He said special persons deserved special attention and the government would work to provide facilities to them on priority basis, adding that vocational training and placement based rehabilitation of special persons would help them and create opportunities for persons with disabilities to be active part of the society. Replying to a question, he said that the public hospital's emergency services would be further improved, adding that with the coordination of private partnership 'music therapy trainings' and 'awareness' would be created on national level. He further said that under the reforms, the low cost special wheelchairs and other helping material would be locally manufactured, so that these requisite items could be easily available to the ordinary citizens. - APP

PTI files petition against new electoral rolls

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) took a strong exception to massive irregularities detected in the new electoral rolls and filed a petition in Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Central Secretary General Asad Umar filed a petition in the ECP in this regard on Saturday. The widespread irregularities in the new electoral rolls were pointed out in the petition. Asad said that votes being moved to new polling stations without lawful justification. He stated that they would not allow the fundamental right to vote to be violated by unlawful actions.

Four booked for gambling

RAWALPINDI: The police arrested four people for betting over quail fights in the jurisdiction of Chakri Police Station, a spokesman said. On a tip-off, a police team raided an area where quail fights were in progress and managed to arrest four gamblers namely Muhammad Javed, Waheed, Saeed and Faisal Mehmood. Police also recovered Rs. 10,000 cash stake amount, four mobile phones and two quails from their possession. - APP

IRSA releases 16642 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 16642 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 27142 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1097.15 feet, which was 47.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 45609 and 40000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 98865, 115193 and 68190 cases respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 27900 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 27142 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

Workshop on language documentation starts at AIOU

Dean Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the university is working hard for the betterment of society. He said that the Vice Chancellor of the University has also set up a Center for Social Reconstruction and an Excellence Center for this purpose

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A four-day international training workshop on "language documentation" started yesterday (June 27) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyam Aurangzeb was the chief guest at the inaugural session. Addressing the session, she said that language is the greatest expression of any civilization, and the mother tongue is an essential element for the social development of human beings in the present times. She said that Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum deserves congratulations for conducting an international training workshop on this important topic which can become a national mission. Maryam Aurangzeb said that this initiative of Open University can be expanded. There are more than 450 schools and colleges in Islamabad, and we can introduce



this program there with the collaboration of AIOU. Maryam Aurangzeb said that the government will provide the necessary support to Allama Iqbal Open University for the establishment of a "Linguistic Management System". A condolence prayer for VC, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum's father was also offered at the start of the session.

Director Workshop, University of North Texas, USA, Dr. Sadaf Munshi said that she has been researching on preserving indigenous languages in Pakistan since 2010. Director, Centre for Language and Translation studies, Dr. Ghulam Ali, and Dr. Lubna Omar explained the aims and objectives of the training workshop. They said that more than 50 scholars from 30 Pakistani universities are undergoing training in this workshop. It is pertinent to mention here that this workshop has been organized by the Center for Language and Translation Studies, AIOU in collaboration with the University of North Texas, USA, and Englishers LLL International, Turkey.

HanGeng, CMEC look to invest in KP's agri sector

ISLAMABAD: Chinese firms HanGeng Agricultural Group and China Machinery Engineering Corp (CMEC) are exploring the agriculture and livestock sectors of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province for possible investment, according to Gwadar Pro. This was stated by KP Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) CEO Hassan Daud while talking to Gwadar Pro. HanGeng Group is developing an agricultural industrial park in Gwadar Free Trade Zone to industrialise livestock and agriculture sectors in Pakistan. The park will have facilities for animal husbandry, a slaughter house and processing and packaging units for exporting livestock and agricultural goods from Pakistan. Dr. Hassan said that Hangeng Group's GM Andy Liao met him on June 23 and discussed possibilities of establishing agricultural and livestock linkages between KP and Gwadar. The firm intends to procure animals from KP for export purposes after taking care of them at their husbandry in Gwadar, Dr. Hassan said. The firm is interested in purchasing animals and poultry of around 200 different breeds, the KP-BOIT CEO said. He also informed that a senior CMEC official Huang Pei met him in Islamabad on Sunday and discussed possibilities of extending the red chili contract farming concept to KP. The firm is already growing red chillies in Sindh and Punjab provinces. Other Chinese enterprises are also interested in investing in KP and their officials are visiting the province to identify potential areas for investment, Dr. Hassan said. He added that Chinese investors are aggressively looking around for investment opportunities after travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have been lifted. - DNA

Working with Port Qasim Power Plant, a great pride: Fazal Rahim

ISLAMABAD: "Here nothing I love more than when we are working with other engaged individuals towards a common goal that is the prosperity of Pakistan, and that's what excited me about working here," said Fazal Rahim, who has been working at Port Qasim Power Plant project for seven years. According to Gwadar Pro, the plant is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During his time at Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEP), Rahim has worked in different departments and performed different tasks in Administration and Security Department, Planning Department, and Commercial and Procurement Department. He has experienced first-hand and learned different sides of what goes

into a mega project. "The day meeting CEO was an incredible experience. I was a bit nervous at the time but after five minutes I was selected and I had a feeling of achievement, gratitude, euphoria and excitement. It's a new world for me because this was my first job with a Chinese company. I see this opportunity as a way to contribute to my country in a fast-moving way," Rahim recalled. "As a fresh graduate, I had been hired on to a position that was definitely above my skill level at the time, but that then drove into a period of incredible growth. I was working with one of the best teams I've ever been a part of. I was learning new things every day and I was given the latitude to solve problems in my own way

and make decisions that influenced the direction of my growth in this company," Rahim said that working at PQEP was a completely re-invigorating for him. Touching on his daily work, Rahim said he used to start each day by going over his schedule. As a Pakistani employee who has an in-depth understanding of local market and suppliers, each day he is assisting the company in finding high-quality local suppliers. "Being a focal person of PQEP, I am doing the coordination work with the Pakistan Army and Rangers to ensure the best possible security of the Chinese personals. Having a competitive advantage in language, I am also responsible for the reception and escort work of Chinese and Pakistani media, jour-

nalists, companies, and officials, providing them translation services in Chinese, English and Urdu," Rahim told Gwadar Pro. "Happiness is a very important thing to have and to live a healthy and enjoyable life, doing something that you love is the feel of fulfilled." This is how Rahim summarizes his seven years at PQEP as a business manager. "I was kept surrounded by wonderful leaders and colleagues and everyone appreciate my efforts and encouraged me. After finishing study in China, I start my job here with very strong support from my family which boosts my self-esteem and confidence. Through this job, I have a feeling of fulfilling a purpose, and affect positively my other family members' lives in a big way." - APP

Proposed property tax discourages business expansions: RCCI

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Doing one or more businesses or having more than one branch is a basic right of every citizen. The imposed property tax, deemed rental income and fair value assessment in the budget falls into the category of double taxation. These anomalies in the budget should be removed. Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Nadeem Rauf and Group Leader Sohail Altaf in a joint statement demanded that the property tax levied in Finance Bill 2022-23 be withdrawn as it deprives the citizens of basic rights and discouraged business expansions. RCCI President Nadeem Rauf said that it is the basic right of every person to do one or more business or to have multiple branches as long as these are registered in the income tax return and tax is being paid

and such properties should be exempt from deemed income purview.

He said that Plots on which construction work is in progress or the plan is approved or under approval by the concerned Development Authority should also be exempted to encourage construction activities thus creation of jobs and over 40 allied industries will get a boost. Where agreement between the landlord and tenant is already available in tax record, such cases should not be opened for re assessment of deemed income, he added. He said that the assessment must be on the declared value in the wealth statement if at all this deemed rental income is essential to be carried on due to any covet rationale linked with the IMF package. Group Leader Sohail Altaf said that the country needs dollars at the moment, more incentives and encouragements need to be given to overseas Pakistanis. He suggested that to encourage foreign remittances, the Overseas Pakistani's should be exempted from the deemed income clause. An individual sending dollars 100,000/ in a year be allowed to buy upto 800 cc local assembled vehicles free of duty. A separate slab can be introduced for higher categories. Most needed foreign exchange will be attracted and also the local auto industry will benefit, he added.

CDWP approved 132 kV transmission line for Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved a 132kV transmission line from Jiwani to Gwadar. The CDWP meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Secretary Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, which approved 13 projects including the 132kV line for Gwadar, worth Rs 34.8 billion. As per details, the project namely the Construction of 2nd Circuit Stringing of 132kV, transmission line from Jiwani to Gwa-

dar (94km), will be completed with Rs 2,322.940 million. The 2nd Circuit Stringing of 132kV will be financed through the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

In the FY 2022-23 budget, the government has earmarked Rs 83,101.262 million for various ongoing and new schemes in the power sector. PSDP is an important policy instrument aiming to achieve sustainable economic growth and socio-economic objectives of the Government. Gwadar relies on imported electricity from Iran and with the construction of the 132kV

line, the port city will be connected to the National Grid for the first time. The Government is making all-out efforts to solve the electricity problem of Gwadar city at the earliest. Earlier this month, Pakistan and Iran signed an agreement to supply additional 100 megawatts of electricity to fulfill the electricity needs of Gwadar. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to Gwadar last Friday stated that the contractor would be "mobilized within 15 days" to start work on importing electricity from Iran to the coastal areas of Balochistan.

