



Tuesday, July 05, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

We are united by one great goal, says President Mirziyoyev

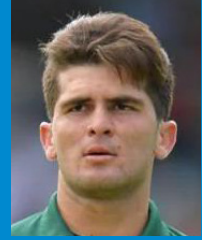
Detailed News On Page-07

Iran supports peaceful deal of Karabakh

Detailed News On Page-07


Shaheen joins KP police as goodwill envoy

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

PM Shahbaz Felicitates the USA

APP

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated the United States on its Independence Day and said the government looked forward to promoting bilateral relations. "The government looks forward to engaging with the Biden administration at all levels to promote our bilateral relations including trade and investment," he said in a tweet. The prime minister said, "It is my pleasure to extend the heartiest felicitations and greetings to the people and the government of the United States on their Independence Day".

Imran to lead by-polls campaign

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has decided to lead the by-election campaign of his party by himself in Punjab from Thursday. PTI on Monday has issued election campaign rallies schedule of PTI chairman Imran Khan ahead of Punjab by-elections. It is pertinent to mention that by-elections for 20 vacant seats will be held on July 17. According to the issued schedule, on July 7 Imran Khan will address in PP-158 Lahore, PP-140 Sheikhupura while on July 8, he will address public gatherings in PP-83 Khushab and PP-7 Rawalpindi.

Saudi Ambassador visits Swat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Al-Maliki visited Swat, where he had a special meeting with twin sisters Fatima and Mashaal, whose bodies were separated after surgery with the support of the Saudi embassy. The twin sisters underwent surgery in 2016, and the father of the two girls thanked the Saudi government and leadership for taking care of them, said the spokesperson of the Saudi Arabia Embassy.

Miftah says

No delay in IMF program

– Says there had been some tweets about IMF program being postponed due to some anti-corruption law

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail said here on Monday that Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was on track. The minister said that there had been some tweets and stories about IMF program being postponed or delayed due to some anti-corruption law. He said, there was no truth in this and the program was on track. "I have been reading with some amusement all the tweets and stories about IMF program being postponed or delayed due to some anti-corruption law. There is no truth to it. The IMF program is on track," he tweeted. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan received Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) in the last week of June from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for combined 7th and 8th reviews under Extended Fund Facility (EFF). In May 2019, Pakistan and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement on economic policies for a three-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Under the agreement, Pakistan was to receive about \$6 billion for a period of 39 months, and so far it has received almost half of it.

Punjab: Free electricity for up to 100 units usage

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Monday announced that the provincial government will bear the power cost of households that consume up to 100 units of electricity in a month. Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the chief minister said that the Punjab government will bear the utility expenses of consumers who use up to 100 units of electricity. The government has set aside Rs100 billion for the relief programme which will benefit nine million households. "This will act as an incentive for those who use more than 100 units of electricity to save energy," said Hamza. The chief minister also said that the government will provide solar panels to the people in need so they can shift to alternate sources of electricity.

Continued on Page 06

Expatriates voting rights' revocation: Imran moves SC

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Monday approached the Supreme Court against the amendments in election laws revoking voting rights of overseas Pakistanis through internet voting. On June 9, Parliament's joint session passed the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2022, and National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2022 – depriving overseas Pakistanis of voting rights through i-voting, abolishing the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs), and making changes to NAB chairman's appointment procedures. The PTI had already challenged the amendments made to the NAB laws and today, it has sought the apex court's intervention to reverse the amendments made to the election laws.

Continued on Page 06

IHC warns of summoning PM

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The non-recovery of missing persons despite judicial orders on Monday drew the ire of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah, who warned of summoning the prime minister for an explanation if the authorities still fail to implement the orders. "It is a fact that nobody is doing anything [about it]," Justice Minallah remarked during the hearing of identical petitions seeking the recovery of missing persons. When asked how many people are missing, the deputy attorney general, while citing a report, apprised the court that out of 8,400 people, 600 citizens are still missing. "Many people are playing a double role in the case; they are playing from both sides," he added.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kystafin presenting a book to Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb. – DNA

Kazakh envoy meets Info Minister

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kystafin met with the Federal Minister of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan Marriyum Aurangzeb. During the meeting, issues of the bilateral agenda and plans for the near future to establish and develop co-operation between media representatives of the two countries were discussed. As a result of the negotiations, an agreement was reached to strengthen the interaction between the media communities of Kazakhstan and Pakistan.

Positivity rate at 4.6%

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: With Eidul Azha just a few days away, Pakistan on Monday recorded 675 fresh coronavirus cases as the national positivity rate reached 4.61 per cent. Official data from the National Institute of Health (NIH) showed that two people succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours. A total of 14,632 tests were conducted in this time period, while 153 patients were under critical care. In a media briefing today, federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel noted that the government was concerned over the increase in the hospitalisation and positivity rate over the last few days. "Our average deaths are between 1.5pc, while the average number of patients on ventilators is five." He said that most of the infections were of the new Omicron sub-variant BA.5 – which spreads at a faster rate.

'Bushra Bibi behind the anti-state campaigns'

Info Minister says the PTI leaders' news conference is in fact a confession

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said malicious campaign run by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against the state institutions was a brainchild of Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi. Fawad Chaudhry and Dr Shireen Mazari had confessed that Bushra Bibi was spearheading the campaign against the state institutions by peddling fake narrative on the social media, the minister said while responding to the PTI leaders' news conference held earlier in the day. She said the PTI leaders' news conference was in fact a confession that Bushra Bibi was not only behind the venomous campaign against the institutions, but also coined the idea of awarding certificates of sedition to political opponents. Marriyum said both the PTI leaders did not only confirm that the (viral) audiotape was of Bushra Bibi, but

Continued on Page 06

PTI warns against leaking Khan's calls

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Dr. Shireen Mazari came down hard on the imported government for baseless propaganda being hatched against PTI Chairman Imran Khan's wife and warned that if Imran Khan's phone calls with Azam Khan were leaked, they would not sit quietly. Addressing a press conference along with PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry here on Monday, she said that if such audio was leaked, it would be a violation of

Continued on Page 06

India likely to shift G20 summit from Srinagar

NEWS DESK / DNA

SRINAGAR: In view of objection raised by some G-20 countries as a result of diplomatic efforts by Pakistan, the venue of the G-20 summit is likely to be shifted from previously announced Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to New Delhi in India. Though the Modi government has not yet confirmed the development, reports in the Indian media suggest the key infrastructure is being built in Delhi's Pragati Maidan. The announcement by the Modi government to host the event in disputed Jammu and Kashmir triggered diplomatic tensions as some important G-20 countries including China not supported

the idea. "India is expected to host the G-20 summit in Delhi, while a number of states have been asked to suggest venues for about 100 "preparatory" meetings expected to be held between December 2022 and November 2023 during India's G-20 presidency," Chennai based newspaper, The Hindu quoted officials saying. "Construction for conference halls, and new hotels to house the 20 heads of state and thousands of officials and delegates is already underway, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a nearly Rs 1,000-crore Integrated Transit Corridor Project this month to connect the Pragati Maidan headquarters to other key locations."

