



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, June 08, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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UK PM vows to 'get on with the job' after surviving trust vote

Detailed News On Page-08

China welcomes Kazakhstan's referendum

Detailed News On Page-08



US NSA backs Azerbaijan-Armenia talks

Detailed News On Page-07



Cabinet restores Saturday's holiday

Apart from this, a 40% cut in the fuel quota of ministers and government employees also approved



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has given the go ahead to restore weekly offs on Saturdays in government offices, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb announced after a crucial federal cabinet meeting Tuesday. The cabinet met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed how the government can deal with the energy crisis at hand due to which the public has had to suffer hours-long load-shedding. The power division presented an energy conservation plan to tackle

the shortage of electricity amid skyrocketing prices of oil and gas in the international market and the finance division an austerity plan, according to Aurangzeb. Although the cabinet approved the resumption of Saturdays as a holiday, no decision could be made over closing markets by 7pm to save power. She said there are suggestions of allowing ork-from-home on Fridays and early closure of markets. A cabinet sub-committee has been formed which will now deliberate over the early closure of markets and hold consultations with other traders and business sector stakeholders. Apart from this, a 40%

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PTI lashes out at govt policies

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: PTI senior leader and former energy minister Hammad Azhar Tuesday said that the rupee has lost Rs23 against the US dollar in the last 55 days since Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif came into power. Addressing a press conference in the federal capital, Hammad criticised the coalition government for its "incompetence" and said that the government spent its 30-40 days in ambiguity. "The dollar has risen by Rs2.85 in just a day," he added. The Pakistani rupee broke all records by dropping to an all-time low of 202.83 against the US dollar. It shed Rs2.77, or 1.37% to close at Rs202.83. The

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ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock addressing a press conference. - DNA

PM urges political stability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday addressed a day-long pre-budget business conference in the federal capital and said that the country's economy cannot be streamlined without political stability. The conference was being held to explore avenues for consensus-based economic measures with all stakeholders on board. The conference has brought together leaders from a wide range of industries on a single platform for a vibrant and interactive debate, in line with the prime minister's vision of the Charter of Economy and an inclusive economic policy-making approach. The PM will consider the participants' ideas for a flourishing economy with

Continued on Page 06

Pak for resolution of conflicts through peaceful dialogue

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Tuesday said that Pakistan always advocated for holding of dialogue and use of diplomacy as tools for pursuit of peace in the world. Addressing a joint presser along with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock, the foreign minister referred to the Russian-Ukraine conflict and said Pakistan had a firm position that it should not be dragged to any conflict. Pakistan was a small and developing country, but it always advocated that international laws should be adhered to, he said, adding that all world conflicts should be resolved through peaceful means. Replying to a question, Bilawal maintained that humanitarian crises in Ukraine could not be ignored and stressed that Pakistan would continue to advocate for dialogue and diplomacy as means in the pursuit of peace. The foreign minister

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German FM cuts trip short after testing Covid positive

STAFF REPORT

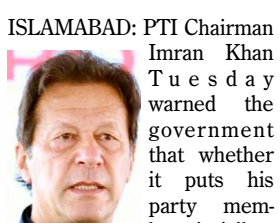
ISLAMABAD: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock is cutting a trip abroad short after testing positive for the coronavirus on her first stop in Pakistan, her ministry confirmed on Tuesday. She reached Pakistan on Tuesday morning on her maiden visit and held a press conference with her Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari earlier in the day. Baerbock

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Briefs

PTI's movement will not stop

KHAYAM ABBASI



ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Tuesday warned the government that whether it puts his party members in jail or employs other tactics, PTI's movement against the government would not stop. "The way they tortured us was not even witnessed during the martial law eras," Khan, who was ousted from the prime minister's office in April, told a gathering of lawyers at Bani Gala. The ex-prime minister was talking about the events leading up to May 26 - when Khan had announced to call off his "Azadi March" as he feared further bloodshed. Ahead of him reaching Islamabad's DChowk on the day, three people were killed - a police constable and two PTI workers.

Stalemate 'not an option'

AGENCIES



KYIV: Ukraine will fight to recover all its territory occupied by Russian forces, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday, as his troops battled street-to-street in Sievierodonetsk in one of the bloodiest land battles of the war. "We have already lost too many people to simply cede our territory," Zelenskyy said by video link at an event hosted by Britain's Financial Times newspaper. Stalemate was "not an option", he said. "We have to achieve a full deoccupation of our entire territory," Zelenskyy's remarks responded forcefully to suggestions that Ukraine must cede territory to Russia to end the war, now in its fourth month. Asked about Macron's comments, Zelenskyy said: "We are not going to humiliate anyone, we are going to respond in kind."

Security Forces gun down four terrorists

The terrorists were killed in separate operations in Nushki and Hassan Khel

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) Hassan Khel area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province's North Waziristan district, the military said on Tuesday. The operation was launched on Monday, June 6 on reported presence of terrorists, military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement. "During intense exchange of fire, two terrorists were killed," it said, adding that weapons and ammunition was also recovered from their possession. The ISPR said the killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces. Separately, Security forces killed two terrorists in an operation near Noshki district of Balochistan. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces con-



ducted an operation near Noshki on a tip-off about the presence of terrorists. According to ISPR, the terrorists opened fire on the forces and tried to flee. However, two terrorists belonging to BRA, Nadeem and Shehzad were killed in the exchange of fire between the forces and the terrorists. The terrorists were involved in attacks on security forces and IED blasts in Kharan.

FS briefs OIC States' Envoys over BJP leaders' sacrilegious remarks

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood also met the Envoys of the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council in Islamabad



CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood met the OIC Ambassadors in Islamabad, and briefed them on the developments regarding the highly derogatory remarks by two senior officials of India's ruling party BJP, towards Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The Foreign Secretary noted the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the OIC on 5 June, which strongly condemned and denounced the offensive remarks, echoing the sentiment expressed by OIC Member States. He highlighted the OIC's role in promoting the rights and fundamental freedoms of the Muslim Ummah around the world. The Foreign Secretary added that the strong reac-

tion from the OIC countries to such totally unacceptable actions was natural, given the Muslims' love and reverence for the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The Foreign Secretary underlined the importance for the international community to take cognizance of the rising tide of Islamophobia in India. He added that India must be held accountable for stifling the rights of its religious minorities, especially the Muslim population, which is the victim of hate speech, persecution and violence perpetrated under state patronage. The Foreign Secretary highlighted the special role of the OIC in this regard. Separately, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood individually met the Envoys of the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council in

Continued on Page 06

France CG calls on Acting Governor

QUETTA: Christian Testot, Consul General of France in Pakistan on Tuesday called on the Acting Governor of Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali in the Speaker's Chamber here. During the meeting, various issues of mutual interest including trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and France were discussed. Jan Jamali while apprising French CG of the government's priorities of eradicating ignorance, backwardness and poverty and

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EU supports Kazakh referendum

Says Kazakhstan remains an important and valuable partner for the European Union

DNA

BRUSSELS: The European Union has issued a statement on the Constitutional Referendum in Kazakhstan. The EU statements read; The EU takes note of the Constitutional Referendum in Kazakhstan, which took place on Sunday, 5 June. With this referendum, the people of Kazakhstan supported important constitutional amendments aimed at strengthening the democracy of the country.

Another News on Back Page
The EU welcomes the political reforms initiated by President Tokayev on March 16

in addition to the socio-economic reforms started after the tragic January events. We also welcome the decision to consult the population directly and to invite OSCE ODIHR to monitor the Referendum. Looking ahead, it will be crucial for Kazakhstan to implement fully the OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. Kazakhstan remains an important and valuable partner for the European Union. Together, we work to uphold the commitments of our Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, including fundamental freedoms of peaceful assembly, expression and association, and developing our connectivity, trade and cooperation.

JUNE 2022

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Unprecedented power cuts enough to prove PM a liar: Shahbaz Gill

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's Chief of Staff Dr. Shahbaz Gill said that the imported Prime Minister Shehbaz claimed that there would be zero load shedding from May 1 onward; however, the country was facing unprecedented unscheduled power outages at present. He said that the imported Prime Minister held out assurance that there would be no power outages from May 1 but there was no light on Eid at all across the country on three consecutive days, which was enough to prove him the biggest liar. Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, Shahbaz Gill said that when the prices of petrol and diesel were going up all over the world, Imran Khan lowered the prices to provide relief to the masses. He stated that the PTI government

convinced IMF through parleys instead of kneeling before the financial body like the imported government. "The imported government must be aware of the fact that the IMF is a financial body which only lends, as he is not a buyer that you become his slave," he taunted. Shahbaz Gill said that the most expensive electricity is being generated in the country at present, as the incumbent government had already further jacked up the power tariff by Rs. 14 per unit. Contrary to it, he said that the PTI government had increased the price of electricity by around Rs. 6 in its three and a half years of government. He said that the government increased the rate of power and gas exceptionally but even then power and gas supply were suspended to industries, bringing the economic wheel to a standstill. Shahbaz Gill warned that the current account deficit would be increased alarmingly due to the flawed policies of

the current government, which would further destroy the country's fragile economy. He stated that the closure of the industries would further increase unemployment in the country, while Shehbaz Sharif was busy in doling out hefty amount on self-projection. Shahbaz Gill went on to say that PTI government eliminated all unnecessary expenditures; however the imported PM spent millions of rupees only on a swimming pool. He said that the imported government was not buying oil from Russia for fear of US, while India bought billions of rupees oil from Russia to provide relief to their people. A propaganda campaign was launched against me that I would carry my bag and would run away, but I remained in Pakistan and the ones who were accusing me their entire family has fled from Pakistan, he added. Shahbaz Gill mocked that the one who went to London to take medicine is still not well.

Supply of Sasta Atta started for KP

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: On the special directive of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, secure supply of Sasta Atta (Wheat flour) has been launched for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other remote areas of the country through mobile utility stores and more than 2000 Sasta Atta sales points. These mobile stores will be operated in areas where utility stores are not available. The Prime Minister has a special initiative for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

FESCO offices being equipped with latest technology

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) is striving hard to provide maximum facilities to its customers, in this connection, all the offices are being equipped with state-of-the-art information technology so that immediate solutions for consumers could be possible, said Director General (IT) FESCO Itrat Hussain. He was addressing a function on the occasion of dis-

tribution of modern laser jet printers to Sub Divisional offices at its headquarters here today. He said that modern printers have provided to total 140 Sub Divisional, 26 Divisional and 5 Circle offices of FESCO to enable printed documentation instead of manual procedure. In addition, with the help of these printers, users will be able to issue printed demand notes instead of manual procedures, which will save time and minimize the possibility of error, he added.

He further added that these printers have capacity of front and back (dual) prints on the paper at the same time which will reduce the usage of papers while these printers are capable of 35 prints per minute. Deputy Director ERP Faisal Shehzad, Assistant Director MIS Muhammad Nawaz, Additional Assistant Director Munir Ghani, Additional Assistant Director Akbar Ali and a large number of FESCO employees were also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar. During the meeting bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed. - DNA

UoS Shangla campus observes Environment day

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: World Environment Day June 05 was celebrated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan in collaboration with Office of the Social Work Program, University of Swat. The events were held at Shangla Campus encompasses a seminar followed by a walk and cleanliness drive in the Campus. Mr. Fahad Bangash, Provincial Coordinator GLOF II, Mr. Muhammad Hammad Baig, Mr. Shams Afridi, and Mr. Waqas Khan participated from the UNDP side. Dr. Fazal Qudus welcomed the participants and give a brief about the Shangla campus. Talking on the occasion Mr. Fahad Bangash gave a detailed description of the GLOF II project and it's activities in the region. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qasim Khan (Dean, Faculty of Chemical Sciences) highlighted various dimensions of climate change and environmental conservation. Dr. Imran, In-charge, Social Work Program, University of Swat and Chief Organizer of the event paid thanks to all the participants. He also extended his thanks to Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher for his continuous encouragement and support to the students and faculty for the curricular and co-curricular activities.

NWSM observes Literary day

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The students of NWSM organised Literature day to show their connection with the literary world. A large number of students and faculty participated on this occasion. Event was conducted in three segments English literature, Urdu literature

and Pashto literature. Students of NWSM has prepared different skits related to Shakespeare write-ups. An attractive performance of sufi act "Neh" made the event more adorable. In Urdu literature students prepared mime performance over narration of famous love story "Sohni Mahiwal". Pashto literature has been led

up with the traditional music, Tapa, Charbeta and poetry. A number of students who wrote their own poems has presented it to the audience. Principal Northwest School of Medicine Prof. Dr. Noor ul Iman appreciated all the efforts of students and said that to understand life everyone should know the literature.