Five-day anti-polio campaign begins



ISLAMABAD: A five-day anti-polio campaign started across the country from Monday to administer anti-polio vaccine to the children up to five years of age. According to details, in Punjab, 39,000 health workers were taking part in the week-long campaign to administer anti-polio vaccine to over five million children in seven districts, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, DG Khan, Bahawalpur, Layyah and Mianwali. In Sindh, the special anti-polio drive started in Karachi and Hyderabad divisions and other high-risk districts of Sindh from Monday while in Larkana, Sukkur and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions, the drive will start from Wednesday. Over 30,000 polio workers will administer anti-polio drops to over 3.3 million children in the high risk union councils. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, about 2.6 million children would be administered anti-polio drops during a five day campaign. Over 11,000 teams will take part in the campaign. Similarly in Balochistan, 4,900 teams will administer anti-polio vaccine to 1.2 million children during a five-day drive in 18 districts of the province. Federal Minister for Health, Abdul Qadir Patel talking to PTV News said that during the campaign, polio teams would go door-to-door and administer anti-polio drops to children below five years of age in all tehsils and union councils of the district. He said the polio vaccination was a national responsibility and parents must ensure their children were vaccinated against the crippling disease. - APP

PBM spends over 442m on Dar-ul-Ehsaas Centres

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has spent an amount of Rs 442.649 million for providing free accommodation and other facilities to orphans residing in its Dar-ul-Ehsaas Centres during the first nine months of current financial year. According to official sources, PBM has established Dar-ul-Ehsaas (orphanages) for the orphan children, where they were being provided free food, nutrition, medical treatment, boarding and lodging as well as free education through well reputed educational institutes. An amount of Rs 183.015 million has been utilized under Ehsaas Panahgahs initiative up to March while an amount of Rs 161.088 million has been utilized under Ehsaas Kohooka Na Soye (EKBNS) initiative till March.

The main focus of Panahgahs under Ehsaas Programme was on quality service delivery to the shelter-less persons, by taking care of multiple aspects including health care, safe/secure living environment, hygienic food etc. in a respectable manner. A total of 39 Ehsaas Panahgahs are functional and PBM has procured 40 food vehicles to deliver the foods by donors. - APP

Govt notifies transfer, posting of officers

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday notified transfer and posting of high rank officers.

According to a notification issued by Establishment Division, Sheeraz Nazeer, a BS-19 officer of Police Service of Pakistan, presently serving in Intelligence Bureau (TB), transferred and his services were placed at the disposal of Government of Sindh, with immediate effect and until further orders. While, Faisal Tehseen, a BS-19 officer of the Postal Group, presently posted at Pakistan Post Office Department, Islamabad, transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division with immediate effect and until further orders. - APP

Six drugs peddlers held

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi police on Monday, during a course of action, claimed to have arrested six accused involved in drugs smuggling and bootleggers. The police also recovered 340 grams charras, five liters of liquor and 15 cans of beer from their possessions. A police spokesperson said that the Gujjar Khan police apprehended a suspect namely Munir Ahmed and recovered 120 grams charras while Rawat police netted Husnain Ali for having 220 grams charras. Airport police rounded up an accused namely Azeem with five liters of liquor. Patriata police held Ahsan, Fawad and Hamad for possessing 15 beer cans. The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects and the investigations have been launched against them. - APP

44 professional beggars arrested

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police, in its crackdowns on professional beggars, on Monday arrested 44 beggars to discourage the menace of begging and avoid risk of road accidents. On the directives of the In-charge Anti-Beggars Squad, along with their respective teams, took action against the professional beggars, and detained them in different police stations of Rawalpindi city, said the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson. On this occasion, SSP Operations Waseem Riaz said the special anti-beggar squad was working hard to curtail the increasing number of professional beggars. - APP

ICCI rejects 10% super tax on corporate sector

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the corporate sector was already paying 29 percent tax and providing employment to a large number of people, but the imposition of 10 percent super tax would put a cumulative burden of 39 percent tax on it, which would not be affordable for it

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has rejected the imposition of 10 percent super tax by the government on the corporate sector as it would have a serious impact on the large scale industries besides sending negative signals to the potential local and foreign investors. It called upon the government to immediately withdraw super tax to save the industrial sector from further troubles. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the corporate sector was already paying 29 percent tax and providing employment to a large number of people, but the imposition of 10 percent super tax would put a cumulative burden of 39 percent tax on it, which would not be affordable for it. He said the ultimate burden of super tax on cement, steel, banking, airlines, textile, automobile, sugar mills, beverages, oil & gas, fertilizer, cigarettes, chemicals and LNG would be passed on to the end consumers and bring a new wave

of high inflation in the country. He said that this measure would discourage the potential investors for investing in Pakistan, dry up local & foreign investment and badly affect the expansion of business ventures in the country. ICCI President said that the government has already taken some very harsh measures like historic hike in the prices of petroleum products and utility tariffs, increase in policy interest rate to 13.75 percent, which have caused a big surge in the cost of doing business and made the private sector very uncompetitive. The imposition of a super tax would badly affect the growth of the corporate sector and instead of improving the economy, it would plunge the economy into a deep recession.



Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that instead of putting high tax burden on the existing taxpayers in one budget, the government should adopt a gradual approach for rationalization of taxes and focus on broadening the tax base in order to improve the tax revenue of the country. They stressed that the government should always consult with the stakeholders before taking such harsh measures to save the economy from further problems as unilateral tax measures will destroy the businesses, reduce their competitiveness and fuel the inflation like never before through its multiplier effect.

Don't put all the burden on masses for economic stability

PRESENTING the federal budget for the financial year 2022-23, the government had said that no burden was being placed on the common man. But now that things are slowly coming to light, it seems that the government has made all the difficult decisions to burden the people.

If difficult and tough decisions are to be made against the people, then this work can be done by anyone. What is the need of experts for this? It is said that our federal finance minister has the highest degree in public finance but the steps being taken by him in the name of improving the economy show that he is not aware of the problems and difficulties of the people and nor do they have any policy to give them relief. All this can be done by someone who is illiterate or semi-literate.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has said that tough decisions will enable the country to deal with the economic crisis. It is true that in the current crisis of our economy there is a lot of pressure on the government and in this situation not much relief can be provided to the people but the steps that are being taken by the government are privileged. It seems to be benefiting once again and the problems of the people are also increasing. The Prime Minister said in a statement that when the coalition government came to power, there were two ways, the first way was to hold elections and leave the economy in a state of disarray, while the second way was to deal with the economic challenges first. We chose to save Pakistan from the economic quagmire and put Pakistan first. Shahbaz Sharif is right to say that the affluent class should fulfill its national duty by sharing the burden, but there is no denying the fact that in developing countries like Pakistan, the affluent classes do not care about their national duties at the level of indifference. Would it be the job of the government to reduce the benefits and facilities available to the affluent class, even if it cannot completely eliminate them.

Now the federal finance minister is saying that he will bring real estate brokers, builders, housing society developers, car dealers, restaurants and salons under the purview of the tax in a few months 'in consultation'. "We are slowly bringing millions of shopkeepers into the tax net," he said in a statement on social networking platform Twitter. Meanwhile, Salman Sufi, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Reforms, has also confirmed that the Prime Minister now wants to bring real estate, builders, housing society developers and other sectors under the tax net. That's a good thing the tax net should grow and every sector should be a part of it but the problem is that small shopkeepers will be brought into the tax net but those big crocodiles who break the tax net What will be the treatment?

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Role of West and Indian Muslims

INDIA'S Muslim population of about 204 million, remains uniquely invisible to the world despite increasingly becoming one of the most hostile places for minorities. The national spokesperson of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Nupur Sharma recently came under fire for her derogatory comments against the Prophet Muhammad on national television. Amidst growing international pressure, the BJP distanced itself from her remarks, describing it as the views of the fringe. In the wake of the international debate sparked by this event, far-right Dutch politician and lawmaker Geert Wilders, known for his anti-immigrant and anti-Islam stance, expressed his support for Sharma calling it brave and heroic. Wilders views were quickly circulated on social media platforms and mainstream media alike. Many prominent Indian news channels went on to give a platform to Wilders on their prime time debates where he was given space to openly express his anti-Muslim views.

There is a visible convergence of narratives across Europe, the US and Asia into a language anchored around the Muslim faith with anti-Islam sentiment increasingly becoming the organisational principle for far-right politics and a vehicle for its global expansion. The establishment of the Muslim figure as the opponent of democratic values, an infiltrator and a polluter of cultures can be traced back to a vocabulary that was produced in the post-9/11 era against the backdrop of the global "War on Terror". Increasingly, the logic of securing borders from Muslim "invaders" is also being exported to South Asia, with the key difference being that Muslims who have lived for centuries on these lands are being declared as outsiders. There is a common perception of Islamophobia as a problem specific to Western countries with Muslim immigrant populations, but this obscures the increasingly hostile conditions of the countries of the Global South.