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

Govt must provide gas, electricity at competitive rates
– Page 02

Sanjrani for addressing Baloch students' woes
– Page 03

French embassy hosts participants of Francophonie competition
– Page 04

The role of the West in the plight of India's Muslims
– Page 05

Babar optimistic about team's good show against Sri Lanka
– Page 06

Iran supports peaceful deal of Karabakh conflict: Abdollahian
– Page 07

Ukrainians take up new positions in Luhansk
– Page 08

Israeli shot likely killed Palestinian journalist: US

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The US State Department has said that independent investigators could "not reach a definitive conclusion" regarding the origin of the bullet that killed Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, but said Israeli military gunfire was "likely responsible" for her death. "Ballistic experts determined the bullet was badly damaged, which prevented a clear conclusion," according to a statement on Monday. The US Security Coordinator, by summarising investigations by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, also said on Monday that the detailed forensic analysis showed no reason to believe that the shooting was intentional. Abu Akleh was shot in the head on May 11 while covering an Israeli army raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, despite wearing a flak jacket and helmet clearly marked "PRESS". Palestinian officials, international rights groups and media outlets, carried out independent investigations that concluded that

Abu Akleh was killed by the Israeli military. The United Nations human rights office last month said that information it had gathered showed that the bullet that killed Abu Akleh was fired by Israeli forces. Several eyewitnesses said Israeli forces killed the Jerusalem-born Abu Akleh. A senior Palestinian official accused the United States of protecting Israel after the forensic examination failed to reach a firm conclusion on the origin of the bullet that killed Abu Akleh. "The truth is clear but the US administration continues to stall in announcing it," Wasel Abu Youssef, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told news agency. "We say Israel killed Shireen Abu Akleh and it has to be held responsible for the crime it has committed." Al Jazeera's Mike Hanna, reporting from Washington, DC, said that the State Department's statement on the shooting likely being unintentional "is a key issue" that will be widely questioned.

Continued on Page 06

JULY 2022

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pkwww.dnanews.com.plwww.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Govt must provide gas, electricity at competitive rates

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Government must provide electricity and gas at regionally competitive rates in addition to restoring the facility of zero rating to save the industrial sector from total collapse, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Participating in a private TV channel program, he said that 1.2 million workers are directly linked with the textile sector while 65% industries have been closed down due to the recent wave of inflation and measures taken by the government. "Running industrial units with a three-time high cost of fuel is actually impossible", he said and added that the remaining 35% industries are working

only due to the sympathetic attitude of its owners as they did not want to render their workers jobless. He said that if this workforce came on the roads, it would be a new problem for the government. He said that during Corona, when the industrial sector throughout the world was closed, our industry continued to work under the strategy of smart lockdown. "As a result of this policy our exporters received billions of orders which were meant for China, Vietnam, Bangladesh and India", he said and added that during this period our industries were working with hundred percent capacity and many units had placed orders for new machinery to expand or upgrade their units. He said that the amount of imported machinery is 400 billion dollars and 70% machinery has already landed in Pakistan but our industrialists are now

in a quandary due to the uncertain economic conditions prevailing in Pakistan. He said that we were expecting that the import substitution industry would grow due to the ban of various luxury items and rise in freight charges but this dream is not being materialized. Responding to a question about inflation, he clarified that subsidies provided for the industrial sector fall under the preview of development and it could not be considered a burden on the national kitty. He said that the industrial sector was getting electricity and gas at subsidized rates for the last three- and half-year despite the corona. He said that the business community has no affiliation with any political party as their interests are directly linked with the industry, business and trade.



LAHORE: Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed met with Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and discuss the growing economic ties between US-Pak. – DNA

Sacrificial animals shopping underway

PESHAWAR: As nearly a week left in Eidul Azha celebrations, the trade of sacrificial animals has picked up momentum in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where oxen, buffaloes, goats, sheep and camels are pouring in from Punjab the by inter-provincial traders to earn maximum profit. The old and newly established cattle markets in Peshawar including Lala Kaly Tarnab, Ring Road, Charsadda Road, Hayatabad and Hazarkhwaani are flooded with cattle these days where trade activities have gained pace. "I have brought 10 trucks of cattle from Punjab to lucrative market of Peshawar where all stock are sold on Sunday last," said cattle trader, Musa Khan while talking to APP at Pabbi cattle market. He said prices of sacrificial animals were sky high this year compare to last year especially of oxen, goat and sheep. – APP

CJ PHC inaugurates Tehsil Judicial Complex Havelian

ABBOTTABAD: Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Qaisar Rasheed Khan Monday inaugurated newly constructed Judicial Complex and Bar Club with the cost of Rs.149 million in Tehsil Havelian. On his arrival, Executive Engineer C&W gave a detailed briefing to the Chief Justice and the guests about the project. He was told that the estimated cost of the project was 149.935 million while its BID COST was 110.780 million, and technical sanction was 149.35 million. It was learned that the total area of the complex was 25 Kanals and 12 Marlas with 15588 Sq Ft covered area. The complex housed 04 Court Rooms, Offices, a Bar Room, public lavatories, a waiting area for males and females and 01 residence for Judicial officers. The project work commenced on 25.04.2017 and was completed on June 2022. However, the keen interest and personal efforts of the incumbent Chief Justice in the project resulted in accelerating the speed of work and thus paved the way for its early completion. District and Session Judge (DSJ) Abbottabad, in his welcome address, thanked the honorable Chief Justice for gracing the

occasion with his presence. The Presidents High Court Bar Association (HCBA), District Bar Association (DBA) and Tehsil Bar Association (TBA) also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Justice for prioritizing the urgency to make the Tehsil Judicial Complex Havelian functional in view of their pressing needs and ensuring its completion without further delay. They also thanked the Chief Justice for making himself available on this memorable occasion. The Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court urged while inaugurating the Tehsil Judicial Complex, that the need for a Tehsil Judicial complex with sufficient and secure accommodation to house Courts and allied offices as also to facilitate the public. The inauguration ceremony was held on the premises of Tehsil Judicial Complex, Havelian and was attended by Judges of the PHC Abbottabad Bench, District & Sessions Judges from Hazara, Officers of the District Administration, office bearers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council, High Court Bar Association, District Bar Association, Tehsil Bar Association, lawyers and media persons. – APP

Mahmood Khan resents discontinuation of Sehat sahumat

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan expressing his grave concern over the discontinuation of funds for Sehat Card Scheme of Newly Merged Districts has recorded an agitation with the federal government and wrote a formal letter to federal health minister to this end. In the letter, the chief minister said that discontinuation of PSDP funded Sehat Sahulat Program in all Newly Merged Districts will be a clear disregard to the suffering and sacrifices of the people they have been through for the safety and security of the country adding that this step of federal government will be a deviation by the federal government from a vowed commit-

ment of the universal health coverage. "This singular step couples with low allocation in the federal budget has the potential of significantly increasing the sense of deprivation and alienation of the masses of NMDs," the letter reads. It further reads that the incumbent federal government was representing the facts regarding closure of funds for Sehat Card Scheme out of context adding that the summary approved by the then Prime Minister regarding shifting of sehat card scheme to the provincial government, there was clear mention of arrangements of funds for the sehat card scheme from the PSDP. It said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan did not approve the transfer of sehat sahumat program without funding. The chief minister, in his letter has pointed out that instead of making arrangement for the funding of

Sehat Sahulat Program for tribal people, the federal government has unilaterally decided to stop health services to over five million citizens of Ex-FATA. "The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa did not receive its due share for the NMDs from the divisible pool under NFC. The provincial government has already communicated to the federal government that this year's current budget allocation for Ex-FATA has been slashed from Rs. 85 billion to Rs. 60 billion which is at least Rs. 25 billion shorts of the actual expected expenditure during the year 2022-23. The federal government has obligation to finance this deficits," letter reads. The chief minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has demanded of the federal government to revisit its decision of closure of funds for Sehat card scheme of newly merged districts.