AJK president praises UK's Kashmiri diaspora

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri diaspora community settled in the United Kingdom had played a vital role in highlighting the Kashmir issue at international level. Addressing a function in Bradford, UK, the AJK president recalled his early memories of

Bradford. "I'm delighted to be a part of this august gathering along with British members of parliament and lord mayors," according to a press release issued here on Tuesday. "Bradford is a place where a large number of Kashmiris live," he said, adding two Kashmiri MPs Naz Shah and Imran Hussain had been elected from there and "I also have a degree from Bradford University." The AJK president said the sole purpose of his visit was to apprise the international community of the dire situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and unjust sentencing of JKLF Chairman Yasin Malik. - APP

KMU hosts expert consultation meeting on family physician-led primary care

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: An Expert consultation meeting on "Family physician-led comprehensive primary care, a way forward to achieve universal health coverage" was arranged by the Department of Family Medicine, Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar in collaboration with WHO. The aim of this expert consultation was to develop a framework and guidelines for the success of the family practice approach. The vice-chancellor KMU Prof Dr Zia ul Haq graced the occasion as chief guest, while Dr Maqsood Ali ADG Health Services, Dr Attaullah Khan Deputy Chief HSRU, Dr Shabnum Gul director health care commission, Dr

Sadia Mustafa, Dr Zainab Hafeez, health services Academy, Dr Saba, Mr Sheraz Fazid, Dr Haroon Bacha, Dr Babar Alam (WHO), Dr Saima Afaq director KMU-IPH&SS, Dr M Jawad, Dr Jalil Khan HOD Family Medicine- KMU were attended the function as experts. The experts emphasized on the need for a family practice approach as it will

not only help in developing a comprehensive primary care model but will also help us achieve universal health coverage. They said that Pakistan is highly committed to achieving the targets set in SDGs. The national health vision 2016-2025 strives to provide a responsive national direction to confront various health challenges, keeping

universal health coverage as its goal. It is worth mentioning that family physicians serve as the first contact and entry point for patients into the health care system. They play a vital role in the recognition of the symptoms and signs of disease, making the initial diagnosis, appropriate intervention and plan for action on their first contact.



Court Notices

In The court of Medum Shagufta Sabir
Judge Family Court Gujrat
Title Romisa Touseef / Zaibul Nisa etc.
versus: Touseef Hussain Zahid etc.
Suit for Maintenance

Notice to:

1-Touseef Hussain Zahid S/o. Muhammad Sharif,
2-Muhammad Sharif S/o. Muhammad Khan Cast Jutt Warrach R/o. Bantth Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case defendant are not appearing in court. Therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 27-06-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

In The court of Umar Rizwan
civil Judge Gujrat
Title Naveed Akhtar
versus: Zeeshan Ashraf etc.
Suit for Permanent Injection

Notice to:

1-Zeeshan Ashraf S/o Muhammad Ashraf,
3-Muhammad Ishaq S/o. Barqat Ali Cast Kumhar R/o. Sidhari,
4-Muhammad Bashir,
5- Muhammad Latif S/o. Ghulam Mustafa Cast Bhatti R/o. Aalee, Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case defendant are not appearing in court. Therefore proclaimed that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 27-06-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Given under my hand seal of the court this 31st May 2022.
Court Reporter Gujrat.

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GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION OF BIDS (SINGLE STAGE TWO ENVELOPE)

The office of the Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division No-II, Pakistan Public Works Department, Islamabad, is inviting sealed bids for the following work from registered constructors/Firms with PEC in relevant category i.e. C-6 and above with the renewal for current financial year, as per given criteria. The Bidders will be Post Qualified on the basis of information provided with bid.

| S# | NAME OF WORK | ESTIMATED AMOUNT (Rs.) | EARNEST MONEY (Rs.) | TIME DAYS |
|----|---|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Uplifting of Façade of Election Commission of Pakistan Islamabad. | 22,782,600/- | 450,000/- | 30 |

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR BIDDING:

- Single stage, two envelopes procedure will be adopted, one envelope containing Technical information of Bid and data documents required for post qualification shall be clearly marked as "Technical Proposal". The second envelope containing bid price shall be clearly marked as "Financial Proposal". The financial bids will be on "Percentage rate basis".
- The application must be accompanied with above mentioned bid security of the estimated amount in shape of CDR/Call deposit from any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan located at Islamabad / Rawalpindi, in name of Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division No-II, Pak PWD, Islamabad, clearly mentioning the name of firm.
- Enclose Annual Financial Audit report of the firm in the last 3 years Technical bid conducted by firm with Satisfactory QCR rating otherwise the proposal will be rejected.
- The Firm must be (e-filer) and provide Active Tax Payer certificate along with Technical bid.
- Provide list of Technical/Non-Technical staff along with their qualification and documentary evidence of their disbursement of salaries on the payroll of the construction Firm.
- Submit list of Plants/Equipment available with firm in working condition dully support by valid documents as Registration etc.
- The firm will provide Work Order along with Completion Certificate for completed projects during last Five (05) years and also provide details of work in hand.
- In order to qualify, applicants must get minimum applicable points (50%) for each category and an aggregate of 70% points out of maximum 100 points.
- Undertaking on Original Stamp Paper of Rs. 100/- that the Firm/Constructor is neither involved in any litigation with any Divisional office of this department and other departments nor abandoned any work/black listed in any Department, along with certificate / particular / information furnished are true and correct duly signed by Oath Commissioner.
- The tenders will be issued only to the owner of the firm. In case of partnership, only the persons mentioned in the partnership deed/form-H will be allowed. No proxy will be allowed to participate in the bidding process. No authorization/attorney of any person will be accepted.
- Bidding document containing detailed terms and conditions, procedure for submission of bids, bids security, bid validity and performance guarantees etc. can be purchased from the office of Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division No-II, Pak PWD Islamabad, at cost of PKR. Rs. 2000/- (Non-refundable) in cash upto 22.06.2022 during office working hours.
- The Bids single stage, two envelopes "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" prepared in accordance with the instruction in the bidding documents must reach at the address of Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division No-II, Pak PWD Islamabad up to 23-06-2022 till 02:00 PM The envelope containing "Technical Proposal" shall be opened on the same date at 02:30 PM in the presence of those bidders who wish to be present. Bids received after the prescribed time and date shall not be entertained. Partial and incomplete bids will not be entertained.
- The envelope of "Financial Proposal" of the bidders who fail to post-qualify technically shall be returned to them unopened. The decision of the competent authority in this connection shall be final and binding on the bidders and the competent authority shall not entertain any claim on the basis of cost incurred by the bidders for preparation of the Bids.
- The envelope of "Financial Proposal" of the firms who shall post-qualify and whose bids technically accepted by the competent authority will be opened in the presence of their respective representative at the date or time to be determined and communicated to them later on.
- The purchase of tender documents implies that the applicant is fully versant with the terms & conditions and will not have any claim/objection to any condition thereafter.

(Muhammad Javed)
Executive Engineer,
Central Civil Division-II,
Pak. PWD, Basement of LG&RD
Complex, G-5/2, Islamabad.
Ph: 051-9212460

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| June 02 / Italy | National Day/ Independence Day |
| June 04 / Finland | Armed Forces Day |
| June 07 / Sweden | National Day |
| June 10 / Portugal | Portugal Day (National 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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| | |
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| Serena Hotel..... | 111 133 133 |
| Marriott..... | 051- 2826121 |
| Monal..... | 0334-5421812 |



Airlines

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Turkish Airlines..... | 8494949 |
|-----------------------|---------|



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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| Edhi Ambulance..... | 115 |
| PIA Flight Info..... | 114 |
| PIA Cargo..... | 9280979 |
| Railway Enquiry..... | 117 |
| Railway Exchange..... | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi..... | 5555489 |
| CAA..... | 9281092 |



Hospitals

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



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

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| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Corporation..... | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town..... | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town..... | 5773343 |

Water Tank

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Islamabad..... | 0321-5744480 |
|----------------|--------------|

ICCI condemns derogatory remarks of BJP leaders

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly condemned the blasphemous remarks made by BJP Spokesperson Nupur Sharma and another party leader Naveen Kumar Jindal against the Prophet (PBUH) and called for strong action against them by the BJP government. He said that the entire Pakistani nation, including the business community, was severely hurt by these blasphemous remarks. He said that the derogatory remarks made against the Prophet of Islam had not only deeply hurt the sentiments of the Pakistani nation but the entire Muslim Ummah has been hurt greatly from this move. He said that the pain and anxiety in the Muslim world could not be alleviated by the BJP's attempted clarification and belated disciplinary action against the culprits was not enough to



assuage the pain and anguish the Muslim Ummah. He said that Muslims all over the world, including those living in India, were disappointed, therefore, he demanded that the culprits should immediately apologize to the entire Muslim Ummah for their insolence. He expressed these views while addressing

a meeting of the business community ast ICCI. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh said that the Pakistani nation, including the business community, was deeply concerned over the alarming rise in sectarian violence and hatred against Muslims in India. He said that the silence of the BJP's top leadership on oppression and violence against Muslims was a clear indication that minorities, especially Muslims, were being persecuted with the open support of the state machinery and efforts were being made to push them towards further backwardness. The Acting President ICCI urged India to ensure that strict action be taken against those responsible for making derogatory remarks and attacking the honor of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He further demanded that the BJP government should take immediate steps to protect all minorities, including its Muslims, from human rights violations, ensure their safety, security and well-being and enable them to live in peace in accordance with their faiths and beliefs.

Five trucks of subsidised flour in Islamabad: DC

ISLAMABAD: Around five trucks carrying subsidised wheat flour bags were stationed at various points in the federal capital to provide citizens the commodity at government notified rates, said Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the district administration was ensuring supply of 10kg wheat to provide "Sasta Ata" the masses. The areas Market G-6/1, G-9 Mar-Bazar, Bhara Kahu and adding that the commodity was being sold at the same rate as that in Utility and shops in different parts of Islamabad. While Deputy Director Food Afzal said that each truck carrying 200kg flour were distributing flour at five locations on a daily basis after collecting it from the mills nearby in Punjab, as per quota of the capital. He said almost four mills were providing the required quota of wheat flour at the specified points. "The federal capital has enough stock of flour as almost 70 per cent shops were selling it at controlled rates", the deputy director told APP. The teams of local administration, he said, were in constant coordination with flour mills, Punjab food department and Rawalpindi administration to ensure supply of sufficient stock across the city. Similarly, survey was also being conducted regularly to check the shortage of flour and its immediate resolution. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Industrial Area Awaid Bhatti told APP that all the assistant commissioners (ACs) were directed to ensure display of rate list at prominent place and distribution of wheat sacks under their supervision and maintain proper data of the consumers. The DC, he said, had directed all the officials of the district administration to pay surprise visits to the flour shops in order to ensure availability of flour to people. Strict action against the dealers violating the official price or hoarding the flour would be taken as per law, Bhatti maintained. - APP



7 million more people to be added in BISP programme

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira expressed that the government has decided to provide maximum relief to masses and 7 million more would be added to Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). Addressing at joint press conference after federal cabinet meeting, he said that already over 9 million beneficiaries were getting financial

assistance from BISP adding he said that the government wanted to uplift the deserving segments of the society through these programme. He said that the government was committed for the true implementation of austerity schemes in all official departments to curb the energy and inflation crisis for the betterment of the people and country. Kaira underlined that the federal cabinet expressed its



ISLAMABAD: A fire-fighter busy in extinguishing fire which erupted in the premises of NUST University. - APP

Workshop for 7th digital population & housing census

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics hosted a sensitization workshop on 7th Digital Population and Housing Census, 2022, at PC Hotel, Muzaafarabad, AJK on 6th June, 2022. The purpose of the workshop was to apprise the Provincial Government functionaries (Chief Secretary, relevant Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners) regarding the Census process, tools, techniques, methodology and Provincial Government role for smooth execution of the upcoming census. Further, the goal of the workshop

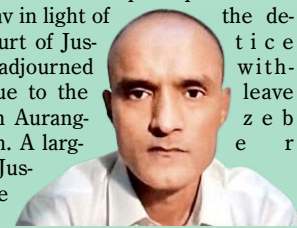
is to brought transparency in the whole process to be adopted for broader involvement and ownership, as census will be executed and monitored at provincial level. Chief Secretary, AJK, Muhammad Usman Chachar, was chief guest on the occasion. The workshop was attended by Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary local govt, Secretary Education, other secretaries and additional secretaries, IG police, DG Health, DG IT Board, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners from AJ & K. Chief Statistician PBS, Dr. Naeemuz Zafar, welcomed all the distinguished guests and gave the background and introduction of Census. He elaborated

importance of census with the role of provinces in its success. He appraised the participants that the provinces are important stake holders having key role of planning, training, implementation, and monitoring in the census, whereas, PBS will coordinate and facilitate for smooth and transparent conduct of census. Member (Support Services/ Resource Management) PBS, Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal gave a detailed presentation on forthcoming census, especially in terms of digital conduct of census. He informed the audience about the role of different tiers of provincial administration at various stages of census.