A similar event in recent history might put things in a better perspective. In 2019, the leader of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi, met with the ardent anti-immigrant Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban. The two leaders highlighted that one of the greatest challenges for both countries and their respective regions was "migration... both regions have seen the emergence of the issue of coexistence with continuously growing Muslim populations." Rohingyas have lived in Myanmar for centuries but are denied citizenship and classified as illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. Aung San Suu Kyi made no attempts to condemn the violent military crackdown on the Muslim Rohingya minority in 2017 - leading to rape and killing of thousands of Rohingyas in what the UN described as "textbook ethnic cleansing". And India could be on a similar path, as noted by genocide expert Gregory Stanton, who said that a genocide of Muslims in India could be about to take place. Stanton had predicted the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda years before it took place in 1994.

Combined Army fulfills its mission with dignity

Jabi GULIYEV



The purposeful measures taken by Heydar Aliyev in the direction of army building at that time, along with protecting the blockaded Nakhchivan from enemy attacks, were also the beginning of the process of building the National Army...

THE Army is one of the main conditions for the security of every state and nation, one of the pillars of statehood. Therefore, one of the first steps and the most glorious pages of the state-building carried out by the National Leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev after his return to the leadership of the country in 1993 upon the insistence of the people was the formation of an army based on regular and unified command. It was the army established by the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev that heroically prevented the new invasion plans of Armenia at that time and many of Azerbaijani territories were liberated from occupation.

Heydar Aliyev attached great importance to our state heritage and succession in the state-building, as well as in the preservation of our history. One of the greatest examples of this, is the celebration of June 26 as the Day of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan by the decree of Great leader Heydar Aliyev on May 22, 1998 which is the day of establishment of the Independent Corps of Azerbaijan in 1918. We have been celebrating 26th June with a great pride. Because Azerbaijani Army, which was es-

established by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev and further strengthened by the Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, heroically fulfilled its historical mission in the 44-days Patriotic War. Our Army, which liberated Azerbaijani territories from occupation in this Patriotic War, introduced Azerbaijan to the world as a victorious state, a victorious people who won on the battlefield. There is no greater happiness than being a victorious state and a victorious people, and our Glorious Army under the Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev made us feel these proud sentiments.

The defense of the blockaded Nakhchivan has always been in the center of great attention, and for this purpose, the combat readiness and professionalism of the military units in the autonomous republic have been rapidly increasing year by year. I must remind that the establishment of military units of the Azerbaijani Army in Nakhchivan started in the 90s of the last century under the leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev. 4 days after the election of Heydar Aliyev - the great son of our people as the Chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, the Defense Committee was established on September 7, 1991.

The purposeful measures taken by Heydar Aliyev in the direction of army building at that time, along with protecting the blockaded Nakhchivan from enemy attacks, were also the beginning of the process of building the National Army in independent Azerbaijan. Thanks to the political wisdom of Heydar Aliyev, the Soviet army units left Nakhchivan and their weapons and equipment were handed over to the Azerbaijani Army.

As a result of the army building policy founded by National Leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully continued by President Ilham Aliyev, the material and technical support of the military units of the Combined Arms Army has been strengthened, and combat readiness has increased significantly. In this regard, the Combined Arms Army attracts attention as one of the most perfect examples of army building in our country. It is no coincidence that during his visits to Nakhchivan, President Ilham Aliyev always visits military units and gets acquainted with the work done to strengthen the defense capabilities of the Autonomous Republic on the spot. During his 15th visit to Nakhchivan as head of state on May 10 last year, President Ilham Aliyev attended the opening of Military Airfield of the Combined Arms Army and the Nakhchivan Garrison Central Hospital.

I would like to note with pride that the strong support fact of our state to the Autonomous Republic has turned Nakhchivan into a region capable of fully defending itself from foreign threats. The liberation of Gannut village of Sharur region which was occupied by Armenian armed forces in 1992 and liberated by the Combined Arms Ar-

my after 26 years - in 2018, is a great result of the army building in the Autonomous Republic. During the Gannut operation, which became an important military-political event in our society on the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Khunut mountain and Aghbulag height, Gizilgaya mountain and Mehrdag were liberated from occupation, and about 11,000 hectares came under Azerbaijani control. The greatest strategic importance of the Gizilgaya height is that, it allows our army to control the highway in Armenia.

Units of the Combined Arms Army showed their bravery in the Great Patriotic War as well. In the Patriotic War, which resulted with the victory of our Glorious Army, military personnel of the Nakhchivan Combined Arms Army, special forces, as well as graduates of the Military Lyceum named after Heydar Aliyev and graduates of the vocational training courses organized in the Nakhchivan Garrison Troops made history by showing great courage and created new examples of heroism.

President Ilham Aliyev during his visit to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic last year in an interview with Azerbaijan Television said: "The servicemen of the Nakhchivan Army, both special forces and other units, took an active part in the second Karabakh war, gave martyrs and demonstrated tremendous self-sacrifice. You know that special groups were brought to Baku from Nakhchivan. At the same time, I have to say, or rather I can already say this, that some of the weapons and ammunition of the Nakhchivan Army were brought to Baku and dispatched to the frontline. We are now replenishing the stocks of those weapons, but it happened. Therefore, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic has contributed a great deal to defending the borders of our country and strengthening the military capacity of Azerbaijan in general. So Nakhchivan will always be adequately protected."

With the attention and care of President Ilham Aliyev, army building continues rapidly in the Autonomous Republic on the basis of the new challenges that arose after the Great Patriotic War, various measures are being taken to increase the combat capability of the Combined Arms Army. All tasks set by the Head of State in this field are being implemented rapidly and with high quality in the Autonomous Republic under the leadership and control of the Chairman of the Nakhchivan Supreme Majlis Vasi Talibov.

It is no coincidence that the Combined Arms Army distinguished among the armed forces of the current CIS member states in terms of its high combat capability. This is one of the most perfect examples of army building in our country. In general, the Combined Arms Army, which stands firmly in the defense of Nakhchivan, is fulfilling its mission with dignity and determination.

- The writer is Member of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

End of the road looms for Iran nuclear deal

Ellen Laipson

One key change in the region is the consolidation of parts of the Arab-Israel relationship, albeit without the Palestinians

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi this week warned that Iran's latest moves on its nuclear program could strike the "fatal blow" to efforts to restore the 2015 nuclear agreement. That agreement, signed by Iran and the permanent five members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, was updated when then-President Donald Trump pulled the US out in 2018. Despite his campaign pledges in 2020, President Joe Biden has not found a way to return the US to formal participation, while the Iranian actions of recent months make it increasingly unlikely that the deal can be restored to its original purpose - restraining Iran's nuclear activities and providing sanctions relief.

For months, talks to revive the agreement to limit Iran's nuclear developments, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, have lurched between minor diplomatic progress to sustained impasses. But the mood has darkened with Iran's decision to turn off 27 cameras installed to monitor enrichment activity under the terms of the 2015 agreement. This has led to diminished confidence at the IAEA in Vienna that the international community can bring this process to a successful close.

This discouraging prospect will prompt a range of responses, from those who always found the agreement just a delaying tactic to an inevitable confrontation with Iran to those who will anguish about what could have been done differently to keep the JCPOA alive. There are three areas that can help us understand how we reached this point: US policy, Iran's calculations and the changing geopolitical environment. Many in the US are already questioning why the Biden administration did not have a better strategy to get the US back into the JCPOA. Unlike the Paris climate accord, where the president simply declared that Trump's policy was voided, the Biden team seemed to feel compelled to push for a better deal than the original agreement and to agonize over how sanctions relief would occur.

Pressure from both Republicans and Democrats, who were long skeptical of the agreement, led to a prolonged policy formulation, with new coordination with European allies on nuclear and non-nuclear concerns that could be seen as complicating the basic diplomatic task related to the JCPOA. Speculation that the desire to reduce US commitments in the Middle East, and later the Russian invasion of Ukraine, also moved the Iran problem off the front burner do not ring true but seem to be part of the narrative outside the US.

In recent testimony, the administration's lead on the Iran agreement, Robert Malley, also acknowledged, with good reason, that the Trump policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran was so counterproductive that the Biden team had a very steep hill to climb and the simple hope of flipping the switch back to full US participation was not an option. It is even harder to determine the Iranian side of the story. Do Iran's leaders want to kill the agreement or do they think their defiance will simply win them more concessions in negotiations? Given the power concentrated with Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and his deep mistrust of international institutions, Iran may have hoped for concessions on sanctions but would be willing to live with the demise of the JCPOA. Whether that means a race to the finish line of a fully deployable nuclear weapon or something shy of that remains to be seen. Does Iran view the regional environment as favoring its interests? And would such a judgment be a key factor in its behavior on the nuclear file?

In the cases of Tehran's clients in Beirut, Baghdad, Damascus and Sanaa, it is a very messy and mixed picture. Lebanon's collapse as a viable state and the decline of Hezbollah's voting power are not good for Iran, but Iran probably finds use of Lebanese territory as a platform for drones and missiles as sufficient for its interests. Likewise, Syria's survival is good enough for Iran, but its relations with Arabs and Kurds are never easy.