SWAT: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Al-Maliki visited Swat, where he had a special meeting with twin sisters Fatima and Mashaal, whose bodies were separated after surgery with the support of the Saudi embassy. – DNA

IGP for e-services integration

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan on Monday said that all mobile applications designed for the convenience of people should be integrated under modern policing. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting on IT reforms in the Punjab Police, held at Central Police Office here. The meeting reviewed police IT projects, their upgradation and other issues related to modern policing. The IGP said that e-services of Punjab

police should be made more convenient and user friendly so that citizens could benefit from these advanced services, he added. The IGP said that following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of police station record management system, the working of police stations should be further improved. He ordered for compilation of digital records of crimes related to old enmities and said that the progress of the investigation into the deaths in old enemies and their progress should

be collected under a new feature, he added. Rao Sardar Ali Khan said that the process of checking vehicles and passengers at the checkpoints through e-police post software should be made more effective so that criminals could not escape the law. He said that hotels, inns and residences in all major cities including Lahore should be connected to hotel eye software and no citizen should be allowed to stay in hotels without being checked by hotel software, he asserted. – APP

Meta's 'Chai Chats' series to foster digital literacy

ISLAMABAD: Meta, in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), has launched an educational series, 'Chai Chats' to create awareness among young Pakistani Facebook users on digital literacy and social cohesion through improved digital experiences. The series features a close-knit group of university friends encountering difficult online situations which they overcome with grace, friendship, and humour to inspire and persuade youth to adopt a positive and responsible online behavior, said a news release issued here on Monday. The program aims to reach millions of young Pakistanis online through the web series, as well as 180 secondary school teachers and over 1,000 secondary school students through local community training, which will also train educators in at-risk communities to handle these topics with at-risk communities. The webisode series 'Chai Chats' is centred on the day-to-day online experiences of five university friends and the way they help each other navigate both their online and offline lives, while their different socio-cultural and behavioral dispositions also come into play.

The characters and their stories are expected to serve as role models by resonating well with the young audiences. Commenting on the initiative, Chairman PTA, Maj. Gen (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa, applauded Meta's efforts. "This initiative will enhance Pakistani youth's ability to make positive, productive and legitimate use of social media platforms for personal and collective well-being. Meta has been at the forefront of promoting digital literacy through improved digital experiences." He further said, "The Government of Pakistan is committed to leveraging digital technology to accelerate socio-economic development nationwide and I hope this initiative will prove to be an important stepping stone in this regard." Also sharing his thoughts, Ruici Tio, Policy Program Manager, APAC-Meta said: "The initiative furthers Meta's long-term commitment to fostering digital literacy in Pakistan and supporting all users to harness the benefits of technological innovation for their growth and socioeconomic advancement." H said that this series aims to engage young Pakistanis in the important discourse of being re-

sponsible digital citizens through creative messages to ultimately enable them to use social media platforms for learning and growth. "We are especially grateful to PTA for partnering with us on this important initiative." He further said, there will be six weekly episodes, with two focusing on each key area, including 'Think before you act', 'Women's experience online', 'Critical Discussions', and 'Empathy'. Each episode addresses real problems that people face online every day and are expected to highlight useful ways to overcome difficult online situations. The series will be available at (<https://www.facebook.com/chaichatspk/>) The Chai Chats program is also collaborating on a teachers' training program on digital literacy and empowered behaviours in partnership with Meta's program partner, Shaor Foundation, he added. Under Shaor's School Program, he said, that the curriculum will include Facebook's existing 'We Think Digital' modules and Chai Chats Webisodes. The training will take place in six districts across Pakistan, including Rajanpur, Dera Gazi Khan, and Multan in Southern Punjab and Kohat, Swat, and Banu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he added. – APP

BISP to have 5,00,000 more beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministry for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri said that 500,000 more people from Balochistan province will be included in Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) which would cover sixty five to seventy percent of the population. Addressing a presser here, the federal minister announced to establish more BISP Centers in the province and said. "A total of 25 mobile units will be engaged for execution of BISP operations till the time". Shazia Marri said that the present government has increased the budgetary allocations for the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division up to Rs. 372.32 billion which is 43.2 percent more than the previous budget, considering the prevailing situation in the country. She said that BISP has proved as the most successful and strong social protection intervention in the country. The amount of Rs. 364 billion has been allocated for the BISP while Rs. 6 billion will be utilized for the schemes of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. Shazia Marri said that around eight million people are getting



assistance under the Benazir Kafalat and other schemes which would be increased up to nine million this year and ten million till the next year budget. She said that around three million children were getting Benazir Educational Stipends which would be increased up to five million soon while the budgetary allocations have been increased from Rs. 20 billion to Rs. 36 billion. About the Benazir Nashonuma pro-

gram, Shazia Marri revealed that Nashonuma Centers will be established in all districts of the country this year through the increased allocation of Rs. 21 billion to address the issue of issue of malnutrition amongst the children. On Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship program, she said that so far 92,000 scholarships have been granted under the program while 10,000 additional students will be included in the program with increased alloca-

tion amount during this year. The scholarships were granted to those students having family income of less than Rs. 45000 monthly however the income slab for this scholarship is proposed to be increased up to 80,000 rupees keeping in view the inflation and economic woes. The minister said that a dynamic registry of BISP will also be prepared that will update the socio-economic status of the BISP beneficiary-

ies. Criticizing the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led government for the worse economic situation due to the ineffective policies; Shazia Marri said the coalition government is striving to bring the country out of economic crisis. The former Prime Minister, Imran Khan did nothing for the masses and this country during his four years tenure and is unable to utter a sin-

gle word about the performance of his government and the scandals associated with his tenure. She said that the country is passing from a difficult situation and cannot tolerate any anarchy like situation, "Imran Khan is dragging the country into controversies however the Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif is working hard to put the country on right track". – APP

Islamabad POST Available in following cities

ISLAMABAD
Qamar News Agency
03105460372

RAWALPINDI
Asim News Agency
03435802610

KARACHI
Nazir Siyal
03337554016

PESHAWAR
Zarbagh News Agency
03005412069

FAISALABAD
Ishfaq Mughal
03007689850

GUJRAT
M. Yousuf Bhutta
03338436820

JHELUM
Iqrah News Agency
03005412069

KHARIAN
Ijaz News Agency
03068863870

LALAMUSA
Gulzar Ahmed Noshi
03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR
0300 5428178

Government of Pakistan
Pakistan Ordnance Factories Wah Cantt
INVITATION TO BID

- POF-Clothing Factory invites sealed bids from the original manufacturers / authorized dealers / Suppliers registered with income tax and sales tax Department for **supply of Cloth (03 items)** against T.E No. 009-LP-52-Pur-Clo, dated 28-06-2022.
- Bidding documents containing item wise detail, specifications and all other terms & conditions are available for the interested bidders at the office of the undersigned OR can also be downloaded from POF website (www.pof.gov.pk) free of cost.
- The bids completed in all respects, must reach Bid Center near Rabita Hall, POFs Wah Cantt on or before **21-07-2022** but not later than closing time 1230 hrs. The Tender will be opened at 1300 hrs on the same date.

General Manager - Clothing Factory
Tel: 051-9055-22059-60, Fax: 051-9271400
Email: gmclotting@pof.gov.pk

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JULY	
July 01 / Japan	Self Defence Day
July 01 / Singapore	Armed Forces Day
July 01 / Canada	National Day
July 01 / Somalia	Independence Day
July 04 / USA	Independence Day
July 05 / Algeria	Independence Day
July 09 / Argentine	Independence Day
July 09 / Mongolia	Revolution Day
July 14 / France	National Day
July 15 / Brunei	Sultan's Birthday
July 21 / Belgium	National Day
July 20 / TRNC	Independence Day
July 23 / Egypt	National Day
July 26 / Cuba	National Day
July 26 / Liberia	National Day
July 30 / Morocco	National Day



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
 Marriott.....051- 2862121
 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

Edhi Ambulance.....115
 PIA Flight Info.....114
 PIA Cargo.....9280979
 Railway Inquiry.....117
 Railway Exchange9270831-5
 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
 CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
 MH.....561116
 Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
 DHQ.....5556311-4
 RGH.....9290301-7
 Holy Family.....9290322-7
 PIMS.....9261170-79
 Polyclinic.....9218300-09
 Shifa International.4603666