Kulbhushan case adjourned

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned hearing till Wednesday on a petition seeking appointment of a lawyer to contest the appeal of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav in light of the decision of International Court of Justice (ICJ). The hearing was adjourned out further proceeding due to the of Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb who was part of the bench. A large-bench comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb was to hear the case this day. The ministry of law and justice had filed the petition requesting the court to appoint a lawyer for contesting the review appeal of Kulbhushan Jadhav against his death sentence.



2,300 pilgrims reach Madina to perform Hajj rites

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Tuesday informed that 2,300 pilgrims had reached Madina to perform Hajj rites on Monday. This day more than 1,600 pilgrims would arrive in Saudi Arabia by five more flights, said ministry's spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt. He said three Hajj flights from Islamabad and one each from Multan and Quetta would depart for Saudi Arabia. The ministry of religious affairs had established main control offices in Makkah and Madina, he said adding department of Makkah departure, helpline, monitoring, complaints cell, Haram guides and disappearance and recovery department had also been established. He said the Pakistani flag-bearing staffers were available at the Madina and Jeddah airports to guide the pilgrims. He said the ministry had delivered a large consignment of medicines for Pakistani pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. To protect the health of pilgrims, Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission had set up hospitals in Makkah and Medina, he added. He said dispensaries had also been activated in residential sectors and at the Saudi airports. He said the ministry had deputed Hajj assistants in the residential buildings for the provision food, transport and other facilities. - APP

Rawal Dam Chowk likely to be completed by August

ISLAMABAD: The construction work on Rawal Dam Chowk Interchange was in full swing and likely to be completed by August 2022. The work on laying off the overhead deck slab was in progress while concrete laying work was being completed at fast pace, said spokesman of Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Tuesday. The project had three deck slabs for the flyover, one of which had already been completed while the other was finished the other day. The last deck slab will also be completed in the next two weeks. Similarly, he said, other works including filling on the walls were accelerated which will be completed by the end of August and opened for traffic. The construction work on underpasses and other loops was also near completion. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had recently visited the project and directed the CDA to complete the project by September 2022. - APP

ANF seizes 3546.783 kg drugs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan seized 3546.783 Kg Drugs, 200 Liters Acetic Anhydride Chemical, 18.830 Kg Suspected Material & 2035 Kg Poppy Seed worth US\$ 773.421 Million internationally, arrested 44 persons including 1 woman and impounded 17 vehicles while conducting 56 counter narcotics operations throughout the country. The seized drugs comprised 474.625 Kg Heroin, 724.652 Kg Hashish, 1498.130 Kg Opium, 0.670 Kg Amphetamine, 176.404 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice), 672 Kg Morphine, and 0.302 Kg Weed. ANF Balochistan recovered 2825.25 Kg drugs, 200 Liters Acetic Anhydride Chemical, 1.150 Kg Suspected Material & 2035 Kg Poppy Seed in 10 operations while arrested 2 accused persons and seized 2 vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 418.030 Kg Heroin, 106 Kg Hashish, 1465 Kg Opium, 0.020 Kg Amphetamine, 164.200 Kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 672 Kg Morphine. ANF Punjab recovered 79.963 Kg drugs in 8 operations while arrested 3 accused persons in drug smuggling and seized 3 vehicles.

NUMS' conference on drug addiction awareness

RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) will be hosting one-day international conference on June 11, for creating awareness about damaging impact of drug use and addiction, already affecting 4 million youth in the country and help look for ways and means to tackle diverse issues emerging out of Substance Use Disorders (SUD). The international moot will be a joint venture of NUMS and Phoenix Foundation for Research & Development (PFRD). Its main focus would be on abuse of the substance (drugs) its prevention and suggest steps for curbing the spread of drug addiction in the light of proposals coming from both national and international scholars participating in the conference. Commenting on the purpose of the conference NUMS's Pro Vice Chancellor Academics Maj Gen Saleem Ahmad Khan HIM (Retd) said it would help in identifying loopholes in the educational institutions where our vulnerable youth have fallen prey to drug addiction which was very much under-reported. This conference will help to work out a strategy to detect drug addiction and will also provide guidelines for the policy makers to address it. NUMS has always been endeavouring to highlight the national issues, especially those affecting the young students, he added. "We are trying to strategize our policy for prevention of drug abuse, especially in our educational institutions. We will be comfortable

when all our institutions are free from drug abuse", said the Pro Vice Chancellor. He said that was the reason all the stakeholders like Vice Chancellors, psychiatrists, psychologists and representatives of Anti-Narcotics Board have been invited to participate in the international conference. Dr Zakia Bano Associate Prof of NUMS's Psychology Department while giving details of the conference said, the experts hailing from different leading universities and psychology institutes from across the country and abroad, who have done research in various aspects of Substance Use Disorders (SUD), will speak on the occasion. SUD are chronic diseases due to excessive and uncontrolled intake of drugs spreading fast among Pakistani youth where sixty four per cent population is below the age of 29 and 30 per cent between the age of 15 and 29 years, according to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime. There were around 275 million people using drugs across the world in the last year, while over 36 million of them were suffering drug use disorders, according to 2021 World Drug Report by UNDO, giving details about the Conference. She said



NUMS
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

and growing knowledge about substance abuse issues facing today's various societies," said Dr Zakia Bano. The conference, will help mental health professionals to implement and develop effective prevention strategies, intervention and treatment programmes through practice and policy making. Which will ultimately help improve the clinical practices, systems, effective individuals, families, and communities. The conference will provide the platform to create evidence-based solution of the substance use, prevention and treatment. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, there-

ere more than 6.7 million drug users in Pakistan and 4 million among them were addicts, which was the highest number for any country in the world. "More than 800,000 Pakistanis aged between 15 and 64 use heroin regularly. It is also estimated that up to 44 tons of processed heroin is consumed annually in Pakistan." Pakistan's neighbor, Afghanistan produced 9,000 metric tons of opium in 2017 alone and being a landlocked country, drugs produced there are smuggled through its neighbours. All the international speakers who will virtually participate in the conference includes , Dr. Kevin P. Mulvey, PhD Executive Director, International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand education (ICUDDR), Dr. Kmrn Niaz Chief Epidemiologist, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Vienna, Austria and Dr. Prapapun Chucharoen, Director Neuroscience Mahidol University Thailand. Dr. Beatrice Kathungu, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology Kenyatta University, Kenya will speak on the Role of Universities in Promoting Evidence Based Practice in the Field of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment while Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Rutgers Psychiatry, New Jersey Medical School, New York will talk on "Why Children and Adolescents Use Drugs: Neuroscience, Myths, and Prevention." - APP

Briefs

ITP introduces SMD screen on float

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has introduced special measures to ensure discipline on roads and made traffic float more attractive by installing SMD screen on it for creating awareness about traffic rules among road users.

The special education campaign has been launched by SSP (Traffic) Dr. Mustafa Tanveer following directions from IGP Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan. ITP's float having SMD screen would deliver messages to the road users and special announcement about road safety tips would be made at important boulevards, chowks, commercial centres and main avenues of the city, the traffic police chief said.

Initially, the citizens at sectors F-6, F-7 and F-10 were educated about traffic rules. SSP (Traffic) said that national songs are played on SMD screens of float while trained and experienced staff of ITP disseminates messages related to road safety on it. It is to mention that citizens were provided awareness about traffic rules related to bike riding, pedestrians, driving on round-about and use of seat belts and risks of amateur driving and use of mobile phones during drive. The SSP (Traffic) said the purpose of the campaign was to ensure better traffic discipline through cooperation of citizens and create traffic sense among them. ITP is striving hard for safety of citizens and to overcome the traffic accidents by ensuring safe road environment in the city.

Special campaign is being run to educate citizens who are appealed to cooperate with traffic police in its efforts for disciplinary traffic system, the SSP (Traffic) maintained. - APP

Drop in Readers Club reflects reading habit decline

ISLAMABAD: Readers Club's enrollment has dropped to 31 percent as compared to the fiscal year 2019-20 which reflects a decline in reading habit among Pakistanis. The club has enrolled some 44,684 members during the last three years. As per official data, out of total enrolled, some 26,706 members were registered during the fiscal year 2018-19, 10,634 in 2019-20 and 7,344 in 2020-21.

The data shows the citizens of Islamabad have taken the lead when compared with the other big cities of the country followed by Quetta. Out of enrolled 7,344 in year 2020-21, 1700 members belong to Islamabad. The rest of the members are, 600 from Lahore, 525 Karachi, 500 Peshawar, 750 Quetta, 200 each from Gilgit, Sukkur and Abbottabad, 225 Muzaffarabad, 250 Multan and 175 each from Hunza, Sakardu, Hyderabad and Larakana. Only Pakistani residents could become the members of the Readers Club and a member of the club is entitled to buy books of his/her choice at 50% discount subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.6000 during a financial year, from the bookshops on its panel. - APP

GLOF-II to focus flood risk reduction activities

ISLAMABAD: The second phase of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF-II) project will focus on ensuring flood risk reduction activities in 24 valleys of northern areas particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan. The rising temperatures all over the world has casted serious impacts on Pakistan and South Asia region which has increased the risk of GLOF events in the country, an official of Climate Change Ministry told APP. He said the areas targeted for the project included eight valleys of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and 16 valleys of Gilgit Baltistan (GB). The GLOF-II project activities included establishment of Early Warning System, installation of 51 Automatic Weather Stations, 153 Rain Gauges (tipping bucket), 63 Water Discharge Gauges, 77 River Water Level Gauges, 63 Lake Water Level Gauges and 48 Warning Posts. - APP



ISLAMABAD: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock along with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari planting a tree at Foreign Office. - DNA

Punjab govt urged more budget for girl's education

Ayesha Iqbal suggested to take all PEIMA and PEF schools under one umbrella to minimize the expenses on bureaucracy and other unnecessary expenditures

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the significance of girls education towards nation building, stakeholders at an advocacy forum have called for allocating a substantial chunk of annual budget for girls quality education particularly at secondary level in Punjab as it would contribute a lot towards ensuring educated women population, a guarantee to economic and social stability.

The advocacy forum was arranged by the Awaz CDS Pakistan here with a major focus to highlight the importance of girls quality education at secondary level, get input from experts and stakeholders, and push the government to increase budgetary chunk in the upcoming provincial annual budget for this important sector.

Chief Executive Awaz CDS Pakistan Zia ur Rahman, Punjab MPAs Raheela Khadam Hussain (PML-N) and Ayesha Iqbal (PTI), Mina Umer Hayat from Human Rights & Minorities Affairs Department Punjab, Additional Secretary (Budget & Planning) School Education Department Punjab Qaiser Rashid, Director General (Parliamentary Affairs & Research) Punjab Assembly Inayat Ullah Lak, Coordinator National Commission for Human Right Punjab Muhammad Khalid and NGOs attended the event. In his opening remarks, Zia ur Rahman highlighted



the significance of girls quality secondary education and explained the grey areas in the way of girls education in Punjab. He urged the Punjab government to immediately notify the Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Act 2014 which was approved earlier. He stressed for increasing development budgets in school education as development budgets are only being distributed to PEF and PEIMA rather development budgets needs to be utilized for the development of public schools especially for girls, where missing facilities and accessibility is still a major challenge. He also called for mainstreaming the people living with disability and transgender community

to make education accessible for them. During the discussion, Punjab MPAs Rahila Khadam and Ayesha Iqbal assured that efforts would be made to get this education Act notified without any delay as education is priority of all political parties. Ayesha Iqbal suggested to take all PEIMA and PEF schools under one umbrella to minimize the expenses on bureaucracy and other unnecessary expenditures. It will also help in making systems accountable, she reared. In her remarks, MPA Raheela Khadam Hussain endorsed the girls education is not getting the level of seriousness required to ensure quality education for girls in the province.