Iraq, even before completing government formation, has taken the strange step of legislating any contact with Israel as treasonous, presumably a mostly symbolic effort for power broker Muqtada Al-Sadr to not be outflanked by more pro-Iranian Shiite factions. It is a peculiarly counterproductive move in terms of Iraq's larger desires to be integrated in the region, to be less reliant on Iran and to sustain productive security cooperation with Western countries. So, the new geopolitics of the region may persuade Tehran that it can live without the JCPOA, while working with Russia and China to block any new punitive measures and taking small victories in its client states. For the rest of the region, and for Western powers, a world without the JCPOA is a more dangerous one. Improved cooperation among those states that fear Iran may be a positive development, but not sufficient to achieve regional security.

- Source: Arab News

Unmeltable ethnic groups of Pakistan and integration strategies

Mustansar Siam



Pakistan appeared in 1947 with inadequate history of national unity as the citizens did not share a common language; they did not possess a shared culture; they did not share similar social order. Integration as a social process was needed to handle the complex ethnic and linguistic issues taking strong roots at that time

THE treaty of Westphalia, signed in 1648, brought a new framework for the establishment of the international political system, and Westphalian tradition has primarily dominated the modern global politics. The concept of a nation-state system had successfully been installed, which later faced the inimical issues related to political, cultural, and communal pluralism.

The inherently strong states effectively dealt with issues concerning ethnicity, separatism, allocation of resources, and autonomy. Contrastingly, the countries with weak state apparatus have been unsuccessful in managing ethnic conflicts and communal pluralism, which resulted in further instability and discomfort. Minorities at the Risk data shows that from 1945 to 2003, approximately 121 ethnic conflicts have occurred worldwide, resulting in 13 to 20 million civilian casualties.

Pakistan appeared in 1947 with inadequate history of national unity as the citizens did not share a common language; they did not possess a shared culture; they did not share similar social order. Integration as a social process was needed to handle the complex ethnic and linguistic issues taking strong roots at that time. Morrison (1972) has highlighted the variables of integration when it is adopted as a "strategy." These variables include contact, cooperation, consensus, and community. Unfortunately, these things happened to Pakistan in a haphazard, messy, and disorganized way. Pakistani political and military elite thought to fix the issue through force integration. Force integrations, historical-

ly, have always resulted in further disorder and unrest. The same happened in the case of Pakistan in the form of the secession of East Pakistan after 24 years of its formation.

The ethnic conflicts required a political solution, and fixing them through military means weakened democratic, institutional, economic, and political development. The low-key conflict in the provinces of Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa indicates that the integration policies adopted by the state to manage ethnic conflicts are failing. The absence of violent clashes can bring integration in a peaceful way—the Pakistani political and military elite need to revamp its policy to manage the ethnic conflicts constructively.

Establishing people-centered and people-oriented institutions in less developed areas would help the state-apparatus to minimize these complex issues. An effective court system is needed to strengthen the rule of law. Chief Justice Islamabad High Court, Athar Minallah's remarks regarding the missing person, show that the missing person's commission has failed to justify its existence. However, this issue provides much-needed oxygen to other separatist elements within the country. Resource distribution and economic imbalances also need to be revamped. The way separatist elements are indoctrinated would bring political polarization to the country. Additionally, there must be a focus on political modernization, education, good governance, institutional and organizational structure, the role of political and non-political institutions, and regular elections.

Briefs

Imran Khan
to lead
Islamabad
protest

FROM PAGE 01

rigging by the coalition government in 20 constituencies of Punjab, where by-polls were scheduled on July 17. They said that enthusiasm among the people regarding the by-elections was a ray of hope, as the imported government's days were numbered.

During the meeting, a briefing was given pertaining to the preparations for the grand protest rally to be held on July 2 at the Parade Ground in Islamabad. PTI Rawalpindi and Islamabad organisations were issued special instructions to speed up their preparations and public mobilization campaigns to make the rally historic.

They reviewed the imported government preparations for the passage of the budget and spiraling prices that's crushing the nation. During the meeting, the participants expressed happiness and satisfaction over the decisive victory of PTI in PK-7 Swat, wherein PTI inflicted punching defeat on ANP candidate backed by 13 political parties.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PTI said that he would lead the July 2 Rawalpindi-Islamabad protest rally, adding that strong anti-government movement was inevitable as these inept, imported and notorious government of criminals were imposed on the nation. Imran Khan said that people from all walks of life especially the youth and women were political more matured now as it was clearly evident from the strong and overwhelming reaction from conscious people over the ousting of the elected government through foreign conspiracy. He said that the local Mir Jafars were flouting constitution and law and democratic values more ruthlessly than dictators.

The PTI chairman stated that governments of thieves in Sindh and Punjab were busy in steeling elections but ECP remained unmoved and was just looking the situation as a silent spectator. "The whole democratic system was put at stake in order to impose these slaves on the nation, who gave themselves NRO-2 to save their Rs. 1,100 billion corruption," Imran Khan maintained. However, he added that the nation rejected NRO-2 for thieves who made lives of the miserably due to back-breaking inflation. He said that only a peaceful democratic movement for true freedom could get the nation out of the quagmire in which they have been plunged by these slaves.

LHC orders
ECP for
issuance...

FROM PAGE 01

He submitted that the decision was illegal and pleaded with the court to set aside the decision and order the ECP to immediately issue the notifications of new MPAs on the reserved seats as the lists had already been given to it. However, Advocate General Punjab argued that the notification of reserved seats was issued after the general elections. He submitted that the position of political parties had changed due to 20 vacant seats. He submitted that a larger bench should hear the matter. The court, after hearing arguments of the parties, set aside the decision of the ECP and ordered for issuing the notification on reserved seats. On June 2, the ECP delayed the notification of the new MPAs against the five reserved seats until by-polls on the 20 general seats scheduled for July 17.

More care
exercised in
appointment
of cook...

FROM PAGE 01

Justice Isa said he takes "great exception" to the manner in which these JCP meetings have been called and that it has become tiresome to keep repeating the details of the "manipulative and illegal" conduct of the secretary.

Aamir hoping to bring world
champion in three years

"Highlighting the federation's efforts which are providing extensive support and the best available facilities to players", PSF SVP said that "we haven't won world junior title in 36 years but now we are hoping to win world junior title and change the history" he concluded

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) Senior Vice President Air Marshal Aamir Masood has said that the federation is trying its best to bring out the world champion in the next three years. He was speaking with media persons during the inauguration ceremony of national junior squash championship circuit-II here at Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad on Monday.

Secretary Pakistan Squash Federation Wing Commander Armghan Aziz, Squash legend Qamar Zaman and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Talking to media, Air Marshal Aamir Masood said that we have quality junior players to become world champion and PSF providing maximum support to the talented youngsters as they are the future of Pakistan squash but we will not compromise on the discipline and fitness of the players.

He lauds the wonderful performance of Noor Zaman who won the Asian Junior championship title proved that there is no shortage of talent in our youth. Aamir Masood said that the age of the player to become a world champion in squash is 20 to 22 years is ideal, adding that we are try-



ing to make a pool of young players and also continue the efforts to hire a foreign coach to improve the players skills and fitness. "Highlighting the federation's efforts which are providing extensive support and the best available facilities to players", PSF SVP said that "we haven't won the world junior title in

36 years but now we are hoping to win world junior title and change the history" he concluded. Earlier, Air Marshal Aamir Masood, Senior Vice President, Pakistan Squash Federation also inaugurated the National Junior Squash Championship Circuit-II, which was participating 263 junior players from across

the country in different categories. The tournament includes Boys U-11, 13, 15, 17, 19 & Girls U-19 age categories. An amount of Rs 600,000/- would be distributed as prize money amongst the players.

The first event of the Junior Circuit-2022 was held in March-22 wherein, a group of 198 players participated from all over the country. However, as a result of continuous PSF efforts, the number of participants for Circuit-2 has significantly increased.

Detailed results of 1st round matches are appended below.

Boys U-11: Maaz (Bal) bt Saim Paul Victor (KP) 3-0, Joshou Tariq (Pb) bt Atif Ali Naz (Pb) 3-0, Mustafa Khan (Pb) bt M Saad Butt (Pb) 3-0, Abdul Rafay (Bal) bt Daniyal Owais (PAF) 3-0, Salman Adnan (Pb) bt Jasim (Pb) 3-0, Ibrahim Ahmed (Pb) bt Salman Tahir (Pb) 3-2, Raheel Masih (Sindh) bt Attai Mustafa (Pb) 3-1, Ahmed Safwan Gul (PAF) bt Rayyan Khan (Pb) 3-0.

Boys U-13: Danish Sikandar (KP) bt Kabeer Khan (Pb) Walk Over, Umar Usmani (Sindh) bt Hassan Khan (KP) 3-0, M Fawad Khan (PAF) bt Saif Ullah (Bal) 3-0, Safi Ullah (Bal) bt Muhammad Umar (KP) 3-0, Arslan Farman (KP) bt Suleman Khan (Sindh) 3-0, Ayan Mansoor (Pb) bt Tauseef (Pb) 3-0, Qadeer Khan (Pb) bt Ayan Khan (Pb) 3-0.

Bairstow seals England
clean sweep of New Zealand

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: England romped to victory on the final day of the third Test against New Zealand at Headingley to seal a stunning 3-0 series win. The hosts scored the 113 runs needed to complete their chase of 296 in only 65 minutes as they won by seven wickets.