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
 Potohar Town.....9209224
 Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Sanjrani for addressing Baloch students' woes

Secretary Human Rights Afzal Latif briefed the Chairman Senate on the progress made so far. He informed that the ministry was seriously trying to solve the problems of Baloch students and the report of the special commission would be finalized soon



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that students of Balochistan are increasingly participating in educational and creative activities which will have an impact on the overall socio-economic development of the country. "However, it is imperative that the problems of students from remote areas of Balochistan are addressed on priority basis," said Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. Chairman Senate was briefed by Secretary Ministry of Human Rights Afzal Latif on the steps taken to address the problems faced by Baloch students and the work of the specially constituted commission and the progress made in this regard. The Chairman Senate said that the consultative process should be expedited to finalize the report of the commission so that relief could be provided to the Baloch students and their grievances could be addressed. He further said that a special briefing on the whole process would be held after the Eid-ul-Adha holidays. The Chairman Senate stressed that education is a fundamental right and for this it is very important to solve the legitimate issues of the students which prevent them from accessing this fundamental right. Secretary Human Rights Afzal Latif briefed the Chairman Senate on the progress made so far. He informed that the ministry was seriously trying to solve the problems of Baloch students and the report of the special commission would be finalized soon.

Exports surge by 25.51% in FY2022

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country witnessed an increase of 25.51 percent during the fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to PBS data, the exports from the country were recorded at \$31.760 billion during July-June (2021-22) against the exports of \$25.304 billion recorded during July-June (2020-21), showing growth of 25.51 percent. The imports during the year under review also went up by 41.93 percent by growing from \$56.380 billion last year to \$80.019 billion in July-June (2021-22). Based on the data, the trade deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$48.259 billion, showing an increase of 55.29 percent over the deficit of \$31.076 billion recorded during last year, the PBS data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of the country increased by 5.83 percent during June 2022 as compared to the exports of same month of last year. The exports during the month under review were recorded at \$2.887 billion against the exports of \$2.728 billion during the same month of last year. The imports into the country increased from \$21.57 billion in June 2021 to \$7.722 billion in June 2022, showing growth of 21.57 percent. On month-on-month basis, the exports from the country increased by 5.83 percent during June 2022 as compared to the exports of \$2.728 billion recorded during May 2022. On the other hand, the imports into the country during June 2022 witnessed increase of 21.57 percent as compared to the imports of \$6.352 billion in May 2022, according to the PBS data. - APP

ICT police introduces Pukaar-15

ISLAMABAD" Islamabad police have merged all police emergency services at Safe City and introduced a new helpline with the name of "Pukaar-15" for prompt action in case of any mishap and provision of police report to the complainant on the spot. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has said that the vision of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has been implemented on the special orders of Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan. The IGP said that an Eagle Squad of 1,000 police personnel has also been added to it, which will act as a first responder. The basic purpose of the Pukaar-15 is to facilitate the citizens are at their doorstep. - DNA

ICCI hails Govt for suspending market closure policy



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has hailed the announcement of federal government to suspend the market closure policy keeping in view the upcoming Eid ul Azha and termed it a very positive and business-friendly decision that would facilitate the people to do Eid shopping with ease and help the traders to boost the business activities. He said this while addressing a meeting of the business community at ICCI. Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ashfaq Chatha, Faad Farid, Asher Hafeez, Zia Khalid Chaudhry, Mashar Chaudhry, Nasira Ali Naina and others were present at the occasion. Muhammad Shakeel Munir thanked the Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for giving a kind consideration to the demands of the traders for lifting timing restrictions for Eid ul Azha and suspending market closure policy in the Capital Territory until July 10, 2022. He said this good gesture will allow the people to do Eid shopping easily and enjoy Eid festivities in markets. Jams-haid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI also thanked the Prime Minister and Interior Minister for showing concerns to the issues of traders and allowing them to keep their shops open for later hours for Eid shopping. They hoped that the government would always take such decisions in consultation with stakeholders to save the economy from unnecessary troubles.

IHC stops MD Utility Stores from working

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday stopped Managing Director Utility Stores Corporation Syed Taha Aziz, from working in a petition challenging his appointment. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by Sajjad Khan regarding the matter. The petitioner's lawyer adopted the stance that the Ministry of Industries had sent the names of three bureaucrats to the federal cabinet for appointment on the top seat of utility stores corporation, but the authorities appointed the person who did not meet the criteria for the post, he alleged. - APP

E-12 development: 60 per cent earth work completed

The federal apex agency, he said, had directed the concerned departments to complete the development works in both the sectors within the stipulated time so that the allottees could build houses on their land. APP on Monday. He said the CDA's management was paying special attention to the development of stalled sectors to meet the housing needs of the city. Similarly, he said around 22 per cent of the earthwork on the 1.75 km road in sector I-12/2 was also completed. The other development works including cleavers would be commenced soon after completion of earthwork. The federal apex agency, he said, had directed the concerned departments to complete the development works in both the sectors within the stipulated time so that the allottees could build houses on their land. It may be mentioned here that after the completion of development works, 6000 allottees in sector I-12 and more than 3000 allottees in sector E-12 would be able to build houses on their plots. - APP

21 outlaws held in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory Police (ICTP) have accelerated efforts against criminals and arrested 22 outlaws involved in murder, snatching and other crimes, a police public relations officer said on Monday. He said Bhara Kahu police team arrested two accused namely Abdullah and Ramish involved in a murder case no 589/22 under sections 302/34 PPC registered on the complaint of the father of the deceased namely Ghulam s/o Rehman a resident of Kot hathial. The complainant had told the police that on July 02, 2022 his son Asad was present near a graveyard when his clash occurred with the accused adding that his son was stabbed to death. The accused escaped after the incident. Furthermore, Sabzi Mandi police team arrested three snatchers namely Muhammad Sadiq, Inaam and Amjad Ali. The accused were involved in numerous incidents of snatching in the areas of PS Sabzi Mandi. Police team has also recovered 10 snatched motorbikes, mobile phones and weapons used in crime. Meanwhile, Tarnol police has arrested eight accused namely Muhammad Adeel, Abid Ur Rehman, Naveed Ur Rehman, Shahid Ur Rehman, Muhammad, Aved, Mushtaq Hussain and Tariq and recovered 2550 gram hashish, 277 gram heroine and three 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. - APP

Gold price declines by Rs.300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.300 per tola and was sold at Rs.141,400 on Monday against its sale at Rs. 141,700 the previous day in the local market. The price of 10 gram 24 karat fold also decreased by Rs.257 and was sold at Rs.121,228 against its sale at Rs. 121,485 whereas the prices of ten gram 22 karat gold also decreased to Rs.111,125 against its sale at Rs. 111,361, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs1520 and Rs1303.15 respectively. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$4 and was sold at \$1707 against its sale at \$1811, the association reported. - APP

Commissioner visits new campus building of DPS

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Noor ul Amin Mengal on Monday visited the new campus building of the Divisional Public School (DPS). Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, Tahir Farooq, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Qasim Ijaz, Principal DPS, Professor Muhammad Yaseen Mirza and others officers were present on the occasion. Noor ul Amin Mengal said that efforts were being made to ensure quality education for all the students and in this regard more campuses of DPS were being opened so that more and more students could be accommodated. He said that more than one divisional public school would be set up at district level while one each at tehsil level. "It is our responsibility to provide a conducive environment for education and we are making efforts to provide all the basic necessities and qualified teachers. We are committed to improving the quality of education," he added. The students also have a responsibility to make education a top priority, he said adding, the students with their hard work can play a role to make the country prosperous. - APP