In his remarks, Mian Umer Hayat said that their department is constantly working on this sector and said that they would make extensive efforts to sensitize more and more people on girls education in order to minimize girls schools drop out ratio.

Giving her input on the issue, Mariam Aamjad Khan, Campaign Manager-Awaz CDS-Pakistan, pointed out hindrances towards girls education particularly gender disparity, lack of accessibility, low budget, teachers improper training. She emphasized the need for putting extra efforts in education sector from allocations to spending especially in the post-Covid situation where the number of OOSC has already been exacerbated. NCHR Punjab Coordinator Muhammad Khalid also shared his concern over this much delay in the notification of Act. He further committed to spread awareness among communities regarding this Act as awareness raising is one of their key mandates to support communities.

A panel discussion was also held which was joined by representatives of NGOs, media, teachers, head mistresses, members of Schools Council and lawyers. They highlighted the girls education as a grey sector which is affecting the national progress. They emphasized for immediate focus on the part of both public as well as private sectors so that girls quality education is ensured for socio-economic.



ISLAMABAD: Commander of Qatar Emiri Air Force Major General (Pilot) Jassim Mohammad Ahmed Al-Mannai calls on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. - DNA

Over 8.2 million Overseas Pakistanis registered with NADRA

ISLAMABAD: Over 8.2 Overseas Pakistanis registered with National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the government was committed to provide maximum facilities to expatriates and their families on top priority. An official source told APP here on Tuesday that due to the prudent policies of the incumbent regime, all diaspora Pakistanis could get their passport online and CNIC within short time. He said that due to the new policies Overseas Pakistanis could get more benefits at their home through online without visiting to different offices for their passport, CNIC or any other legal assistance. He informed that 20,498 employee working with NADRA, however, 760 Registration centers including 10 for Overseas Pakistanis, 10 mega centers, 222 mobile registration vans, 3 data centers and over 1000 services were providing to the people. He said that new mobile APPs were under process to facilitate to the expatriates within hours including digital NICOP, passport renewal or new registration for passport, death certificate, power of attorney, Roshan digital accounts, land record, succession certificates online biometric verification for overseas family members, PIA Repatriation initiatives to ring Pakistanis back during Covid-19, Complaints registration cell, he said that these were the major initiatives for Overseas Pakistanis. Through the Roshan digital account daily million of rupees remittances submitted in the account of government, he added. - APP

World partners oppression against Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday said the world community was becoming a partner in oppression against Kashmiris by leaving the Indian Army unrestrained in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). She in her condemnation message over Indian Army's unbridled human rights violations and barbarism in IIOJK lambasted the global community for keeping lull over mass atrocities of Indian occupant forces.

"Why is the world silent against Indian barbarism and state-sponsored terrorism?" Sherry Rehman queried, adding, "The criminal silence of the world over the genocide of young Kashmiris should end now".

Sherry said, "the occupying Indian forces have martyred three Kashmiri youth in the name of so-called operation in last 24 hours". She added that the occupying Indian Army continued siege and fake operations in different areas of the occupied valley. The minister underlined that the Indian occupying forces did not even give the bodies of martyrs to their families. "International human rights organisations should raise their voices against the state-sponsored atrocities and oppression in IIOJK", she added. - APP

AIIOU appoints tutors for matriculation, intermediate

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIIOU) has appointed the tutors for hundreds and thousands of the students enrolled in the matriculation and intermediate programs offered in the first phase of spring 2022 semester. Detailed information about the appointed tutors is uploaded to students' CMS portal. Books have been dispatched to students enrolled in both programs. Books of BA (Associate Degree) program will be dispatched in next week.

It is pertinent to mention here that university has provided soft copies of these books online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). The provision of online books has eliminated complaints of delayed mailing of books. According to the new policy, students of all programs except Matric, FA, and BA (Associate Degree) programs will not be provided with printed books. Therefore, students are instructed to download books from the website and start working on their assignments and preparing for their final examination.

Moreover, the assignments submission schedule for matriculation and intermediate programs has been uploaded on the university website. The schedule has been sent to students along with books. Assignments received after the due dates will be considered as late and will not be accepted. - APP

Govt taking tough decisions, says Asad

ISLAMABAD: Minister of Communications and Postal Services, Maulana Asad Mahmood on Tuesday said the government was taking tough decisions after taking its allies onboard with a sole purpose to put the country on right economic course.

"There was no other option with us. We realize issues of people facing right now. Working is in progress on emergency as well as long term economic plan, taking all stakeholders into confidence," he said this while addressing a press conference here after Federal Cabinet meeting.

He was flanked by Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mariyum Aurangzeb, Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications, Amin ul Haq and Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira. Maulana Asad said, "We accepted this challenge in the best interest of the country as this time we are facing serious economic challenges," adding that there was also another option with us to decrease prices and go in elections which would be beneficial politically, but we decided to bring stability in all sectors. - APP

PAC staged "Chaar Diwari" based on honor killings

The play deals with the exploitation of daughters in the name of honor. Naheed Manzoor said that in many parts of Pakistan, daughters are still being killed in name of honor. Islam called daughter a mercy

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Classical drama festival is in full swing in the Punjab arts council, on the second day of the festival play "Chaar Diwar" was staged at the Council. The play was written by Zeeshan Alvi, while Muhammad Suleman Bhatti was the director. The play deals with the exploitation of daughters in the name of honor. Naheed Manzoor said that in many parts of Pakistan, daughters are still being killed in the name of honor. Islam called daughter a mercy. But in some societies daughter has been made a nuisance. Special attention

needs to be paid to the education of daughters in the 21st century. So that they can create their own identity in the society. We should try to change the mindset of the people through corrective dramas. Finally, he congratulated the director Suleiman Sunni for presenting a successful play. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that plays on new topics have been written through the theater festival, which is good gesture. New artists in dramas are also receiving accolades from the audience. A large number of spectators were present at the Arts Council to watch the play. The Theater Festival continued till June 9.



Monkeypox: communication is crucial

Another month, another virus. No sooner does some of the world appear to have made an uneasy peace with Covid than along comes monkeypox, an unpleasant but, for most people, not fatal blistering disease caused by a virus that is common in parts of west and central Africa, but has only recently made its way in significant numbers to regions where it is not endemic. It has been recorded in at least 20 countries in the past month, from the Americas to Europe and Australia, with cases recently confirmed in Wales and Scotland, as well as England.

If it continues to spread, it will put yet more pressure on hard-pressed health services. Efficient management in the community is vital, with people unafraid to come forward if they believe they are infected. Language has an important role to play, with the UN's Aids agency warning last month that racist and homophobic rhetoric risks stigmatising the disease and undermining the response.

Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease, ie one that spreads from animals to humans, with a name that originates from its first discovery in monkeys in a Danish laboratory in 1958. It is, in fact, more likely to have come from rodents, from eating undercooked and infected meat, and from handling infected fur or animal skins. Its transmission between humans is predominantly via close contact, which is why it spreads through sex. However, it is not a sexually transmitted disease, but a virus that can also be spread by coughing, sharing linen, or touching infected skin. Its exotic-sounding name is neither accurate nor helpful.

Successive variants of the Covid pandemic were first defined by their place of origin: Wuhan, UK/Kent, South Africa, Brazil and India, prompting fierce discussions as to how they should be renamed to avoid stoking prejudice without resorting to complicated scientific classifications. Finally, in the summer of 2021, the World Health Organization found an elegant solution, using letters of the Greek alphabet: Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta, which said everything that needed to be known in terms of the order of their emergence.

The abbreviations used by scientists for the monkeypox virus are MPV or MPXV. There are precedents for the wider use of such abbreviations; for example, HPV was adopted for the NHS's immunisation campaign against human papillomavirus, which causes cervical and some other cancers. If monkeypox continues to spread, and make headlines, it would be worth the WHO's while to reflect on what it is called.

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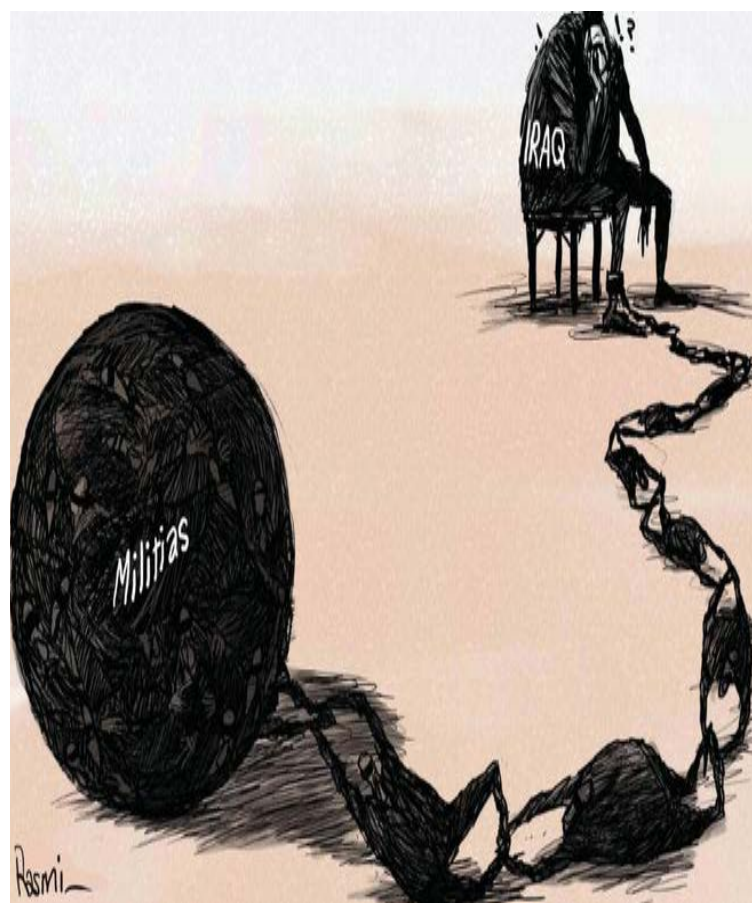
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Yemen truce a major step

The extension of the Yemen ceasefire, brokered by the United Nations, for two more months is an encouraging sign that the ongoing talks may yield the results all aspire for – a lasting solution that would preserve the country's territorial integrity and meet its people's hopes for a prosperous life. Negotiating teams, from the UN-recognised government and the Iran-backed Al Houthi militia, will be returning to Jordan for more talks wherein the UN hopes to cement the current truce and turn it into a permanent one. According to the UN special envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, "for the past two months, Yemenis have experienced the tangible benefits of the truce". Major military operations halted during the past two months, as per the UN. Terror attacks on Saudi border areas mostly stopped and more essential aid was allowed to come in thus easing the catastrophic humanitarian crisis, which began seven years ago when the Al Houthi militia, financed and armed by Iran, overthrew the legitimate government and captured the capital Sana'a.

Saudi Arabia, which presented several initiatives in the past few years to end the Yemen war and hosted different rounds of talks, has led the successful efforts to secure the truce extension, said US President Joe Biden who praised the kingdom's "courageous leadership". The UAE, which also hailed the Saudi role, called on "all countries to support the ceasefire in Yemen and push the parties towards a comprehensive solution". The Yemen truce is a significant step as it will ease the entry of the much need fuel imports and allow the resumption of commercial flights from the Sana'a airport.

More importantly, it is a major step towards a lasting peaceful solution to one of the longest military conflicts in the region, which killed thousands of Yemenis and pushed the country to the brink of starvation. It has devastated the country's economy and its health and education systems. The international community is now required to support those efforts, exerting the required pressure on Iran and its allied rebel militia, to ensure the success of the UN and the Gulf Cooperation Council's efforts as they seek to end the war. The Yemen war represented a major challenge to the region's security and political order. It has raised the tension in this region to dangerous levels. It is high time the world stood by the UN and the Gulf states at this critical juncture, to make the Yemeni hopes for a decent lives a reality.