After rain delayed the start of play until 13:30 BST, England lost Ollie Pope for 82 in the first over, but Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root banished any nerves with a

dominant unbroken stand of 111. Root finished unbeaten on 86 while Bairstow smashed a whirlwind 71 not out from 44 balls. Victory capped an astonishing start for captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, who took over before the series following England's dismal run of one win in 17 Tests. They are now brimming with confidence going into their next challenge, the rearranged Test against India at Edgbaston which begins on Friday. Exactly three months ago England's Test team

were at one of their lowest points in recent memory, having lost by 10 wickets to West Indies in Grenada to lose the series.

The turnaround since has been remarkable, with world Test champions New Zealand swept aside in a fashion rarely seen in the longest format. England have won the series by racing to supposedly tricky chases of 277, 299 and now 296, making them the first team to successfully pursue more than 250 in three Tests in a row. They batted on the final day as they have throughout, by thrashing boundaries and delighting a crowd who had been let into the ground for free. Their position of 55-6 in their first innings was a distant memory by the time Bairstow heaved spinner Michael Bracewell over mid-wicket for six to wrap up victory. England completed their chase in only 54.2 overs. There were a mere 15.2 overs of play on the final day. Pope was bowled by a fine ball from Tim Southee that jagged back, but that was the only blemish.

England's Morgan
set to announce
retirement: reports

WEB DESK

LONDON: England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan is set to retire from international cricket, according to the BBC. An official announcement could be made on Tuesday. Jos Buttler and Moeen Ali are the two favourites to replace him at the helm. Under Morgan, England won the 2019 World Cup and reached the top of the one-day and Twenty20 rankings. The 35-year-old, who took charge of the T20 side in 2012 and one-day side in 2014, has struggled for form and fitness in recent times. He has only one half-century in his past 26 white-ball innings for England. England face India in a three-match T20 series starting on 7 July, while the T20 World Cup in Australia begins in October. Morgan is England's leading run-scorer in one-day and T20 cricket with 6,957 and 2,458 runs respectively. Morgan took over from Alastair Cook as ODI captain and oversaw England's miserable 2015 World Cup campaign when they were knocked out in the group stages. But he implemented a new, attacking approach which helped England break the record for the highest one-day total three times.

Bagnaia cruises to
Dutch MotoGP win

ASSEN: Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the Dutch MotoGP on Sunday to reignite his title challenge after championship leader Fabio Quartararo crashed out of an incident-packed race. Frenchman Quartararo fell twice, flipping spectacularly over his handlebars in the second incident although he walked away afterwards, shaking his fists in anger at his error. Bagnaia, in contrast, stayed out of trouble on his Ducati

to record his third victory of the season and a welcome full points score after failing to finish in the last two races. "I am so happy after two difficult races where we were competitive without getting anything from it," the Italian said.

In a great day for Italian riders, Marco Bezzecchi on a Ducati to Valentino Rossi's VR46 team was second while Spanish rider Maverick Vinales rounded out the podium in the 11th race of 20 this season. Quartararo heads into the summer break with a 21-point lead over Aleix Espargaro, who was fourth on Sunday. The Frenchman fell on the fifth then on the 13th lap out of 26 in front of an enthusiastic crowd in the Netherlands. Even if he quickly got back on his feet, he had to give up after this second accident. Quartararo got off to a bad start and was quickly overtaken by Aprilia rider Espargaro. It was while he was trying to recover second place, in an attempt on the inside of a bend, that Quartararo lost control of his Yamaha, ending up in the gravel although he was soon back in the saddle, albeit in last place. But a few laps later, his race was over after an acrobatic tumble. "I made a rookie's mistake. I attacked as if it was the last lap and the last bend," Quartararo said of his first fall, which he said had left something feeling "not right" with his bike. As soon as the race was over he apologised to Espargaro for forcing him off the track in the fifth lap. That incident cost him a penalty of a 'long lap' at the next race, the British Grand Prix, for being "too ambitious" and "causing contact". This was the first time since 1994 that Yamaha have failed to score a point at Assen. - DNA

Qatar to host indirect Iran-United States

The pact appeared close to being secured in March when the EU invited foreign ministers representing the accord's parties to Vienna to finalise an agreement after 11 months of indirect talks between Tehran and President Joe Biden's administration.

AGENCIES

DUBAI: Qatar will host indirect talks between Iran and the United States in coming days, Iranian media reported on Monday, amid a push by the European Union to break a months-long impasse in negotiations to reinstate a 2015 nuclear pact. "Iran has chosen Qatar to host the talks because of Doha's friendly ties with Tehran," Mohammad Ma-

randi, a media adviser to Iran's top nuclear negotiator, told the ISNA news agency. A source briefed on the visit said that U.S. Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, was expected to arrive in Doha on Monday and meet with the Qatari foreign minister. An Iranian official told Reuters that Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, would be in Doha for the talks on Tuesday and Wednesday. Iran's foreign ministry was

not immediately available for comment and the Qatari government didn't comment. Later, however, Iran's Tasnim news agency cited a source at Iran's foreign ministry as saying that "Bagheri will travel to Doha on Tuesday". The pact appeared close to being secured in March when the EU invited foreign ministers representing the accord's parties to Vienna to finalise an agreement after 11 months of indirect

talks between Tehran and President Joe Biden's administration. But the talks have since been suspended, chiefly over Tehran's insistence that Washington remove the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), its elite security force, from the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Organization list. Last week, one Iranian and one European official told Reuters that Iran had dropped its demand for the

removal of the IRGC's FTO sanctions, but still two issues, including one on sanctions, remained to be resolved. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khatibzadeh, said on Monday. The 2015 nuclear pact imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions. Then-President Donald Trump pulled the United

States out of the deal in 2018, reimposing tough economic sanctions on Tehran. Iran's clerical establishment responded by breaching the pact's nuclear restrictions, including a 3.67% cap on the level to which it could purify uranium and a 202.8-kg limit on its enriched uranium stock. Additional reporting by Andrew Mills in Doha Writing by Parisa Hafezi Editing by William Maclean, Bernadette Baum and Nick Macfie.

G7 states
promise
Ukraine
military...

FROM PAGE 01

The G7 has provided and pledged "more than \$2.8 billion in humanitarian assistance so far in 2022," according to the statement. The leaders said they will "continue to provide substantial and ongoing humanitarian support to those affected by Russia's war."

On reconstruction efforts in war-hit Ukraine, they hailed the "(G7) Presidency's initiative to convene with Ukraine an international high-level experts conference, to make progress on a comprehensive reconstruction plan." "We stand ready to support an international reconstruction plan, drawn up and implemented by Ukraine in close coordination with bilateral and multilateral partners," the statement said.

The leaders emphasized that the world's leading economic powers will "impose severe costs on Russia and those who are complicit in its aggression." However, they will also prioritize efforts to "assist the global economy and take action to help mitigate spillover effects, especially relating to humanitarian and other basic needs, and vulnerable populations," the statement added.

Pakistan
ready to
work with...

FROM PAGE 01

the BRICS meetings, where decisions are taken after consultations with all BRICS members, including extending invitation to non-members. Regrettably one member blocked Pakistan's participation, he said. "However, we do hope that future engagement of the organization would be based on the principles of inclusivity keeping in view the overall interests of the developing world and in a manner that is devoid of narrow geo-political considerations," he said. He said, "We appreciate China's role in promoting the interests of the developing countries".

He said together with China, Pakistan has been a strong voice for global peace, shared prosperity and inclusive development. Pakistan is the current chair of G77+China and also part of group of friends of the Global Development Initiative (GDI). Pakistan and China are all-weather strategic partners and our iron brotherhood remains rock solid. The two countries are fully committed to take our all-round cooperation to higher levels; both bilaterally and multilaterally.

China highly
values
Pakistan's
role

FROM PAGE 01

Zhao Lijian said that China and Pakistan maintained close communication and coordination. "We have conducted substantial cooperation in the field of development, which has delivered tangible benefits to the people of both countries and the region," he added. He remarked that China would continue to make Pakistan a priority partner in implementing the global development initiative. "We will continue to work with the country (Pakistan) to advance the global development agenda," he added. The spokesperson said that the decision to hold the high level dialogue on global development was based on consultation among BRICS countries.

Iran claims
KSA wants to
resume talks

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry says Saudi Arabia is ready to hold more direct bilateral talks, one day after the Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi travelled to Tehran to mediate between the two regional rivals. Foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters during a press conference on Monday that Riyadh is ready to "continue negotiations in Baghdad on a diplomatic level" without commenting on a possible date. Direct talks hosted by Baghdad between Iran and Saudi Arabia began in April 2021, and the fifth and latest round, which the Iranian side described as "positive", was held in April 2022. - Agencies

Briefs

Putin to visit Tajikistan this week: spokesman

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will travel to Tajikistan on Tuesday, his spokesman said, his first trip abroad since Moscow launched its military operation in Ukraine. "A working visit by President Putin is scheduled for tomorrow in Tajikistan," Dmitry Peskov said on Monday of the visit to the former Soviet republic and Moscow ally. Putin is also expected in Turkmenistan on Wednesday for a summit of countries bordering the Caspian Sea. His last foreign visit dates back to February 4-5, when he travelled to China to meet his counterpart Xi Jinping and attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics. Just over two weeks later, Putin launched his "special military operation" in Ukraine. Since then the Kremlin leader has not ventured abroad, even to meet close ally Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. Lukashenko has visited Russia several times. Tajikistan, the poorest of the former Soviet republics, is an ally of Russia and heavily dependent on its neighbour economically. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Putin made only three foreign trips between February 2020 and February 2022.