PAL publishes book to promote Balochistan's literature

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) had published a comprehensive book to shed light on the literature of Balochistan ahead of Diamond Jubilee Independence celebrations. 'Literature on Balochistan' covered all the literary, critical and development aspects of the major languages of Balochistan including Balochi, Brahvi and Pashto, PAL chairman Dr Yousuf Khushk said on Monday. Talking to APP, he said number of languages was spoken in the province of Balochistan, but ironically the regional languages faced extinction due to insufficient publication of the literary work. He said the purpose of the book was to provide the complete genesis of the vernacular languages and to highlight the work of the regional writers that would help preserve the literature of the province. "The book also includes essays on the development of Hazargi and Persian languages, which depict that they are not only alive, but literary work has also been carried out in these languages", he added. Lauding the efforts of the people who compiled the book, he said that 'Literature of Balochistan' was not less than any gift for its readers and credited it went to editor in chief Asim Butt and organizer Akhtar Raza Saleemi who left no stone unturned to make this book interesting and literary. - APP

NUMS Scientist wins global competition

Dr. Wasim Sajjad, a PhD in microbiology, working at NUMS Department of Biological Sciences submitted his idea of scientific research to the Future Earth and Belmont Forum through a presentation



DNA

RAWALPINDI: An Assistant Professor of the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has achieved the singular honor of winning the Global Idea Market Competition in Removal of Carbon at Sustainability Research and Innovation (SRI) 2022, organized by the Future Earth and Belmont Forum, working for reduction of carbon by finding a bio-based solution to the climate change. Dr. Wasim Sajjad, a PhD in microbiology, working at NUMS Department of Biological Sciences submitted his idea of scientific research to the Future Earth and Belmont Forum through a presentation. The Forum is committed to sustainability, research and innovation and has been working to explore a bio-based solution to combat climate change, which means using less chemicals and more recyclable organic products and chemicals, Wasim said in his comments about his distinction. The increasing trends in global warming, Dr Wasim said, are already evident and the likelihood of a further rise in the coming decades has given urgency to addressing "carbon sequestration technologies" more coherently and effectively. Carbon dioxide (CO2) is responsible for over half the warming potential of all greenhouse gases (GHG), due to the dependence of world economies on fossil fuels, he said in his presentation. The Idea Market Competition for Carbon Removal, at SRI 2022, a joint initiative of abovementioned international organizations invited posters and videos from across the globe from the scientists and researchers every year. The Forum held its meeting in South Africa from June 20-24 2022, as part of its rotation venues in different regions to ensure diversity and inclusivity, bringing together world's scientists, policy makers and researchers to develop strategies and solutions for the enormous challenges posed by climate change. "Pakistan needs a paradigm shift in order to focus on emerging and new technologies like microalgae based technology, with the aim to improve the biotech sector to cope not only with environmental challenges but also to expand in other sectors like poultry, pharmaceutical, nutraceuticals and biotech as algae technology is a win-win for all stakeholders," said Dr Wasim. Under the terms and conditions of the competition, the participant's proposals were invited for either a 3-minute video or a poster presentation. Contributions from young professionals and individuals from low and middle -income countries are especially welcomed. Dr. Wasim Sajjad won the competition with the project "Vision 2050 using microalgae-based technology for Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)".

Briefs

Illegal buildings demolished at G-8

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) continued drive against encroachments on Monday and demolished several structures at sector G-8 and Bari Imam. The operation was launched from Hansa Colony G-8/1 where two boundary walls were demolished with the help of heavy machinery and retrieved the state land, the spokesman told APP. He said an intensive operation was carried out near the Convention center and four illegal kiosks were demolished with two trucks of confiscated material. During another action against land mafia in Mohalla Chajjar an area of Bari Imam two boundary walls were demolished. In Chontra area, underground water tankers including two rooms, one each kitchen, washroom, wall and a buffalo enclosure with boundary walls were removed. In the area of Panjra on Lehtar Road two rooms and a fence were demolished while in Pandori village the foundation wall set up on one kanals of government land was razed down, he maintained. The CDA's enforcement directorate took action in different areas of the federal capital with the help of district administration and Islamabad Police. The anti-encroachment drive was aimed at restoring the beauty of Islamabad, at the same time tighten noose around the land mafia, the spokesman added. – APP

Search operation for French paraglider underway

ISLAMABAD: Search and rescue operation is underway to find a French paraglider pilot who went missing after a jump in Duikar village, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan on Saturday. The French paraglider Savall Xavier Alain Francois took off with two Spanish paragliders. "But soon after taking the flight from a peak he went missing at around 4:00 pm on Saturday. The Spanish paragliders however landed safely in Ganish valley, Nagar, Gilgit Baltistan," Karrar Haidri, secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) told APP on Monday. According to Haidri, police and local volunteers rushed to the site, but the paraglider was located yet. Now a helicopter is also taking part to track the missing paraglider, he said. The paragliders had arrived in Hunza late last month and stayed in a local hotel. Pakistan's sparsely populated region Gilgit-Baltistan is home to some of the top peaks and a major tourist destination. A large number of tourists visit the region each year for expeditions on various peaks, paragliding and other sports. – APP

MoHR's helpline receives 65,042,354 calls

ISLAMABAD: of Human Rights (MoHR) helpline number 1099 had received 65,042,354 calls during one year of June 2021-22. The toll-free number 1099 was introduced to offer access to the callers from all over the country to get free legal advice, counseling, legal assistance and referral service for the redressal of their grievances. According to data released by MoHR here on Monday that all relevant callers are given legal advice and referred to the relevant departments. As many as 320 complaints had received against HR governance issues and 11 calls had received for labor rights, while 6 calls received for land rights, men rights and 5 calls received from minorities. According to area wise summary report of 2022, as many as 13 complaints had received from Balochistan, 3 calls had received from FATA and 117 calls were received from ICT & 11 calls from Kashmir, while 114 calls had received from GB. Meanwhile, the helpline had received 715 calls from Punjab & Sindh 146 respectively. – APP

French embassy hosts participants of Francophonie competition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of France in Pakistan organized a ceremony to reward the winners of the 2022 Francophonie Contest at the French Ambassador's Residence on 30th June 2022. The three best videos were screened during the ceremony and prizes were awarded to the most deserving participants. French is the fifth most spoken language in the world, with over 300 million speakers across the globe and 51 million learners. It is a diverse language, with many accents and regional particularities, spoken by at least 20% of the population in 33 countries. The umbrella term "Francophonie" is used to describe and celebrate this linguistic diversity. The 2022 Francophonie Video Contest was co-organized by the embassies of Belgium and France, and the High-Commission of Canada. It was launched on the international day of Francophonie on 20th March 2022. Participants aged between 18 and 30 were invited to demonstrate their French language skills and creativity through a short video on the theme of « astonishment ». More than twenty participants took part in this contest, a majority hailing from the French Department of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML). The ten most deserving participants were invited to the award ceremony at the French Ambassador's Residence, together with their French language teachers. All participants were awarded prizes offered by the embassies of Belgium and France and the High-Commission of Canada.



Nicolas Galey, Ambassador of France to Pakistan said: "The videos we received

were of high linguistic and artistic quality, and were both poetic and philosoph-

ical. They reflected not only a curiosity of the Pakistani youth for the French

language and francophone cultures, but also their creativity."