Russia and Iran: Between competitive partnership and rivalry

Kirill Semenov

More recently, many in Iran perceived Russia as a hostile state during the latter's use of the Hamadan Airbase in Iran to strike Daesh positions in 2016. Russia's publicising this information caused a stir among Iranians, who felt Russia's use of the base echoed Soviet intervention between 1941 and 1945. As a result, Tehran cancelled the deal for the use of the facility for Russian military aviation

Moscow-Tehran relations are shaped and constrained by ideological and geopolitical developments in the Middle East and beyond. Many in the West have long considered the Islamic Republic of Iran to be Russia's ally. The reality, however, is more complex. Ties between Russia and Iran would be better characterised as a "marriage of convenience" – if not even a "competitive partnership". They lack strategic depth and the supposed shared ideological foundations that underpin their relations are situational. Today, the politico-military sphere of co-operation between Moscow and Tehran is limited to the Syrian dossier and mutual trade does not exceed \$4 billion (compared to \$25 billion of trade between Russia and Türkiye).

contact with the USSR. In the 1960s and 70s, the Soviet Union built factories and gas pipelines in Iran and equipped the Iranian military with modern weapons, making this period the best in Russian-Iranian relations. Soviet-Iranian cooperation came to an abrupt end with the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who came to power afterwards called the USSR a "small Satan" (the "big Satan" was the US) and began to support the mujahideen who were fighting against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. In Lebanon, a leader of the pro-Iran Hezbollah, Imad Mughniyeh, was behind the abduction of Soviet diplomats and the murder of one of them, in 1985. It was not until 1989 that Soviet-Iranian

Historical roots Of course, Moscow-Tehran relations are experiencing a certain renaissance, but their relations have been marked by ups and downs over the decades.

Until the reign of the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, there had been numerous Russian-Persian wars and Soviet interventions in Iran, which cast a shadow on the modern relations between the two countries.

Even though the shah was considered a close ally of the United States, he had close contact with the USSR. In the 1960s and 70s, the Soviet Union built factories and gas pipelines in Iran and equipped the Iranian military with modern weapons, making this period the best in Russian-Iranian relations. Soviet-Iranian cooperation came to an abrupt end with the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who came to power afterwards called the USSR a "small Satan" (the "big Satan" was the US) and began to support the mujahideen who were fighting against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. In Lebanon, a leader of the pro-Iran Hezbollah, Imad Mughniyeh, was behind the abduction of Soviet diplomats and the murder of one of them, in 1985. It was not until 1989 that Soviet-Iranian

relations began to normalise and continued to improve in Yeltsin's Russia. However, the essence of this cooperation was purely transactional: Iran wanted the latest Soviet/Russian arms, and the USSR and then Russia sought to get billions of dollars from sales. More recently, many in Iran perceived Russia as a hostile state during the latter's use of the Hamadan Airbase in Iran to strike Daesh positions in 2016. Russia's publicising this information caused a stir among Iranians, who felt Russia's use of the base echoed Soviet intervention between 1941 and 1945. As a result, Tehran cancelled the deal for the use of the facility for Russian military aviation. Iran would likely have remained Russia's minor partner in the Middle East if not for the Arab uprisings and the Syrian revolution, which led to a gradual politico-military rapprochement between the two.

The ties between Tehran and Damascus were much deeper than those between Moscow and Damascus. Syria was an important element of the "Axis of Resistance," which has an ideological and even a religious and spiritual component, as it is supposed to lay "the international and regional ground" to ensure the return of the 12th Shia Imam from hiding. Naturally, Russia did not share such attitudes and its cooperation with Iran – and the Assad regime – in Syria was purely pragmatic. Even though they both supported the Assad regime, tensions started as soon as Moscow became involved in Syria. The countries had contrasting visions: Moscow was interested in normalising relations between Syria and its neighbours, using the country as a springboard to enter the "big game" in the Middle East, while Iran tried to turn the country into its military springboard for attacks on its neighbours. At first, these differences appeared more technical, mainly concerning, for instance,

the question of how agreements with the Syrian opposition on the cessation of hostilities were to be implemented. At the time, Russia sought a relatively more moderate approach compared to Iran and the Syrian regime. For instance, it brought in Sunni Muslim and Chechen military police into Aleppo after the city had been taken over by the regime – in part to prevent massacres of Sunni residents by pro-Iranian Shia militias. In other areas, like Wadi Barada, there were incidents between Russian military police and pro-Iranian militias. Tehran's dominance in Syria's economy also began to displease Moscow since too few business spheres were left for Russian oligarchs. Even though it was somewhat more profitable for the Assad regime to enter into contracts with Russian companies, Iran retained its influence both through official channels as the regime's main sponsor, trading partner and supplier of oil products; and unofficial channels: and pro-Iran militants reinforcing Tehran's policies.

Finally, Russian-Iranian tensions reached a new level in 2018 after Israel and an American military contingent stationed in Syria began striking pro-Iranian formations in the country. With this came the risk of a direct military clash between Iran and the US and Israel, which Moscow wanted to avoid. In southern Syria, Iranian formations reached Israeli and Jordanian borders after a 2018 military campaign. Based on agreements with Washington and Tel Aviv, Moscow prevented Tehran from establishing lodgings in Daraa and Quneitra. Russia also tried to limit Iranian expansion in northeastern Syria near the borders with Iraq, between the cities of al Mayadin and al Bukamal, where a pro-Iranian-controlled enclave was effectively formed, bringing the risk of a clash with US troops on the other side of the Euphrates. However, given Israel's pro-Ukraine

stance and the US military assistance to Kiev, Moscow may reconsider this approach. On the other hand, Russia is interested in maintaining friendly relations with the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf and Jordan, for which the strengthening of Iran's position in Syria also poses a threat. Therefore, Russia might continue its policy of restraining Iranian ambitions but keeping an eye on the Arab states rather than on the US and Israel.

However, the contradictions between Russia and Iran are gradually moving beyond the Syrian dossier and may spread to the post-Soviet space, particularly in Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

Iran has become more active in its Caucasus policy after the Armenian-Azerbaijani war when Armenian leadership considered Russian assistance in its war with Azerbaijan insufficient. Instead of increasing its military support to Yerevan, Russia concluded an alliance agreement with Azerbaijan. Iran is now trying to pressure Azerbaijan by conducting military manoeuvres under the pretext of alleged military ties between Baku and Tel Aviv and offering itself as a more reliable partner for Yerevan than Moscow.

In Tajikistan, Iran is trying to compete with Moscow on security issues. Moscow is trying to develop constructive dialogue with the Taliban despite Dushanbe's hesitancy regarding the new government in Kabul. Meanwhile, Tehran has already offered Dushanbe new forms of interaction in the military sphere, including opening a new factory to produce Iranian-made drones. Against the backdrop of the Russian military operation in Ukraine, where Moscow is rapidly using its resources, Russia's Central Asian and Caucasian allies may be feeling increasingly insecure. Therefore, Iran has an opportunity to fill this security vacuum.

Courtesy: TRT World

Why Palestinians' new resistance might just work

Ramzy Baroud



The argument that only oppressed nations should have the right to choose the type of resistance that could speed up their salvation and freedom fell on deaf ears

What took place between May 2021 and May 2022 was nothing less than a paradigm shift in Palestinian resistance. Thanks to the popular and inclusive nature of Palestinian mobilization against the Israeli occupation, resistance in Palestine is no longer an ideological, political or regional preference. In the period between the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 and only a few years ago, Palestinian "muqawama" (resistance) was constantly in the dock, often criticized and condemned, as if an oppressed nation had a moral responsibility to select the type of resistance used to suit the needs

throughout history. It was turned into a straw man, set up by Israel and its Western allies to condemn Palestinian "terrorism" and to present Israel as a victim facing an existential threat. With the lack of a centralized Palestinian definition of resistance, even pro-Palestine civil society groups and organizations demarcated their relationship to the Palestinian struggle based on embracing certain forms of resistance and condemning others. The argument that only oppressed nations should have the right to choose the type of resistance that could speed up their salvation and freedom fell on deaf ears.

and interests of its oppressors.

As such, Palestinian resistance became a political and ideological litmus test. The Palestinian Authority of Yasser Arafat and, later, Mahmoud Abbas, called for "popular resistance," but it seems that it did not understand what that strategy actually meant and certainly was not prepared to act upon such a call. Palestinian armed resistance was removed entirely from its own historical context; in fact, the context of all liberation movements

was turned into a straw man, set up by Israel and its Western allies to condemn Palestinian "terrorism" and to present Israel as a victim facing an existential threat. With the lack of a centralized Palestinian definition of resistance, even pro-Palestine civil society groups and organizations demarcated their relationship to the Palestinian struggle based on embracing certain forms of resistance and condemning others. The argument that only oppressed nations should have the right to choose the type of resistance that could speed up their salvation and freedom fell on deaf ears.

Palestinian resistance preceded the official establishment of Israel in 1948. Palestinians and Arabs who resisted British and Zionist colonialism used many methods of resistance that they perceived to be strategic and sustainable. There was no relationship whatsoever between the type of resistance and the religious, political or ideological identity of those who resisted. This paradigm prevailed for many years, from the Fedayeen movement following the Nakba to the popular resistance to the brief Israeli occupation of Gaza in 1956 and the decades-long occupation and siege starting in 1967. The same reality was seen in the resistance in historic Palestine throughout the decades; armed resistance ebbed and flowed, but popular resistance remained intact. The two phenomena were always intrinsically linked, as the former was also sustained by the latter. The Fatah movement, which dominates today's PA, was formed in 1959 to model liberation movements in Vietnam and Algeria. Regarding its connection to the Algerian struggle, the Fatah manifesto read: "The guerrilla war in Algeria, launched five years before the creation of Fatah, has a profound influence on us... They symbolize the success we dreamed of."

This sentiment was championed by most modern Palestinian movements, as it proved to be a successful strategy for most southern liberation movements. In the case of Vietnam, the resistance to US occupation was carried out even during the peace talks in Paris. The underground resistance in South Africa remained vigilant until it became clear that the country's apartheid regime was in the process of being dismantled. Palestinian disunity, however, which was a direct result of the

Oslo Accords, made a unified position on resistance untenable. The very idea of resistance itself became subject to the political whims and interests of factions. When, in July 2013, PA President Mahmoud Abbas condemned armed resistance, he was trying to score political points with his Western supporters and further sow the seeds of division among his people.

The truth is that Hamas neither invented nor has ownership of armed resistance. A June 2021 poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research revealed that 60 percent of Palestinians support "a return to armed confrontations and intifada." By stating this, they were not necessarily declaring allegiance to Hamas. Armed resistance – though in a different style and capacity – also exists in the West Bank and is largely championed by Fatah's own Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. The recent Israeli attacks on the town of Jenin, in the northern West Bank, were not aimed at eliminating Hamas, Islamic Jihad or socialist fighters, but Fatah's own. Skewed media coverage and misrepresentation of the resistance, often by Palestinian factions themselves, turned the very idea of resistance into a political and factional scuffle, forcing everyone involved to take a position on the issue. However, the discourse on the resistance began changing in May last year.

That month's rebellion and the Israeli war on Gaza – known among Palestinians as the "Unity Intifada" – created a paradigm shift. The language became unified; self-serving political references quickly dissipated; collective frames of reference began replacing provisional, regional and factional ones; occupied Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque

emerged as the unifying symbols of resistance; and a new generation began to emerge and quickly developed new platforms. The Israeli government last month insisted on allowing the so-called flag march – a mass rally by Israeli Jewish extremists that celebrates the capture of the Palestinian city of Al-Quds – to pass through Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. This was the very occasion that instigated war the previous year. Aware of the clashes that often result from such provocations, Israel wanted to impose the timing and determine the nature of the violence. It failed. Gaza did not fire rockets. Instead, tens of thousands of Palestinians mobilized throughout the Occupied Territories, thus allowing the growth of popular mobilization and coordination between numerous communities. Palestinians proved able to coordinate their responsibilities, despite the numerous obstacles, hardships and logistical difficulties.

The events of the last year are testament to the fact that Palestinians are finally freeing their resistance of factional interests. It is becoming more defined, mature and well-coordinated. This phenomenon must be extremely worrying to Israel, as the coming months and years could prove critical in changing the nature of the confrontation between the Palestinians and their occupiers. Considering that the new resistance is centered on homegrown, grassroots, community-oriented movements, it has a far greater chance of success than previous attempts. It is much easier for Israel to assassinate a fighter than it is to uproot the values of resistance from the heart of a community.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Cabinet...

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cut in the fuel quota of ministers and government employees was also approved. Aurangzeb further stated that except for important visits, unnecessary foreign visits of the government officials have been banned, while taking medical treatment outside Pakistan has been banned on the government officials and cabinet members. Moreover, the purchase of cars at the government level has been restricted and a decision has been taken to shift the government meetings to virtual and video mode. Organising lunches, hi-teas and dinners at government offices has also been banned. Meanwhile, the information minister said that after June 30, the duration of load-shedding will be reduced to two hours. She said that the duration of load-shedding will be slashed to three-and-a-half hours by June 15, while by June 30 it will be reduced to only two hours as 600 megawatts will be added to the national grid. She said that currently there is a difference in the supply and demand of electricity.