27 die trying to inter in Spain

WEB DESK

OVIEDO: The death toll of migrants who died trying to cross from Morocco into the Spanish enclave of Melilla rose to 27 on Saturday, according to the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMHD). Around 2,000 migrants, many from Sudan, tried to cross the militarized border fence on Friday. At first, five people were reported dead, but later, Moroccan authorities raised the figure to 18. Videos from the Moroccan side of the border show what appear to be dead bodies and people with severe injuries strewn out on the ground without receiving medical attention. Other images show hundreds of people, some with clear injuries, lying in a pile on the ground with their hands tied behind their backs. "The victims of the tragedy in Melilla agonized for hours under the cruel gaze of those who were supposed to help them and did not do so," tweeted founder of Walking Borders Helena Maleno Garzon, who also confirmed the report of 27 dead. Dozens of Moroccan and Spanish police officers were also injured during the storming of the border, where migrants were armed with homemade knives, sticks, stones and hooks to climb the border fence, according to Spanish news agency EFE. Moroccan police used tear gas to disperse those trying to climb the border fence.

Bulgaria's coalition govt resigns

AGENCIES

BELGRADE: Bulgaria's coalition government led by Prime Minister Kiril Petkov on Monday handed in its resignation to parliament after losing a vote of no confidence on June 22. Following Petkov's resignation, President Rumen Radev started consultations with parliamentarians to form a new Cabinet in accordance with constitutional procedures. He will meet representatives of We Continue the Change (WCC) party, the European Development of Bulgaria (GERB), the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, and the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP). Radev is also scheduled to meet There Is Such a People (TISP), Democratic Bulgaria, and Vazrazhdane parties. Petkov, who heads the WCC, the largest parliamentary group, has declared his intention to run for prime minister again. If he fails, the Citizens for GERB party, led by former Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, will be tasked to form a government.

Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye sign Baku declaration

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Following the tripartite meeting, the foreign ministers signed the Baku Declaration. At the top huddle, participants discussed ways to develop the potential of the Trans-Caspian East-West Middle Corridor Initiative. Also called the Middle Corridor, the network of railways and roads starts in Türkiye and covers Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea and Central Asia to reach China, making it an important effort to revive the ancient Silk Road. In a joint press conference with his Azerbaijani and Kazakh counterparts, Mevlut Cavusoglu said: "We strongly support the Zangezur corridor, which will provide a connection between the western regions of Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan," an enclave of Azerbaijani territory currently reachable only through Armenia. Earlier on Monday, a trilateral meeting was held between the ministers of foreign affairs and transport in Azerbaijan's capital Baku. "We are expecting the opening of the corridor immediately," Cavusoglu said, adding that this development will have a positive impact on the region. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in late May that Baku agreed with Yerevan on the opening of the Zangezur corridor, including the construction of both railways and highways. Following the completion of the railway, Azerbaijan will be able to reach Iran, Armenia and Nakhchivan. The railway will also link Türkiye with Russia through Azerbaijan. Armenia and Azerbaijan fought a 44-day war in September 2020 over Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. The war, which ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal, saw Azerbaijan liberate several cities and over 300 settle-



ments and villages that were occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years. Referring to the grain supply shortage caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, Cavusoglu said supported by the UN, Türkiye is making all-out efforts to solve the issue. "We have seen once again in this crisis how important sustainable and safe transportation lines are," he said. Ukraine is among the leading exporters of grain in the world, however, Russia's continued blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports has created a global food shortage. Türkiye has been pushing Ukraine and Russia to reach a deal to resolve the issue with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visiting Ankara last week. Underlining that Türkiye made

"significant investments" to increase its national and regional capacity, Cavusoglu highlighted the importance of the projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and TANAP pipeline, which were earlier put into operation in the region. The Turkish foreign minister added that the tripartite meeting will also contribute to the work of the Organization of Turkic States, a regional body. "We are once again demonstrating our common will for the spread of peace and prosperity in our region and the transformation of the Turkic world into a more integrated structure in the future," he said. For his part, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said: "During

the talks, we focused on the development of the Trans-Caspian Corridor and the current freight traffic accordingly." "If particular attention is paid to current issues, ways can be found to expand our transport and communications cooperation to eliminate obstacles," he said. Bayramov stated that the new realities that emerged after the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from the Armenian occupation were also on the agenda of the meeting. "The Zangezur corridor plays a special role in establishing a route to the European Union, Türkiye and Asia," he said. Moreover, Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi said: "Our goal is to further strengthen the relations between our countries."

AIFC Academy of Law holds series of workshops on business and society

DNA

NURSULTAN: The AIFC Academy of Law held a series of workshops on the most relevant topics for business and society as part of the Astana Finance Days and EdTech Forum. The speakers of the seminar "Trends and Challenges in AML/CFT and Sanctions Compliance" answered the most pressing topics for business - how to maintain business activity, strengthen the company's reputation and investment attractiveness, create an effective compliance system in the company and manage risks, avoid huge fines and secondary sanctions. The speakers of the AIFC Academy of Law Alumni Forum "Time to Share Your Experience" shared their success stories with the participants and gave practical advice on building a personal

strategy for a professional. The speaker of the session Yury Zachek noted that the indispensable companions of a lawyer are tough deadlines, lack of work-life balance, stress, and chronic fatigue. Yury shared his knowledge and vision about how stress and burn-out work, how exactly individuals get into them and what steps need to be taken to get out of them. In turn, Alina Abdrahmanova, director of the KAZGUU business school, and co-founder of the virtual reality startup INVR, emphasized that corporate training is becoming part of the corporate culture due to the growing requirements for work and skills, and noted that now large global corporations are spending from 2 to 5% of their annual budget for employee training.

Next, the panel session "Lex Fantastica: Multiverses as multi jurisdictions: conflict of legal norms" took place, where

the speakers went beyond the traditional perception of jurisprudence and discussed situations in fantasy worlds in the language of the law. As speaker Roman Khodykin noted, such a break from reality will allow a fresh look at some of the established stereotypes of private international law. Moderator Sergei Sek, in turn, emphasized that modern law and the law of the future should be more flexible in order to cover new areas. "We are living in a wonderful time of change," Sergey said. During a series of workshops at the AIFC Academy of Law, participants were able to expand their knowledge and ask experts topical questions in the areas of AML/CFT and compliance, personal growth and professional development, and consider the well-known problem of the conflict of legal norms of jurisdictions through the prism of fantastic multiverses.

NASA makes history with rocket launch in Australia

FOREIGN DESK

CANBERRA: An unassuming patch of red dirt in remote Australia has made history as the site of Nasa's first rocket launch from a commercial spaceport outside the US. The sub-orbital rocket blasted off from the tiny site early on Monday local time. It will enable astrophysics studies that can only be undertaken in the Southern Hemisphere, Nasa says. The launch was also the first in Australia in more than 25 years. The rocket is Nasa's first of three to blast off from the newly constructed Arnhem Space Centre on the edge of the Northern Territory. Scientists hope it will help them study the impact of a star's light on the habitability of nearby planets. Onlookers who travelled to the remote site glimpsed the rocket for only about 10 seconds before it shot out of view. "It was in the blink of an eye, but to me, it was like it was in slow motion because the whole area just lit up," Yirrkala School co-principal Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubs told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "It went up, and then the sound, it was just like a rumbling boom, like nothing I've ever heard. And I just shook with amazement." The sounding rocket's tenure in space was similarly short - the 13m-long projectile fell back to Earth after a planned 15 minutes.

PM urged to reduce import duty on paper

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Abid Nisar, Former Vice Chairman, All Pakistan Paper Merchants Association, Former Chairman, Import & Anti-Smuggling subcommittee KCCI, while expressing deep concern over high paper prices and huge paper crises, has appealed to Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, to save the printing industry from disaster, and demanded reduction of duty on import of paper. In an appeal, Abid Nisar also demanded PM for the suspension of duty free import of printed books, printed materials from abroad so that Pakistan's 2nd largest printing industry can be saved from disaster. Otherwise, the jobs of millions of people will be in jeopardy. He pointed out that due to high taxes on imported paper, significant devaluation of rupee, the soaring dollar and becafe the profiteering of local paper mills, a severe paper crisis has erupted across the country as a result the prices of paper are skyrocketing. "Due to the sharp rise in the value of the dollar, paper import deals have become a losing proposition as the delivery of imported raw material is usually in 3 months. Therefore, the devaluation of the rupee, and the constant appreciation of the dollar in Pakistan

has more than doubled the cost of importing paper. Importers are worried about who to sell these expensive goods to", he afraid. Abid said, "Importers play an important role in meeting the production demand of the printing industry. However, due to profiteering of local paper mills and increase in paper prices by up to 200%, printing of textbooks was not possible. As a result, textbooks will not be available to children, and even if available, they would be beyond the purchasing power of the people due to the expense." Abid Nisar revealed that the books imported from abroad are duty free which are being printed and imported from other countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia while all kinds of printed materials are also duty free due to which the printing industry is on the verge of collapse. The printing industry employs a large number of people. It is a tragedy that there is no duty on import of printed books and printed materials from abroad. In contrast, the Government imposed a duty of about 70% on the imported paper, which was the raw material for printing books and printed materials so it is very unfair. He pointed out that import duty on import paper is 20%, sales tax is 17%, customs duty is 20%, anti-dumping duty is 29% and additional duty is 6% while in the federal budget 2022-23, the duties had been further increased.