‘Strong immune system can defeat viral infections’
Care should be taken to ensure that no water is accumulated around the house, in empty pots, air-coolers and tyres, he mentioned

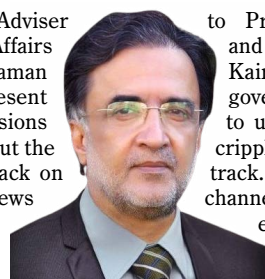
ISLAMABAD: Parents need to protect their children from viral infections during current monsoon season, as a strong 'immune system' and 'hygienic' home-made food eating habit can defeat these diseases, renowned Child Specialist Prof Dr Jai Krishin advised on Monday. "A strong immunity level is necessary to fight viral infections and a healthy diet was the best solution in this regard", he said in an exclusive talk with PTV News. He said that sudden drop in temperature, higher humidity and stagnant water after rains could lead to various stomach related illnesses, which affect children of all ages. Replying to a question, he said that chickenpox a viral disease spreading among kids, which was

associated with high fever, severe body pain, rashes, vomiting and abdominal pain, adding that the most common symptom of chickenpox is a rash that turns into itchy, fluid-filled blisters and then scabs. The rash usually shows up on the face, chest and back first and then spreads to the rest of the body. He said parents should never use anti-biotic while treating chickenpox or any other viral infections, as it would take 5 to 7 days, adding that chickenpox clears on its own without treatment. Dr Jai Krishin said that apart from eating healthy food parents should keep the surroundings clean and it was very important that there was no filth lying around during the season. Care should be taken to ensure that no water is

accumulated around the house, in empty pots, air-coolers and tyres, he mentioned. Kids even elders should be given boiled water and it should be ensured that they do not eat anything from roadside or even restaurants and hotels, he urged. "Every human body needs protein, vitamins, calcium and strong immunity to fight these infections so we should use such foods, especially fruits and vegetables, that raise the platelet level and boost immunity", he added. He also recommended the kids' vaccination against seasonal infections, adding that kids are easy targets of mosquitoes so cover the child with loose, full sleeves clothing that leaves minimal skin exposed. – APP

Govt took bold decisions to stable economy

ISLAMABAD: Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman said that the present taking wise decisions integrity and to put the of the country back on view with PTV news



to Prime Minister Kaira Monday government was to uphold national crippled economy track. In an inter-channel, he said that ernance and policies of e c o n o m y was deteriorated, adding, coalition government is satisfied with the tough decision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to stable economy. He said the state of the economy was in ill-condition and without tough and unpopular decisions it was impossible to recover the limping economy. Coalition government was committed to control all current economic crises in the country, he said, adding, we are well-aware with the difficulties of common people and issues related to high inflation would be addressed soon. He said that government was focusing on improving foreign policies, agriculture sector, adding, international high prices were the main reason behind inflation in the country. – APP

Rs 9.42 increase likely in KE power tariff

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Monday concluded public hearings into monthly fuel cost (FCA) of K-Electric for May and likely Rs 9.42 per unit increase in the tariff. The hearing was presided over by Chairman NEPRA Tauseef H. Farooqi while member Sindh Engineer Rafique Ahmed Sheikh and member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Maqsood Anwar Khan were also present. The K-Electric has sought Rs 11.34 per unit increase under FCA for May through a petition submitted to the regulator. The KE sought Rs 4,296 million adjustment under mix various and Rs 18,353 million under price variation heads for the said period. The K-Electric representative told that furnace oil and RLNG prices had increased 38 percent and 50 percent respectively during May while furnace consumption also witnessed 55 percent increase during the said period. As per the NEPRA calculation, the FCA calculated as Rs 9.42 per unit for the said period. – APP

IRSA releases 290148 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 290148 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 409325 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1107.75 feet, which was 57.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 39377 and 15000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 142063, 108851 and 54035 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 45200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 89948 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

‘Pak makes progress in immunization coverage’

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has made impressive progress in immunization coverage in the past 30 years with 117.6 percent increase in the proportion of children (ages 12 to 23 months) who were fully immunized between 1990 and 2020, a new study of the World Bank said. Country Director World Bank for Pakistan, Najib Benhassine said in his tweet on Monday that the World Bank has issued a policy note on the new study outlining 30 years of progress for children's full immunization in Pakistan. – APP

Ten villages to be developed as model tourism destinations

ISLAMABAD: As many as 10 villages will be selected across the country jointly by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and Agri Tourism Development Corporation (ATDCP) to develop them as model rural tourism destinations. According to details, these ten selected villages would also be placed on the map of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Best Tourism Villages, said a statement issued here. Recently, UNWTO had launched the Best Tourism Villages initiative at global level to advance the role of tourism in valuing and safeguarding rural villages along with their associated landscapes, knowledge systems, biological and cultural diversity, agriculture, forestry, livestock and traditional cuisine". For this purpose, awareness sessions, seminars, research projects, Agri-tourism festivals, training workshops, project development sessions and promotional activities will be jointly organized with active engagement of other key stakeholders including provincial tourism organizations, farmer associations and private sector bodies. In this regard, PTDC and ATDCP had already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote the concept of Sustainable Rural Tourism in Pakistan. Managing Director PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana said "Pakistan is mainly a rural country and tourism can greatly contribute for the socio-economic development of our rural areas which are otherwise neglected in the overall development agenda of government because usually more focus of government's schemes is on the development of urban areas". He further said, "Rural tourism encourages local communities to revive and preserve their traditions, crafts, traditional festivals, architecture and other unique practices. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at Ministry of Law. – DNA

7,000 MW to be added to national grid

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir on Monday said around 7,000 MW electricity would be added to the national grid before next summer season, which would help overpower load-shedding in the country. About 4,623 MW electricity would be added to the system through those projects, which were launched by the last Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government in 2018, and the rest through net metering and solar

projects, he said addressing a press conference after the cabinet meeting. Flanked by Minister of Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, Advisor to the PM on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Khurram said the government was framing a comprehensive solar energy policy under which not only large scale plants would be set

up but also all the government departments would be converted to the solar energy. Loans on easy installments would be provided to small consumers for installing 5KV solar plants, he added. The minister said a detailed briefing would be given to the prime minister about the policy, which would be announced in next few weeks. Sharing a good news, he said 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project had started its full operation. – APP

Qadir for adopting COVID preventive measures

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel on Monday emphasized the importance of social distancing and mask-wearing, expressing concern over increasing number of Corona cases in the country. Addressing a press conference, he said that keeping in view the current COVID-19 situation and considering the case positivity ratio of 4.6% in the last 24 hours, all concerned stakeholders had been asked to remain alert and vigilant. He said that as per data, the daily death ratio had reached to 1.5% as one or two deaths were being occurred daily while five percent patients were on ventilator. As many as 176 more patients got admission in hospitals during the last 24 hours. He said that more Coronavirus cases were being reported throughout the country. He added, considering the situation, SOPs had been issued for offices and more focus was on its implementation side.

He said that overall 80% eligible population was fully vaccinated and the government had advised all provinces and regions to administer booster doses on a priority basis to further improve protection against COVID-19 transmission. Patel said that as per directions of the Prime Minister, spe-

“Says a daily-base meeting was being held at NCOC to closely monitor the situation and the apprised that mostly cases being reported were from BA.5 subvariants”

cial instructions had been issued to the Sindh government as more cases were being reported from Karachi and asked them to increase testing facility besides taking various measures to control the disease. He said that a daily-base meeting was being

held at National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to closely monitor the situation and the apprised that mostly cases being reported were from BA.5 subvariant. Patel said that special instructions had been issued to the provinces to ensure resources are available to manage any emergency like isolation center etc. and added that they had been asked to contact with the federal government in case of any need. He said that discussion was being held with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to exactly know the demand and

supply situation and manage any gap. The minister also highlighted the need to strictly follow the guidelines for the management of markets for Eid-ul-Adha and also asked the citizens to avoid unnecessary movement during Eid days in crowded places. He said, "So far we did not issue any direction to close down the markets as our appeal to the citizens is maintaining social distancing, using masks and sanitizers." He added there is no need of starting smart lockdown in Karachi. He said that besides many other tall claims there was a fake claim of the past government of producing locally made ventilators in Pakistan. "They did not take things seriously." He said that presently available ventilators were sufficient in number in hospitals and in case of further need a strategy will be chalked out. He said that there was a need to create more awareness on the disease and all segment of society should come forward and educate people. – APP

Redefined NATO strategy threat to peace

WHILE the Cold War may have provided the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with cause to claim to be a defender of peace in Europe, there are no grounds for the redefining of its strategy to embrace the Asia-Pacific region. The only motivation for the new Security Concept that the NATO leaders adopted at their summit in Spain last Wednesday is to render the organization into a tool to serve the interests of the United States in maintaining its status as the global hegemon. The organization has compounded the misjudgment of its eastward expansion by listing China as the strategic priority in its new mission statement, showing that not only is the organization "brain dead" but it has sold its soul to the world's sole superpower because the other members want the US' umbrella of protection. What is particularly noteworthy is the fact that, by redefining its strategy, NATO is in nature no longer a defensive military alliance; it has become an offensive geopolitical tool of the US.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine would not have taken place had NATO not relentlessly expanded eastward, for which there existed neither political nor military grounds after the end of the Cold War. Political and diplomatic efforts on the part of NATO and the US to mediate between Russia and Ukraine prior to the start of hostilities would have also greatly reduced the chances of a military clash between the two countries, but neither did anything of the sort.