PTI lashes...

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local currency also made a historical drop of Rs4.00 in a single day and surpassed the Rs204 threshold against the greenback in the inter-bank market during the intraday trade. Commenting on the economic situation of the country, the former minister said that Moody's Investor Service – a global credit rating agency – has moved Pakistan's economy from positive to negative. "The market does not trust this government and this situation leads to the failure of the economic team. The economic situation of the country has now become serious," he mentioned. "There would have been electricity loadshedding during the PTI's tenure if our planning was flawed. If our party was still in power, there would be political and economic stability in the country," maintained Hammad, adding that there was "no other way instead of fresh elections to fix things." The former minister also said that even if all parties were to come together, they cannot compete against the PTI.

PM urges...

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a strong foundation for development. The conference will centre on the PM's vision of a Pakistan where people's social, political, and economic rights are protected. The conference will try to develop measures to tackle people's economic struggle and assist the country get back on track to a better future through mutual consultation. Industry executives from agriculture, information technology, textiles, manufacturing, and other sectors will also speak at the one-day conference. Participants will evaluate Pakistan's current economic difficulties and come up with short, medium, and long-term remedies.

France CG...

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providing health, education, clean drinking water and other basic necessities to the people said that there are excellent investment opportunities in Pakistan especially in Balochistan. "Balochistan province is a mineral rich province, "the Acting Governor said urging CG that France should invest in the development of various sectors in Balochistan so that the living standards of the people could be improved. French experience is crucial for the promotion of tourism and mineral development in the coastal belt of Balochistan and we want to benefit from France's expertise. Jan Jamali also briefed the French Consul General Christian Testot on the structure of the Balochistan Assembly and parliamentary traditions. Expressing his deep satisfaction over the stability of the democratic process in Pakistan, the Consul General of France, Mr. Christian Testot, said that France accords great importance to the development and reforms taking place in all walks of life in Balochistan. – APP

Fifa World Cup trophy arrives in Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: The glittering trophy of the FIFA World Cup 2022 has finally arrived in Pakistan as part of the FIFA Trophy Tour 2022. This is the second time in four years that the souvenir has been brought to Pakistan for football enthusiasts to see. Former FIFA Cup winner from France, Christian Karembeu, stepped out, carrying the trophy weighing 6.1kg, from a chartered plane that flew to Lahore from Uzbekistan. Pakistan's women football icon Hajra Khan received the trophy at Lahore airport and welcomed it to Pakistan, where it will stay for one day. The FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour is taking the one-of-a-kind, solid-gold FIFA World Cup Trophy to football fans in countries around the world. It is an international roadshow to let the fans enjoy a rare, close-up view of world football's greatest prize. The trophy will be displayed at two different events in Lahore—one is for stakeholders and partners and the other is for the general public, which will be a concert to be held this evening. Talking to Geo News, Karembeu said that it was a privilege for

him to be back in Pakistan again with the FIFA World Cup Trophy. "Every kid in the world wants to see [the trophy] and, of course, we need to respect that dream and we know that everything is magical when we have it (9 trophy) this close to us," Karembeu said. Recalling his previous experience of being in Pakistan, the former footballer said that he was amazed to see the enthusiasm of football fans in Pakistan and it was a pleasant experience. He thanked Pakistan for a warm welcome again. "Four years ago, it was one of my best memories. I remember that 15 thousand people came to see the trophy," he said, adding that seeing such a huge number wasn't a shock but a pleasure. "Here is the will to play football and I hope soon there will be a solution for them [Pakistanis] to play and be part of the competition." Talking about the tournament, Karembeu said France is one of his favourites and he named Brazil and Germany as possible other teams in the top four. He said that an Asian or African team could also be there. Speaking at the occasion, Hajra Khan said that it was an honour for her to be part of the trophy tour once again. She hoped that Pakistan would soon make an early return to the international football arena.



MULTAN: Pakistani skipper Babar Azam along with Nicholas Pooran unveiling trophy of Pakistan vs West Indies ODI Series. – DNA

Murray awed by Nadal's French Open record

SPORTS DESK

STUTTGART: Before continuing his grass court preparations, Andy Murray on Monday did the maths on Rafael Nadal's latest feat on clay. The 36-year-old Spaniard on Sunday routed Norway's Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 in the final at Roland Garros to extend two records. It was not only his 22nd Grand Slam title but also his 14th French Open. "Winning 14 Grand Slams at the same place is incredible," said Murray in Stuttgart. "There's hardly any players on the Tour who will get the opportunity to play Roland Garros 14 times, much less win it." Nadal won his first French Open title in 2005. In the 17 seasons since then, he has lost just three matches at Roland Garros and been forced out once by a wrist injury. Murray used the sport's latest prodigy, Nadal's

compatriot Carlos Alcaraz, for comparison. "Alcaraz is 19 now, so he would have to win it every single time (until age 33) to achieve that. I just don't see that happening." Murray, who reached the Roland Garros final in 2016, was also impressed by Iga Swiatek, who extended her singles winning streak to 35 matches as she won the women's final. "It was just an incredible achievement for Rafa - and Iga Swiatek," said Murray. The Scot is making his debut at the ATP event in Stuttgart after moving onto the lawns last week at the Challenger level event in Surbiton, London, where he reached the semi-finals before losing to American Denis Kudla. The former world number one, who is ranked 68th, will take to the lawns of the Weissenhof Club when he faces Australian qualifier Christopher O'Connell.

PKK using Germany as base, admits spy chief

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Germany's spy chief on Tuesday admitted that the country has become a platform for the PKK terrorist organization's fundraising and recruitment activities targeting Turkey. "The PKK is organizing various fundraising campaigns in Germany and then using this money to finance terror attacks in Turkey," Thomas Haldenwang, head of the German domestic intelligence agency BfV, told a news conference in Berlin. He said the PKK is also using various associations in Germany to recruit young people as foreign fighters, who are then sent to Turkey, Syria or Iraq. "The PKK remains an international terror organization, it continues violent attacks, killings in the region," he stressed. According to the BfV's annual security report released on Tuesday, the PKK terrorist organization is the biggest foreign extremist group in the country, with around 14,500 followers. The terrorist group raised an estimated 16.7 million euros (\$17.8 million) in Germany last year, and also raised more than 30 million euros in Europe in various fundraising campaigns, the report said. Since 2013, at least 295 foreign fighters from Germany traveled to northern Syria and Iraq where they received military training from PKK terrorists and took part in armed attacks in the region, according to the report. At least 30 of these foreign fighters died in battle zones, while nearly 150 of them returned to Germany in recent years, the report said, without giving any further details. The PKK, which is classified as an "ethno-nationalist" and "separatist" terrorist organization by the EU's law enforcement agency Europol, has been banned in Germany since 1993. Although Turkey has repeatedly called on its NATO ally Germany to take stronger action against the PKK, the terrorist group's activities have been largely tolerated by authorities, and Berlin has been reluctant to do more to combat the group. Turkey has been frequently voicing concerns over European countries' tolerance toward the PKK; however, the terrorist organization still maintains a strong presence in the region, being able to hold rallies and engage in recruitment activities.

US NSA backs Azerbaijan, Armenia peace talks

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has stated that his country is ready to support the Azerbaijani-Armenian peace talks in multiple ways, Azernews reports, citing the White House. Sullivan made the remarks at a meeting with the visiting Azerbaijani presidential aide on foreign policy, Hikmat Hajiyev, the report added. Sullivan hailed Azerbaijan and Armenia for their substantial and historic diplomatic efforts toward sustainable peace and expressed support for negotiations under the aegis of European Council President Charles Michel. He expressed the United States' willingness to engage closely and assist progress via a variety of channels, including as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. The two men also hailed the 30th anniversary of the U.S.-Azerbaijani relations and expressed their willingness to further strengthen bilateral ties. They also underlined their common resolve to assist Ukrainians in responding to Russia's unwarranted actions. Sullivan praised Azerbaijan's long-standing commitment to European energy security and spoke about measures to diversify the regional energy supply. The two discussed the ramifications of the Ukrainian crisis for the rest of the region. Sullivan expressed the United States' commitment to peace, security, and development in the South Caucasus region. Similarly, Turkish ambassador to the U.S. Hasan Murat Mercan hosted Hikmat Hajiyev as well, the embassy



tweeted. "They reaffirmed the brotherly relations between Turkiye and Azerbaijan and exchanged views on regional issues," the report said.

Pak for...

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said Pakistan always emphasised upon the adherence of UN principles and its charters and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries. Bilawal observed that ramification of conflict in the EU in shape of Russian-Ukraine conflict were also felt in Pakistan in the shape of increasing prices of fuel and food. He reiterated that Pakistan called upon immediate cessation of hostilities and immediate initiation of peaceful dialogue. He said considering the plight of people in Ukraine, Pakistan had dispatched four plane loads of humanitarian aid. The foreign minister said Pakistan remained concerned about the well-being of the Ukrainian people, civilian casualties, massive exodus of refugees. The foreign minister said Pakistan wanted to engage with all its neighbours. Pakistan played an important role in establishing the diplomatic ties between China and the US and it would continue to play a role of bridge, he added. About the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) issue, he said that he had been vociferously raising the Indian atrocities during his engagements at the global fora and in his meetings with his counterparts of various countries including the US secretary of state. The foreign minister warned that the situation in IIOJK had been fast deteriorating due to provocative steps of India that was trying to undermine the Muslim majority by marginalizing and turning it into minority through illegal steps. The foreign minister said the international community must immediately take notice of the increasing incidents of persecution of minorities and rising tide of Islamophobia in India. Bilawal citing the recent provocative and sacrilegious statements by the BJP leaders, said that such outrageous and highly condemnable statements had hurt the sentiments of the Muslims all over the world. He said it was a proof that India had turned into a fascist country and it was no longer a secular India, but dominated by Hindutva ideology.

German FM...

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has cancelled all further dates of the trip, which also included stops in Greece and Turkey, said the ministry. She tested positive after lunch after she had noticed that she lost her sense of taste, said the ministry. A rapid antigen test she took in the morning had been negative, it added. According to the spokesperson of the German Foreign Office, Baerbock has suspended her activities in Pakistan after returning Covid-19 positive. It is unclear when she will return to Germany. After Pakistan, Baerbock was due to travel onwards to Greece and Turkey. Baerbock had also been set to meet the staff of the German embassy and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), which has been working with people who have fled Afghanistan. She was due to meet Afghan refugees who are in Islamabad and want to leave for Germany.

FS briefs...

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Islamabad, to apprise them of the derogatory and offensive remarks made by two senior officials of India's ruling party BJP, against the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). He called upon them to take cognizance of this abhorrent development, the growing hate speech, and the rising tide of Islamophobia in India. The Foreign Secretary underscored that the BJP's perfunctory and token disciplinary action against these individuals will not assuage the hurt they have caused to Muslims worldwide. He stressed that India must be urged to take decisive and demonstrable actions against those responsible. India should also be held accountable for stifling the rights of its religious minorities, especially its Muslim population, and urged to ensure full protection of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Pakistan on Monday joined the fray by summoning Indian envoy over the recent derogatory remarks made by two ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members that disrespected the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Commander Qatar Air Force visits Naval HQ

STAFF REPORT

Islamabad: Major General (Pilot) Jassim Mohamed Ahmed Al-Mannai, Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival, Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. During one-on-one meeting between the dignitaries, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaboration and regional security were discussed. The Naval Chief expressed satisfaction over defence ties between Pakistan and Qatari Emiri Armed Forces. The visiting dignitary appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Both the forces heads pledged to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral relationship. The visit of Commander Qatar Emiri Air Force will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.



Briefs

NATO members committed to defend their territory

DNA

BERLIN: NATO members are committed to defending every centimeter of the alliance's territory, Germany's chancellor said Tuesday. Olaf Scholz said Germany will scale up its contribution to strengthen NATO's eastern flank. "We will create a strong brigade, have discussed that with each other and will have to work on this," Scholz said at a news conference alongside Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Kariņš and Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas. Scholz said Germany's decision to allocate a 100 billion (\$107.3 billion) "special fund" to modernize its armed forces will further strengthen NATO and make the country "the strongest armed forces in Europe and one of the strongest in NATO." He said EU countries and Germany will continue to support Ukraine as long as it is necessary. "Germany is one of the main supporters of Ukraine in terms of military, and probably only the United States provides greater support than us," said Scholz. Nausėda said the leaders discussed Russia's war on Ukraine and Europe's response. "We must build a strong response and strengthen our defenses in the face of Russian aggression," said Nausėda, adding "we agreed on the need to reinforce defense capabilities in the Baltic states by increasing the number of deployed troops, strengthening air and sea defense."