Israeli excavations could cause collapse of Aqsa Mosque

NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: The Grand Mufti of al-Quds Sheikh Muhammad Hussein has warned against the ongoing Israeli excavations at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds, saying they could lead to the collapse of the holy site and the buildings adjacent to it. In a statement released on Monday, the senior cleric said the excavation work carried out by the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA) and Elad settlement group in the vicinity and under the foundations of al-Aqsa Mosque poses a serious threat to the mosque compound, Palestine's official Wafa news agency reported. He further noted that the IAA and Elad group are removing soil, opening holes adjacent to the southern wall of al-Aqsa, and clearing the paths under it which would lead to the weakening of the mosque's foundations and eventually its collapse. The Grand Mufti of al-Quds added that these excavations are continuing and have not stopped, and are

recently increased to include multiple places at the same time, which heralds an imminent danger to al-Aqsa and the buildings adjacent to it. Elsewhere in his remarks, the cleric condemned the Tel Aviv regime's plans to register ownership of property in the vicinity of the Old City of al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque in the name of extremist Israeli settlers, warning of the danger of this measure targeting real estate that the Israeli occupation authorities seek to take control over in al-Quds. He further called for an immediate end to the excavations around and below al-Aqsa Mosque, and to restrain Israel from its blatant measures practiced against the compound in particular and the holy city in general. The cleric also said the Israeli authorities should be held responsible for the consequences of these acts that exceeded all limits in provoking the feelings of Muslims all over the world. The latest development comes as the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has already called for an immediate halt to Israeli excavations at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Indian youth rejects 'road of fire' policy

BEIJING: The Indian new military recruitment policy called "road of fire" ignited the anger of young people and the violent protests against it spread from one place to another like wildfire, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law observed on Monday India wants to buy more sophisticated weapons from the United States, which are very expensive. So, Narendra Modi came up with the idea to reduce the expenditure on ordinary soldiers, he added. Prof. Cheng, who is also Senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute, noted that on June 14, the Indian government announced a military conscription policy called "the road of fire". According to the new policy, the Indian army will no longer recruit soldiers with a service period of more than 10 years, but recruit soldiers with a contract period of 4 years. At the end of the four-year service, 75% will no longer enjoy the original health, education, pension and other benefits. They will be thrown back to their hometown after a one-time subsidy of small amount. He opined that this reform has two main purposes: First, more mil-

itary budget will be set for the purchase of sophisticated weapons and equipment. India's military expenditure in 2021 was about 76.6 billion US dollars, ranking third in the world. However, more than half of the budget was spent on the salaries and pensions of military personnel, while this part of expenditure in other countries accounts for only 1/3. In the past, India mainly bought arms from Russia, which were cheaper. Now India wants to buy more sophisticated

weapons from the United States, which are very expensive. So, Narendra Modi came up with this idea to reduce the expenditure on ordinary soldiers. Second is to make soldiers younger. As we all know, for decades, the Indian army has been full of bearded soldiers. Being a soldier means having a lifelong job. This is one of the main reasons why the Indian army

does not have much combat effectiveness. Prof. Cheng further observed that these days, thousands of young people took to the streets and held demonstrations in many traditional recruiting sites. Violent demonstrations took place in Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other states. Demonstrators threw stones, lit train carriages, burned tires in the street, and clashed violently with the police. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi always dreams of promoting reforms, but there has been great resistance and almost all of the reforms ended in failure. The more reforms Narendra Modi introduces, the more turmoil in India intensified. He believes that the reason is that the Narendra Modi's government represents the upper class and protects the interests of the rich. Therefore, both the new agricultural

Violent demonstrations took place in Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other states

dreams of promoting reforms, but there has been great resistance and almost all of the reforms ended in failure. The more reforms Narendra Modi introduces, the more turmoil in India intensified. He believes that the reason is that the Narendra Modi's government represents the upper class and protects the interests of the rich. Therefore, both the new agricultural

Armenia planted more than one million landmines

NEWS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan, June 27. During the times of occupation, Armenia planted more than one million landmines, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said making a statement in video format at 11th session of World Urban Forum, Trend reports. "Azerbaijan is currently undertaking one of the most complex and ambitious reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in contemporary history. The process of reconstruction starts with demining. The massive mine contamination is the main challenge ahead of us and slows down reconstruction and return of internally displaced persons. According to initial estimations, during the times of occupation, Armenia planted more than one million landmines. Since the end of the Patriotic War in November 2020, more than 220 Azerbaijani citizens were killed or severely injured as a result of landmine explosions," the head of state said.

Death toll at 73 in Bangladesh floods

AGENCIES

DHAKA: The death toll from floods in Bangladesh rose to 73 with five people killed in the last 24 hours, officials said Friday. The disaster in parts of the country is deteriorating due to the onrush from upstream in India. Forty-nine fatalities were reported from drowning while the rest died in flood-related cases, including lightning strikes, snake bites, diarrhea, skin diseases and landslides. Millions are still inundated and stranded in remote areas as they wait with children and the elderly for relief items. Rina Begum, 45, a resident of a remote area of Balaganj sub-district in the northeastern border district of Sylhet, has been living at the house of a neighbor with her five children. The widow left her mud house more than a week ago. "I haven't had any material relief until now. There is no way to move from here to any nearby shelter as the communication system has fully collapsed," Begum told Anadolu Agency with the help of a mobile phone of a relative.

17 people found dead in S.African bar

WEB DESK

JOHANNESBURG: At least 17 people have been found dead at a bar in the South African southern city of East London, but the cause of death is yet to be determined, local authorities said Sunday. "About 17 children were found dead inside a tavern...the circumstances surrounding the incident are still under investigation," provincial police spokesperson, Theminkosi Kinana, told local media. Unathi Bongosi, the spokesman for the Eastern Cape Transport Department who visited the scene, highlighted that authorities were still trying to determine the exact number of dead, which means the figure could be higher.

1,350 new Covid-19 cases in Palestine

FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLAH: 1,350 citizens tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem during the period between June 19 and 25. No related deaths happened during the week. This came in a new COVID-19 situation report released on Sunday by the Palestinian health ministry in Ramallah. According to the report, 938 of the new COVID-19 cases are from the West Bank, 12 from Gaza and 400 others from Jerusalem. During the same period, 400 patients also recovered from the virus in the West Bank and 11 others in Gaza. Moreover, 17 patients are receiving medical care in hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza, and three of them are being treated in intensive care units.

Briefs

Sri Lanka shuts schools amid fuel shortage

WEB DESK

COLOMBO: Troops in Sri Lanka handed tokens on Monday to people queuing for petrol amid a severe fuel shortage in the nation battling its worst economic crisis in seven decades, while schools shut in Colombo and public employees were asked to work from home. With its foreign exchange reserves at a record low, the island of 22 million is struggling to pay for essential imports of food, medicine, and most critically, fuel. "I have been in line for four days, I haven't slept or eaten properly during this time," said auto-rickshaw driver W.D. Shelton, 67, one of those who received a token meant to hold his place in the queue for when fuel becomes available. "We can't earn, we can't feed our families," added Shelton, who was 24th in line at a fuel station in the center of Colombo, but set to stay there as he had no petrol for the journey to his home just 5 km (3 miles) away. It was not immediately clear how far the government could stretch its fuel reserves. The stockpiles stand at about 9,000 tonnes of diesel and 6,000 tonnes of petrol, Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said on Sunday, but no fresh shipments are due. The government has told employees to work from home until further notice, while schools have been shut for a week in the commercial capital of Colombo and surrounding areas. Fuel station queues have grown rapidly since last week. "This is a tragedy, we don't know where this will end," Shelton said.

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: Nato has announced plans to massively increase the number of its forces at high readiness to over 300,000 troops. The bloc's rapid reaction force currently has 40,000 troops at its disposal, with many of those based along the alliance's eastern flank. Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the increase followed a direct threat from Russia to European security. He earlier said that "the new military blueprint" would "drastically upgrade" the bloc's eastern defences. Mr Stoltenberg said several Nato battlegroups in eastern Europe would be bolstered to "brigade level" - tactical units of several thousand troops - which the bloc's civilian leader said was intended to send a clear message of deterrence to Russia. "I'm confident that Moscow, President Putin, understands our collective security guarantees, understands the consequence of attacking a Nato-allied country," Mr Stoltenberg told reporters at a news conference in Brussels. "It will trigger a response from the whole Alliance.