What the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine has done in restructuring the geopolitical map is what Washington sought to engineer to maintain its hegemonic status. Likewise, the revamping of NATO's Strategic Concept, which signals the organization's role now is to be the major accomplice of the US in its endeavors to re-commandeer the global system. The upshot is, global development and peace are under even more serious threat as the US has NATO standing by its side no matter what it chooses to do to contain the rise of China or any other countries that the US considers a challenge to its interests and hegemony. To maintain its hegemony, the US needs an enemy. That explains why Washington always talks about a threat from China despite the fact that Beijing has reiterated on many occasions the country's strategy of peaceful development. China's cooperation with European Union countries, which is in the interest of both sides, and its Belt and Road Initiative that has brought about development opportunities for many developing countries, as well as its economic partnerships with an increasing number of countries, all point to the fact that China opts for multilateralism and cooperation as the best approach for its development. NATO and the EU should be clear-eyed about the fact that China poses no threat to any country and there is profound mutual interest between China and the EU either in terms of the economic development of both sides or in terms of global governance for a better world. NATO's jumping on the US' geopolitical bandwagon will bring nothing but trouble to the world in a wide range of areas.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 353

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



The role of the West in the plight of India's Muslims

Sara Ather



A similar event in recent history might put things in a better perspective. In 2019, the leader of Myanmar, Aung San Suu Kyi, met with the ardent anti-immigrant Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban

INDIA'S Muslim population of about 204 million, remains uniquely invisible to the world despite increasingly becoming one of the most hostile places for minorities. The national spokesperson of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Nupur Sharma recently came under fire for her derogatory comments against the Prophet Muhammad on national television. Amidst growing international pressure, the BJP distanced itself from her remarks, describing it as the views of the fringe.

In the wake of the international debate sparked by this event, far-right Dutch politician and lawmaker Geert Wilders, known for his anti-immigrant and anti-Islam stance, expressed his support for Sharma calling it brave and heroic. Wilders views were quickly circulated on social media platforms and mainstream media alike. Many prominent Indian news channels went on to give a platform to Wilders on their prime time debates where he was given space to openly express his anti-Muslim views. There is a visible convergence of narratives across Europe, the US and Asia into a language anchored around the Muslim faith with anti-Islam sentiment increasingly becoming the organisational principle for far-right poli-

tics and a vehicle for its global expansion. The establishment of the Muslim figure as the opponent of democratic values, an infiltrator and a polluter of cultures can be traced back to a vocabulary that was produced in the post-9/11 era against the backdrop of the global "War on Terror".

Increasingly, the logic of securing borders from Muslim "invaders" is also being exported to South Asia, with the key difference being that Muslims who have lived for centuries on these lands are being declared as outsiders.

There is a common perception of Islamophobia as a problem specific to Western countries with Muslim immigrant populations, but this obscures the increasingly hostile conditions of the countries of the Global South.

In India, attacks against minorities in the last few years have surged, with new fronts of populism grounded in an anti-Muslim stance. From being hounded on the street by hateful mobs for any visible identity markers to now being hammered with laws that criminalise public appearance of Muslimness, the very existence of Indian Muslims is being erased from the cultural ethos of their country.

Hindutva, the central ideology of the ruling party of India, cannot be exhausted through its religious character. Hindutva, or Hindu Nationalism, is a deeply territorial and racial idea of citizenship. To use the words of the founder of this ideology, "To be a Hindu means a person who sees this land, from the Indus River to the sea, as his country but also as his Holy Land," according to which Muslims and Christians are forever seen as outsiders with no real claim to citizenship. Something very fundamental is changing in the way different religious communities have coexisted in India as a post-truth discourse has overtaken the country. The protracted period of quarantine during the coronavirus pandemic served as a catalyst for the spread of anti-Muslim sentiment.

Deep-seated beliefs about Muslims have entered the path to codification, with little criticism from India's larger civil society. These include the unconstitutional revocation of the special status given to a Muslim-majority region of India-administered Kashmir, the enactment of a discriminatory citizenship law that excludes Muslims, and now with the fresh politics of deploying bulldozers against Muslim properties. Anti-Muslim sentiments have already traversed through the closed networks of few dedicated right-wing figures and entered into the psyche of an average Indian.

The ease with which the state takes steps against Muslims with little criticism from India's larger civil society says a lot about the implicit links that have already been built between Muslim names and mental registers of criminality.

This opening to the larger public domain comes through many reasons, including, importantly, the erosion of a liberal language of defence that existed earlier. The constant source of BJP's power over its leading opposition party has been a clear attack on its claim of minority appeasement

politics practised by the Congress at the cost of downplaying the needs of the majority.

The effects of this can also be seen in the larger political events unfolding in the country. A joint letter written by heads of many opposition parties in the wake of rising anti-Muslim violence did not even mention the word "Muslim" in it. The intellectual ballast required to support the claims made by Hindutva radicals came from the language provided by the so-called global "War on Terror". Hindu nationalists seized the opening created by an all-pervasive international media and political discourse of Islamophobia, alarm about "terrorists in our midst," which provided the fundamental premises to criminalise Muslim existence by declaring Islam – and Muslims – an enemy of democracy and the modern world. The impunity for this bigotry comes not through the guard of right-wing nationalists, but through a buffer provided by Indian liberals who refuse to acknowledge the gravity of structural anti-Muslim violence and dismiss it as a two-sided cultural conflict between Hindus and Muslims. The role of prominent leaders of the west, in normalising the image of Modi, cannot be overstated, who didn't just remain silent as Modi ascended to power but also actively endorsed this shift in Indian politics admiring Modi as a hero of progress. He is the same man who had been banned from many Western countries, including the United States, because of his role in the Gujarat pogrom, which was all conveniently forgotten as he became the Prime Minister. In many European nations also, Modi has been given a grand welcome, the effect of which in undermining the voices of resistance trying to tell the story of their persecution is incalculable. A history of oriental scholarship has also facilitated in producing the caricature of the invader Muslim man. The seeds of Hindutva radicalization are at least a century old, and have managed to remain dormant for all these years, held back by a constitutional morality which seems to be eroding as a new politics of hatred is taking over. Today again it is the language of the imperialists that has facilitated the demarking of Muslims as a foreign barbaric community and in legitimising their subordination. The idea of what represents Indian culture in the West however, remains largely an imagination of the upper caste Hindu diaspora, the overwhelming majority of whom upholds the Hindu nationalist ideology. It is high time that the cultures of resistance that are being produced in India replace it. Indian Muslims are developing a political language of resistance that is uniquely new to the subcontinent. It is not just a battle of our physical survival after all, it has become a battle of who gets to define Muslims, and who gets to write their stories. It is a battle against a colonial definition of the Muslim identity.