UAE lauds political reforms in Kazakhstan

DNA

ABU DHABI: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Madiyar Menilbekov met with the Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates Ahmed Ali al-Sayegh, Kazinform cites the press service of the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, Ambassador Menilbekov informed about the political reforms being carried out by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to build a New Kazakhstan, including the preliminary results of the nationwide referendum on amending the Constitution, held on June 5, 2022. Stressing that Kazakhstan is a friendly state and an important partner of the UAE in Central Asia, the UAE Minister of State noted that he highly appreciates the political and economic reforms being implemented in the country. Particular attention was paid to a number of important upcoming events, including the CICA Summit scheduled for October 12-13, 2022 in Nur-Sultan, as well as holding regular meetings of the inter-governmental commission and inter-MFA consultations.

British journalist missing in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO: A British journalist and a Brazilian indigenous expert have gone missing in a remote region of the Amazon rainforest after receiving threats, authorities and indigenous-rights groups said Monday, raising fears for their safety. Veteran foreign correspondent Dom Phillips, 57, went missing while researching a book in the Brazilian Amazon's Javari Valley with respected indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, said The Guardian newspaper, where Phillips has been a longtime contributor. The pair had traveled by boat to Jaburu lake, in the northern state of Amazonas near Brazil's border with Peru, and were expected to return to the city of Atalaia do Norte by around 9:00 am Sunday, two rights groups said in a statement. The men had "received threats in the field" last week, said the groups, the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Javari Valley (UNIVAJA) and the Observatory for the Human Rights of Isolated and Recently Contacted Indigenous Peoples (OPI). - APP

President Tokayev's address to the people of Kazakhstan

The referendum was an important milestone in the history of our country, showing the solidarity and readiness of the nation for real change. The high turnout was a testament to maturity and responsibility of our society

DNA

NUR SULTAN: The President of Kazakhstan Kassym Jomart Tokayev addressed the nation on Monday after the holding of referendum. Here is the text of his address "Yesterday a significant historical event took place in our country. Our country has entered a new stage of development. The overwhelming majority of citizens supported the proposed amendments to the Constitution. The referendum was held at a high level. This is confirmed by international and domestic observers. The constitutional reform was discussed with interest in the society. The voting was held in full accordance with the democratic requirements. There was no coercion. The result of the referendum has become a clear symbol of political renewal. Our citizens

showed great responsibility and patriotism. We have demonstrated that we are united in building a new and fair Kazakhstan. The constitutional amendments will radically transform the foundations of our statehood and give new impetus to the development of our society. I am grateful to all our people for their support and active participation in the referendum. I would also like to thank the citizens and numerous public organizations that participated in explaining the amendments to the Constitution. The referendum was an important milestone in the history of our country, showing the solidarity and readiness of the nation for real change. The high turnout was a testament to the maturity and responsibility of our society. I thank all those who came to the polls and supported the changes that have been initiated in the country.



Demonstrating true patriotism, you have made a significant contribution to the ongoing development of Kazakhstan. I am grateful to all my fellow citizens who exercised their legal right and expressed their position at this moment of crucial importance for the country. The amendments to the Constitution are not the final stage, but only the beginning of our

reforms. We will continue the comprehensive modernisation of the country. Based on the updated Constitution, we will form a more effective model for the functioning of all government institutions and strengthen the mechanisms of checks and balances between them. Consistent political transformations will contribute to the development of the national econ-

omy and strengthen national entrepreneurship. Now we have to form transparent and fair rules of the game in the economy, to reform legislation. It is important to eradicate all artificial monopolies and put up a solid barrier to corruption. We must support the initiatives of entrepreneurs, fully protect private property and increase competition. We have a lot of work ahead to really diversify the economy. We must take measures to develop high-yield agriculture and a powerful transport and logistics system, and we must create a digital ecosystem everywhere. Labour, knowledge, and civic engagement should become the main drivers of our country's sustainable development. Only in this way can we create a self-sufficient middle class and an efficient economy. This economy will be aimed at a fair distribution of income,

the creation of quality jobs, a steady rise in living standards, and the full self-realisation of all citizens. We will continue systematic work to completely modernise and de-bureaucratised the state apparatus. We must build an advanced state that meets the expectations and demands of the whole society. The effectiveness of the governance system will be determined by the results achieved. Close cooperation with business, non-governmental organisations, and citizens must become a priority in the work of the state apparatus. This will make it possible to make decisions in the interests of the country and raise the quality of services provided to the population. The work of public servants should become as open and truly accountable to citizens as possible. Public service is a special responsibility to its people, not a place for personal enrichment.

Azerbaijan supports steps for Türkiye, Armenia normalization: FM



NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Azerbaijan welcomes the talks between Türkiye and Armenia for the normalization of their ties, the country's foreign minister has said. Jeyhun Bayramov's remarks came in an exclusive interview with Turkish News Agency in the Turkish capital Ankara, which he visited to attend the 30th Anniversary Reception of Diplomatic

Relations with Friendly and Brotherly Countries. "Azerbaijan has expressed at the highest level that it supports the normalization of Türkiye-Armenia relations," Bayramov reiterated. "We evaluate the appointment of special representatives by Türkiye and Armenia, and three meetings they have held so far quite positively," he said. Ankara and Yerevan last December appointed special

representatives, Serdar Kilic and Ruben Rubinyan, for talks on normalizing the ties, with the first meeting held in Moscow on Jan. 14. The second and third meetings were held in Vienna on Feb. 24 and May 3, respectively. Also, a historic bilateral meeting took place between the foreign ministers of Türkiye and Armenia on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum on March 12. As part of the efforts, Anka-

ra and Yerevan have also resumed commercial flights as of Feb. 2 after a two-year hiatus. The two countries have been divided on a range of issues, including Armenia's occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the 1915 events between the Ottoman Empire and Armenians, and the border between the two neighboring countries has been closed since 1993. Azerbaijan favors "establishing normal neighborly relations with Armenia," Bayramov said. "If Armenia takes appropriate steps, respects international law, and understands regional realities correctly, it will be possible to achieve good results." Azerbaijan's top diplomat stressed the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor project amid the energy crisis in Europe in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine. "With the cooperation and potential of Azerbaijan and Türkiye, there are opportunities to transfer additional natural gas to the European market," he said. On the bilateral relations between Baku and Ankara, Bayramov said they are at an "unprecedented level of closeness."

French health officials strike

PARIS: Health professionals at public hospitals and care centers throughout France stopped work on Tuesday in protest against unmet demands on staff recruitment and shortage of resources. Nine health workers organizations joined the strike to raise an alarm about what they say mistreatment of public hospitals and elderly care centers. "COVID-19 has come and gone, as have the promises. And the horizon appears darker than ever," a statement from the unions said. Access to primary care is getting increasingly complicated and the hospital no longer fulfills its role as a public service of last resort due to the closure of emergency services, operating rooms, and delays in health care due to lack of personnel, according to the statement. It added that the situation has exacerbated the existing staff who are "angry and tired as they can no longer fulfill their role of providing proper care to the population despite professional constraints that affect their health and their private lives." Around 3,000 doctors, healthcare workers, nurses, and general staff employees have been suspended from services since last year for their refusal to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Despite staff shortage and claims that reinstating them would resolve the crisis, President Emmanuel Macron last week reaffirmed his refusal to "reintegrate unvaccinated caregivers." In recent years, the shortage of health professionals has become extreme in France leading to the closure of around 20% of beds in over 100 hospitals and emergency services in nearly 80 hospitals. Last year, 1,300 nursing students recruited during the pandemic resigned due to fatigue and exhaustion. The professionals have demanded "real measures that guarantee access, proximity and optimal care in terms of quality and safety of care for everyone everywhere." These include immediate recruitment of personnel such as stretcher-bearers, couriers, workers, logisticians, and secretaries such that caregivers can focus on their jobs, multi-disciplinary training, increase in the general salary, and stopping all the closures of establishments, services, and beds, and reopen beds. - DNA

Pak exports to China rise 55% in May

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to China in May 2022 have increased by 55% to reach US\$228.92 million as compared to the corresponding month of the previous when it was recorded US\$147.43 million in May 2021, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday quoting Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP)'s latest monthly report. However, when the exports are compared to April 2022's exports, they are slightly decreased by US\$6.39 million. In April 2022, Pakistan's exports to China were US\$235.21 million.



COPENHAGEN: Pakistan ambassador to Denmark Ahmad Farooq hosted a dinner at his residence for the delegation of National Defence University on its foreign study tour to Denmark on invitation of Royal Danish Defence College. - DNA

50 MW IPP's plant likely to be installed in Gwadar Port

Chairman COPHC Zhang Baozhong said "We cannot develop until enough electricity is available. At COPHC, we produce electricity by generators which is very expensive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After a new hike in petrol prices, a proposal to install a 50 MW Independent Power Producer (IPP)'s plant in collaboration with Chinese power producers in Gwadar is going to be floated in a crucial meeting, which is likely to be held this week in Islamabad between the government and Chinese companies in Gwadar. According to Gwadar Pro, Gwadar electricity shortage that remained atop during PM's visit to Gwadar has finally been listed as the utmost priority among other challenges to be pondered during the course of Gwadar-centric meeting, sources from Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform revealed. Long- and short-term proposals from the PM's side and from China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), which will also represent other Chinese enterprises, have been laid down and the meeting will green-

light prompt courses of actions to fix electricity issues, sources said. For long, Chinese companies have been overrelied by overpriced power production by 8.5 MW generators in Gwadar Free Zone against the backdrop of non-availability of power supply from government. Now on the heels of inflated petrol prices, the cost of electricity has gone up to the roof, putting extreme burden on corporate finance. "Before petrol price surged, Gwadar Port used to purchase petrol at a cost of Rs. 20.3 million monthly. Chinese companies in Gwadar Free Zone were charged Rs. 49 per unit accordingly, which was very high. In a new scenario, when Rs. 60 has been increased in petrol price, the monthly purchase cost for Gwadar companies has soared to Rs. 25.5 million. It is more than 25 percent rise," a COPHC official said. COPHC has proposed that if the government allows relevant terms and conditions conferred to IPPs, COPHC in collaboration

with Chinese power producers can generate 50 MW sufficiently. "Chinese IPPs' power cost will be more affordable. This will not only be a shot in the arms of the already functional enterprises but will also embolden new investors to operate in Gwadar Free Zone with a peaceful mind," he added. Currently, in Gwadar free zone, around 51 companies have been registered. Around 10 companies including CBC, H.K. Sons, Agvon, Linyi Trade City, China Ecological Company, China Harbor Engineering Company, Hengmei, Jintai and others are up and running their functions. Chairman COPHC Zhang Baozhong said "We cannot develop until enough electricity is available. At COPHC, we produce electricity by generators which is very expensive. Chinese investors are keen to shift their industries from China to Pakistan. Areas of investment are very diverse and include but not limited to refinery, assembly, petrochemical, and textile. However, with-

out power, the shift might not be possible," he said. "There are strong intentions from Chinese investors to invest \$5 million to set up an oil refinery in Gwadar. Once the plan is materialized, job opportunities can be offered to the locals in addition to booming business activities," he added. From the government side, there are many overtures to fix energy crisis in Gwadar. The government plans to import 70-to-100-megawatt Iranian electricity to power up Gwadar Port. The average supply from Iran hovers around 40-70 MW. The 300 MW coal-fired power plant under-construction in Gwadar will be completed by 2023. Another option is to lay down a transmission line of 220 KV from the national grid to Gwadar. Gwadar Port is poised to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan in addition to opening multiple avenues for foreign direct investment. In this regard, Gwadar holds pivotal importance. The development of Gwadar is sine qua non for Pakistan's development.

Eastbay Expressway to harness Gwadar's role

DNA

BEIJING: "When open to traffic, the Eastbay Expressway will connect the Gwadar Port and Pakistan's national highways. It will expand transportation between Gwadar and other places in Pakistan and even other regional countries, further harness the Gwadar Port's role as an international logistics hub and boost socio-economic development of the Gwadar Port region", said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian at a regular press conference, according to Gwadar Pro. Zhao shared that when he was posted in Pakistan, he visited the Gwadar Port seven times and attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Eastbay Expressway. "I'm happy about the project's completion", he said, "China will continue to work with Pakistan in the development and operation of CPEC projects including the Gwadar Port, and inject strong impetus into Pakistan's economic development, improvement of people's livelihood and regional economic integration, for the betterment of the local people and beyond". The Eastbay Expressway of the Gwadar Port is a \$153 million early harvest project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and a key transportation infrastructure project promoting regional connectivity.