And to underpin that message, we are increasing the Nato presence." Nato's rapid reaction force is a combination of land, sea and air assets designed to be deployed quickly in the event of attack. It has steadily grown in size from 13,000 troops to 40,000 since 2014. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, many of these forces were placed at "high readiness" for the first time. Multinational battlegroups are now active in a number of countries on Russia's border, including Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland. There are additional plans to deploy more

battlegroups in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The moves announced by Mr Stoltenberg are expected to be approved at this week's Nato summit in Madrid, which will follow the G7 meeting of industrial democracies currently taking place in Germany. Members are also expected to change the alliance's official stance towards Russia, which was adopted in 2010 and described Moscow as a "strategic partner". "That will not be the case in the strategic concept that we will agree in Madrid," Mr Stoltenberg told reporters. "I expect that allies will state clearly that Russia poses a direct threat to our security, to our values, to the rules-based international order." US officials have also briefed that new, "strong" language will be adopted towards China. Both the US and UK have reportedly pushed for a more forceful stance to combat what they see as an increasing threat of attack against the democratic island of Taiwan by Beijing. But Nato diplomats told the Reuters news agency that France and Germany prefer adopting more restrained measures to tackle China.

North Korea accuses US of setting up 'Asian NATO'

FOREIGN DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korea has accused the US of setting up a NATO-style military alliance in Asia, saying Washington continues to hold military maneuvers with East Asian states despite Pyongyang's warnings. In a statement posted on its official website, N. Korea's foreign ministry said Washington is making a "full-fledged move to establish an Asia-style NATO" while "blatantly holding joint military exercises with Japan and S.Korea". The remarks came on the heels of recent joint exercises by the US, S.Korean, and Japanese forces, which involved a US aircraft carrier for the first time in more than four years. "The reality makes us feel the need to make all-out efforts to develop even stronger power to be able to subdue all kinds of hostile acts by the US," it said.

Simranjit Singh says his victory strengthens Khalistan movement

ISLAMABAD: Simranjit Singh Mann, President Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) and a leader of Sikh Khalistan Movement in Indian Punjab, who made it to the Indian parliament, Monday declared that with his success, the Khalistan movement had entered into the final stages. According to the Indian media, his victory and announcement to strive for the rights of the Sikh community and independent Khalistan, have also set off alarm bells for Narendra Modi's government. The Sikh leader had emerged successful on Sangrur Lok Sabha seat which fell vacant after the election of chief minister from Aam Admi Party (AAP). Mann had defeated an AAP candidate. The

Sangrur constituency was considered as a stronghold of AAP. Paying tributes to the Sikhs who laid down their lives for the Khalistan movement, the 77-year-old leader told Indian media to fight for the cause of the oppressed Kashmiri people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and other minorities of India in the Lok Sabha. "The Sikh community is very upset with the death of Deep Singh Sidhu and Sidhu Moosewala and now the Indian government will not behave in the same way that it is behaving with the Muslims, like their localities are being questioned, like the Indian Army is committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir and killing Muslims on a

daily basis", he told Indian reporters. According to Indian media, in the meanwhile, the government had removed to remove a song of slain Sikh singer Sidhu Moosewala in which he had highlighted the issue of injustices done to the Sikh farmers over distribution of irrigation water. Similarly, the Indian government took certain measures to restrict the movement of Sikh Yatries who wanted to visit their religious places in Pakistan. Despite all the curbs and oppressive tactics by the Indian government, Simran's triumph spoke volume of his determination for an independent Khalistan, reports further added. - APP

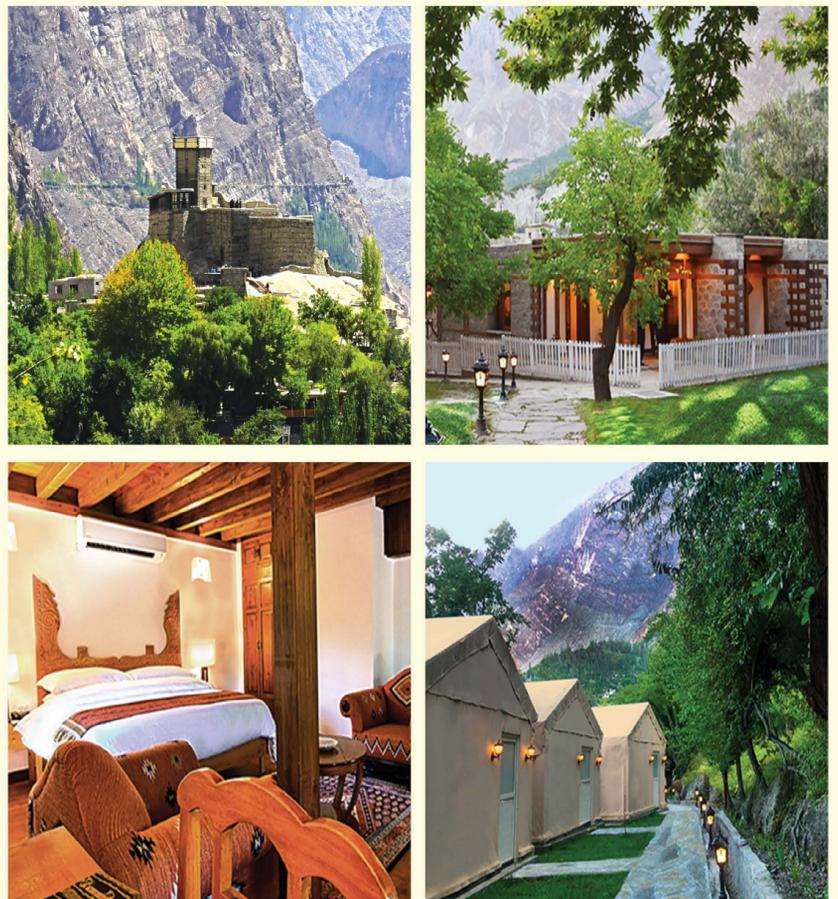
Asif condemns Canadian lawmaker's remarks against Pak Army

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday strongly condemned Canadian parliamentarian's remarks against Pakistan's military leadership and urged the Canadian government to take notice of irresponsible statement. Speaking in the National Assembly he said, "Pakistan and military leadership was criticized by a Canadian parliamentarian, which is deplorable, the Canadian government should take action on irresponsible statement." He said that a protest had also been registered through diplomatic channel against the remarks but it was necessary to debate the issue in Pakistan's Parliament too. Pakistan is enjoying cordial ties with Canada but the remarks against the Pakistan state and its institution cannot be tolerated, he said. He alleged that PTI chief Imran Khan is involved in an anti-state campaign outside the country. He said that the government

in Pakistan had been changed through legal process and according to the constitution. The Minister said that change of government had also been endorsed by Pakistan judiciary and the majority supported the move. He said that, in the incident of Islamophobia in Canada, Muslims from 2017 to 2022 were targeted and killed in various incidents. "During the last five years, Canada is leading in the cases of Islamophobia in G-7 countries. The human rights violations are on the rise in Canada" he added. He expressed displeasure over the silence in human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir, Palestine and against the Muslim living in India. The Defence Minister said what an irony it is that western countries always exercise selective sense of justice and look aside when there is a matter of the rights of Muslims in Kashmir, Palestine and Myanmar. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister for State and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Senator Muhammad visits Afghan Embassy and meets Afghan Chargé d'affaires Sardar Ahmad Khan Shakhik. - DNA



Iran to react Israel's regional interventions

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Membership of the Zionist regime in the CENTCOM and its participation in military drills can create threats against West Asia, so Iran will not tolerate such threats, a top Iranian commander warned. Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri made the remarks in a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Nadeem Raza on June 27, noting that the Zionist regime is atop of interventionist policies and the main destabilizing force in West Asia. The regime hatches plots in a bid to find a way to create relationships with regional states and pursue its interventionist strategies, Bagheri cautioned. The membership of the Zionist regime in the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), as well as its military presence in maneuvers, pave the ground for threatening the region; therefore, the Iranians will not tolerate the threats and will definitely react to it, he mentioned. As to interventions made by the US and the Zionist regime in the

region, the Iranian commander said that the formation of terrorist and Takfiri groups in West Asia, particularly in Syria and Iraq, are among the cases that the US and the Zionist regime created and fomented and that they pushed ahead their hegemonic agenda to dismantle both Arab countries' governments. Another example of the consequence of their conspiracies in the region is Yemen, which has been suffering from the crisis of foreign intervention for a long time, he added. The issue of Kashmir is another challenge in today's Islamic World, he said, not

“According to the commander, both nations enjoy remarkable capacities to develop cooperation”

ing that the Islamic Republic follows up the stance that Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei mentioned, which is support for the oppressed Muslims. Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the fact that officials

and commanders of both Pakistan and Iran have made great efforts to expand a mutual relationship. According to the commander, both nations enjoy remarkable capacities to develop cooperation. Pakistani and Iranian military officials have held several meetings to bolster coordination in order to enhance security and pave the way to increase economic ties in a tranquil situation, he noted. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the development of ties with neighboring states, Bagheri said, arguing that the current administration follows up the issue of cooperation, particularly in border security with Pakistan. Furthermore, he pointed to the impact of developments in Afghanistan on Pakistan and Iran, noting that Tehran is concerned about expansion of terrorism from Afghanistan, so Tehran has some programs in this regard, which can be implemented with the help of Islamabad and that there is no need for intervention of ultra-regional states in regional affairs.

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