Mexico snub throws Americas' summit into disarray

LOS ANGELES: President Joe Biden's plan to reboot US engagement with Latin America - especially on critical topics like migration - took a hit after key partner Mexico snubbed a regional summit opening Monday in Los Angeles to protest Washington's exclusion of three far-left countries. What was meant to be a week-long showcase of cooperation risks becoming a display of division, underlining diminishing US clout over a region where Washington's long-time economic and diplomatic influence faces a growing Chinese challenge. A senior White House official confirmed that Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela were barred from the Summit of the Americas due to "lack of democratic space and the human rights situations." In response, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he too would stay away. "You cannot have a Summit of the Americas if you do not have all the countries of the Americas attending," Lopez Obrador announced, complaining of US "hegemony" and "lack of respect for nations."

Syria intercepts Israeli missiles: state media

DAMASCUS: Syrian air defence intercepted Israeli missiles south of Damascus on Monday, with no casualties reported, a military source told Syria's official news agency SANA. "The Israeli enemy carried out an airstrike from the occupied Syrian Golan, targeting points south of Damascus," with Syria's air defence intercepting most of the missiles, SANA quoted the military source as saying. "The losses were limited to material damage." An AFP correspondent in the capital Damascus heard loud noises in the evening. Last month, Israeli surface-to-surface missiles killed at least three Syrian officers near Damascus, according to war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Israeli strikes had targeted Iranian positions and weapon depots near Damascus, the monitor said. Since civil war broke out in Syria in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes against its neighbour, targeting government troops as well as allied Iranian-backed forces and fighters of Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah. While Israel rarely comments on individual strikes, it has acknowledged carrying out hundreds of them. - APP

Briefs

UK's wounded Johnson fights on despite Tory revolt

LONDON: Britain's embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed on Tuesday to plough on with policy priorities including the economy and Ukraine, but was urged by a Conservative predecessor to quit and save the nation from further "agonies". Addressing his cabinet a day after narrowly fending off a no-confidence vote from his own Conservative MPs, Johnson said: "We're able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about." But most critics and commentators disagreed, with many characterising the margin of his win - 211 votes to 148 - as a "Pyrrhic" victory that left the Tory leader drained of much authority. Johnson's former employers at the Daily Telegraph branded it "a hollow victory that tears Tories apart". "Party's over, Boris," headlined the Daily Mirror, in a nod to a series of lockdown-busting parties held in Downing Street, which saw Johnson fined by police and drew outrage from voters. The prime minister's team tried to regain the offensive by pointing to a setpiece speech expected in the coming days on new economic support measures, as Britons struggle with a cost-of-living crisis. - APP

Rupee plummets to all time low of 204 against USD

DNA
KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee on Tuesday made a historical drop of Rs4.00 in a single day and surpassed Rs204 against the US dollar for the first time ever in the inter-bank market. It was available for sale at Rs204 at around 1:40pm in the market on Tuesday, after closing at Rs200.06 against the greenback on Monday, according to the central bank. This was the third consecutive workday free-fall of the rupee. The Pakistani currency has faced renewed pressure after foreign currency inflows from overseas Pakistanis through their Roshan Digital Account (RDA) dived to a 15-month low at \$189 million in May 2022. Data compiled by Ismail Iqbal Securities from State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reports suggests that overseas Pakistanis' investment into Naya Pakistan saving certificates through RDA plunged to a 21-month low at \$13 million in May. The inflows through RDAs - which stood at a strong \$290 million in March which was the last month of the PTI government - continued to drop for the second consecutive month in May. Former prime minister Imran Khan, in collaboration with the central bank, introduced RDA for overseas Pakistanis in September 2020 in an effort to stabilize the country's foreign exchange reserves.

China lauds successful Kazakh referendum

President Tokayev expressed confidence that the reciprocal state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Kazakhstan scheduled for autumn 2022 will give a new powerful impetus to the development of Kazakh-Chinese relations

NEWS DESK

NUR-SULTAN: Kassym-Jomart Tokayev received State Councilor, Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi of China, who arrived in Kazakhstan on an official visit, Kazinform cites the press service of Akorda. During the conversation, they discussed the state and prospects of development of the Kazakh-Chinese long-term comprehensive strategic partnership, as well as cooperation within international and regional organizations. Highly praising the level of strategic partnership achieved over 30 years, the Head of State stressed the continued interest in deepening bilateral comprehensive cooperation between Kazakhstan and China. President Tokayev expressed confidence that the reciprocal state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Kazakhstan scheduled for autumn 2022 will give a new powerful impetus to the development of Kazakh-Chinese relations. This year marks a very important and significant event - the



30th anniversary of the establishment of Kazakh-Chinese diplomatic relations, as well as the anniversary of the 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. I hope that the upcoming high-level talks will open a bright new page in the annals of our

strategic partnership, the President noted. The Head of State stressed that Kazakhstan supports President Xi Jinping's initiatives in the sphere of global security and development. Their implementation will mitigate the acute shortage of security and trust in

international relations and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Wang Yi conveyed to President Tokayev the words of greetings and congratulations of Chinese President Xi on the successful holding of the nationwide referendum. The results of the referendum indicate that the measures taken under your leadership to comprehensively modernize the state enjoy the broad support of citizens. This is extremely important for the construction of a New Kazakhstan and creates a solid foundation for the future development of the country, the member of the State Councilor said. Chinese Foreign Minister noted that the bilateral relations between China and Kazakhstan demonstrate great vitality thanks to the two countries' wise leadership. President Xi Jinping greatly values personal friendship and trusting relations with you. The initiative to build a New Kazakhstan demonstrates your wisdom and determination. We fully support you and wish you successful implementation of the task, Wang Yi said.

Pakistan HC issues visas to Sikh pilgrims

"Pakistan takes immense pride in preserving sacred religious places and providing necessary facilitation to the visiting pilgrims"

DNA

NEW DELHI: Pakistan High Commission, on the eve of Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjun Dev Jee, on Tuesday issued 163 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the annual festival to be held in Pakistan from 8-17 June 2022. The issuance of visas was covered under the framework of the Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974. Every year, a large number of Sikh Yatees from India visit Pakistan to observe various religious festivals/occasions. The visas issued from New Delhi were in addition to the visas granted to Sikh pilgrims participating in these events from other countries, a press release issued here by Pakistan High Commission said. The issuance of pilgrimage visas to religious pilgrims by the High Commission was in line with the Government of Pakistan's commitment to fully implement the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines between the two countries. Expressing his views on the auspicious occasion, Charge d' Affaires Aftab Hasan Khan extended his heartfelt felicitations to the pilgrims and wished them a rewarding and fulfilling yatra. "Pakistan takes immense pride in preserving sacred religious places and providing necessary facilitation to the visiting pilgrims," he added. During the visit, the pilgrims would, inter alia, go to Panja Sahib, Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib. They would enter Pakistan on 8 June and return back to India on 17 June 2022.

UNIDO, PAFaid celebrate the World Food Safety Day

SHAMIM SHAHID

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) together with all its public and private partners under the Project for Agri-Food and Agro-Industry Development assistance in Pakistan (PAFAID) celebrated World Food Safety Day to encourage healthy food practices to increase the sustainable production and consumption of safe foods to improve health outcomes. The United Nations General Assembly established World Food Safety Day in 2018 to raise awareness of this important issue. WHO announced the theme for this year's World Food Safety



Day, "Safer food, better health". UNIDO joins the World Food Safety Day campaign to ensure safe food for all. The celebration took place as a part of the PAFaid's specialized training on the Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) in Islamabad. UNIDO's Country Representative Ms. Nadia Aftab, representatives of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNSFR), public and private partners from the KP province including KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPFSHA), Directorate of Livestock Research & Development KP (LDD) and Local Council Board (LCB) were part of the event. Opening the World Food Safety Day celebration, Ms. Nadia Aftab, UNIDO Country Representative, said "Food produc-

ers need to adopt good practices and must make sure that the food is safe. Improved food safety contributes to food security and lowers malnutrition, which ultimately reduces the burden on public health infrastructure". She also appreciated the Government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for funding PAFaid, and the MNSFR, the public and private counterparts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces for their continuous support for the effective implementation of PAFaid and ensuring food security in the country. Ms. Ritsuko Hagiwara, Representative JICA, stressed on the importance of food safety, and further appreciated both the public and private stakeholders on raising awareness on world food safety day.

Heavy monsoon rains to lash country by month-end

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Met Office on Tuesday predicted above average rainfall for most parts of the country, particularly for Sindh and Punjab, this monsoon season. The department said that heavy rains, which would start in the last week of June, would result in increase in water levels in different reservoirs of the country. It further predicted that pre-monsoon rains would begin in the second week of June. The first active spell of rains would start on July 1 and last till August 15, the department forecasted. "Similarly, the weather will also remain wet from mid-August till September-end," it added. The Met Office warned of flash flooding in

mountainous areas of the country while urban flooding in Sindh, Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). On the other hand, Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz chaired a high-level meeting in Lahore to review the arrangements made in view of the upcoming rainy season. He directed the concerned officials to ensure completion of the underground water tank at the earliest. The meeting also discussed the proposal of getting electricity poles painted with rubber in order to prevent incidents of electrocution. CM Hamza directed the concerned departments to complete arrangements for the evacuation of people from the low-lying areas of Muzafargarh, Layyah and Mianwali in view of heavy rains expected in these districts.

Syria intercepts Israeli missiles: state media

DAMASCUS: Syrian air defence intercepted Israeli missiles south of Damascus on Monday, with no casualties reported, a military source told Syria's official news agency SANA. "The Israeli enemy carried out an airstrike from the occupied Syrian Golan, targeting points south of Damascus," with Syria's air defence intercepting most of the missiles, SANA quoted the military source as saying. "The losses were limited to material damage." An AFP correspondent in the capital Damascus heard loud noises in the evening. Last month, Israeli surface-to-surface missiles killed at least three Syrian officers near Damascus, according to war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Israeli strikes had targeted Iranian positions and weapon depots near Damascus, the monitor said. Since civil war broke out in Syria in 2011, Israel has carried out hundreds of air strikes against its neighbour, targeting government troops as well as allied Iran-backed forces and fighters of Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah. While Israel rarely comments on individual strikes, it has acknowledged carrying out hundreds of them. - APP

UN warns of looming widespread food crisis

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Tuesday issued a stark warning of multiple, looming food crises across the globe, and called for urgent humanitarian action in 20 'hunger hot-spots' where acute hunger is expected to worsen. Two UN agencies - the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) - said the food crisis was the result of conflict, weather extremes, economic shocks and the lingering impacts of coronavirus pandemic. "We are deeply concerned about the combined impacts of overlapping crises jeopardizing people's ability to produce and access foods, pushing millions more into extreme levels of acute food insecurity," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said in a statement. "We are in a race against time to help farmers in the most affected countries, including by rapidly increasing

potential food production and boosting their resilience in the face of challenges," he said. Alongside conflict, the report finds that frequent and recurring climate shocks continue to drive acute hunger and shows that we have entered a 'new normal' where droughts, flooding, hurricanes, and cyclones repeatedly decimate farming and livestock rearing, drive population displacement and push millions to the brink in countries across the world. "We're facing a perfect storm that is not just going to hurt the poorest of the poor - it's also going to overwhelm millions of families who until now have just about kept their heads above water," warned WFP Executive Director David Beasley. "Conditions now are much worse than during the Arab Spring in 2011 and 2007-2008 food price crisis, when 48 countries were rocked by political unrest, riots and protests. We've already seen what's happening in Indonesia, Pakistan, Peru, and

Sri Lanka - that's just the tip of the iceberg. We have solutions. But we need to act, and act fast," he warned. According to the report, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen remain at 'highest alert' as hotspots with catastrophic conditions, and Afghanistan and Somalia are new entries to this worrisome category since the last hotspots report, released in January. These six countries all have parts of the population facing IPC (Integrated Phase Classification) phase 5 'Catastrophe' levels, at risk of deterioration towards catastrophic conditions, with up to 750,000 people facing starvation and death. And 400,000 are in Ethiopia's war-torn Tigray region - the highest number on record in a single country, since the famine in Somalia in 2011. Meanwhile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, the Sahel, Sudan and Syria are of 'very high concern', as in the previous edition of this report - with Kenya now added to the list.

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