– Courtesy: TRT World

Audio leaks

ALLEGED audio leaks of former first lady and the reckoning force PTI chairman Imran Khan attributes all of his success to, Bushra Bibi, commanding her party's digital media guru Arsalan Khan to spearhead the "narrative of treason" have taken the political culture by storm. This clip has mysteriously landed in the lap of the ruling PML-N, who would quite expectedly leave no stone unturned in making it the focal point of their own tit-for-tat designs. It has been a non-stop bonanza of leaks, all of which cast a negative light on either Mr Khan or those in his inner circle. Earlier, a so-called demand for a precious diamond by Farah Gogi from property tycoon Malik Riaz's daughter was heavily criticised by PML(N) stalwarts like Vice President Maryam Nawaz as the "tip of the iceberg of corruption."

This uproar had hotly followed on the heels of another honeyed conversation between Mr Riaz and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari ahead of the history-making (or breaking?) vote of no-confidence. Then too, the top leadership of the country had rubber-stamped the clip as strong prima facie evidence of the kaptan's hypocrisy. While the marathon of press conferences has already begun this time as well with both sides racing to splash the dirtiest of water all around, these recordings are just allegations unless proven by authentication from audio experts.

Unless such a seal appears before the public eye, rushing to smear a song and dance that sits well with millions as meaningless propaganda would be, for the lack of a better word, an attempt to put the cart before the horse. The state should prioritise connecting the dots between these videos as well as bringing the source, influential enough to lay hands on private conversations between whosoever and whensoever, out in the open. Having said the obvious, Pakistan is no stranger to arm-twisted realities and facts created out of thin air. If Bushra Bibi had, indeed, knowingly summoned a catastrophic demon upon a nation her husband repeatedly claims to rescue like a divine messiah, she is rightfully up for an expeditious investigation. Any element that dares pluck disastrous chords only to suit their nefarious designs should be made an example of by the honourable judiciary. It is 2022 and ergo, high time we snap out of make-believe reverie. Endangering countless lives just because issuing traitor cards lets you escape from the sword dangling upon your head would not do. Not anymore.

White supremacy's hypothetical harms and violent delights

Donald Earl Collins

The recent near-violent incident in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho is yet another example of this seeming contradiction between the rhetoric around protecting children (in this case, from harms of queer "indoctrination")

THERE is a common thread between the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, Uvalde, Texas, and Laguna Beach, California, the January 6 insurrection, everyday police lethality, and the overturning of Roe v Wade. Add to this list the critical race theory and queer American discussion bans in public schools across the country. It is the tangled web of violent white supremacy, or at least, the threat of it.

The goal here has always been to terrorise, cower, exploit and marginalise anyone who isn't a straight white male. Although white males are the primary practitioners of violent white supremacy, one need only subscribe to its main tenets – racism, elitism, narcissism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and control over the bodies of women and the marginalised – to be one.

White males who are die-hard white supremacists and their fellow travellers have and will continue to create hypothetical hurts, slights, and people (especially theoretical children) to create their ideal nation-state. One that fully represents their worldview while fully denying the rights and humanity of everyone else. And while hate may be the trigger for white supremacists to commit their domestic terrorism, power and the pursuit of such is white supremacy's everlasting fuel.

It does seem hypocritical for conservatives to champion policies against hypothetical harms to kids while doing little or nothing to stop mass shooters from regularly mowing down living and breathing children in classrooms, or anyone else, for that matter. Or to discuss making schools safer with more armed law enforcement officers, even though police in schools would rather over-police kids than actually stop an active shooter. Politicians have fought for laws banning the teaching of critical race theory, slavery, racism, queeriness, and queer authors because they claim this information could traumatise kids while also advancing anti-abortion rights laws to "protect the unborn". This is more than the accusation that today's GOP is a "death cult" and certainly more than the violence embedded in Hollywood movies, in video games played

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia continues its quest for building a better Yemen

Dr. Hamdan Al-Shehri

This package supports the efforts of the Yemeni government to secure the means to meet the country's needs for oil derivatives through the Support Fund for the Purchase of Oil Derivatives

SAUDI Arabia, under the leadership of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, supports the efforts being made by President Rashad Mohammed Al-Alimi, chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, and the other members of the council, for the political and economic advancement of Yemen. Relations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen are very strong. Saudi support for the country continues in all fields, including politics, relief, development and economics. The Kingdom was – and still is – Yemen's largest supporter, and offers various benefits through the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, also known as KSRelief, and the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program of Yemen. The Yemeni government's announcement of the Kingdom's approval of support for a package of development projects worth \$400 million, in addition to \$200 million to provide oil derivatives to government power stations in liberated governorates, confirms Saudi Arabia's continuing generous support for its brothers in Yemen. The Kingdom also appreciates the efforts of President Al-Alimi and the members of the Presidential Leadership Council, and hopes to accelerate the absorption of Saudi-Emirati funding worth \$3.3 billion provided by the two countries to

support the Central Bank of Yemen and the developmental and humanitarian projects in the country.

The new and urgent support plan, which includes 17 development projects and programs in vital sectors, embodies the humanitarian and fraternal stances of the Kingdom, under the leadership of King Salman and the Crown Prince, toward the brotherly Yemeni people. The vital projects the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program of Yemen is launching will serve all Yemeni governorates, with priority being given to the temporary capital, Aden. The projects focus on six key sectors: Energy, transportation, education, water, health, and the building of state institutions.

A shipment of oil derivatives provided by the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program of Yemen, worth \$30 million out of the \$200 million total approved for this purpose, will contribute to securing the operation of power stations and alleviating the suffering of the Yemeni people that has resulted from repeated interruptions to energy supplies. The Kingdom has made – and will continue to make – continual efforts to meet the basic needs of Yemeni citizens, provide the services they require, and ensure a decent life for them. This goal is a priority of the Kingdom's humanitarian and relief efforts and its initiatives for reconstruction and stimulation of Yemen's economy.

Since the establishment of the Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program of Yemen, 207 development projects with a total value of more than \$892 million have been implemented, which have contributed to improving the lives of about 15 million Yemeni citizens in 14 governorates. KSRelief continues to implement vital projects in Yemen; by the end of May, 704 projects with a total value in excess of \$4 billion were in progress or had been completed.

Saudi support for Yemen aims to improve the economic and living conditions in the country, which will contribute to supporting the efforts of the Presidential Leadership Council to meet the needs of Yemeni citizens. The support is not limited to a specific geographical area, so that everyone can benefit. The package of new development projects includes multiple sectors comprising transportation, health, electricity and water, and focuses on the Yemeni govern-

norates as a whole, targeting in particular the young, the elderly, the sick and those worst-affected by the war. The projects will improve the economic situation in the country as a first step on the road to recovery. This package concentrates on capacity building and human development in all fields, as well as projects in the transportation sector, including the development of Aden International Airport; electrical power generation and distribution projects; and a desalination project and the enhancement of its sources. The development projects in the new package also include healthcare initiatives, including a university hospital that will be established in Hadhramaut, and the provision of a medical college and an oncology center in Taiz. Some of the projects focus on youth, for example the construction of four sports arenas.

The new package is not limited to these sectors but also includes projects being undertaken for the first time, including the establishment of the first seawater desalination plant in the country. It will benefit from renewable energy through the use of solar power for road management.

These large developmental aid packages will undoubtedly have positive effects on the lives of citizens, and the Yemeni people will feel their impact in the areas of transportation, health, electricity and water. They will also improve the social and economic conditions in Yemen, which will contribute to the improved functioning of state institutions. The question remains whether the international community will show its support for Yemen and these projects. Will the world's media write about them?

The international community has failed to understand the reality in Yemen, including who is responsible for the deteriorating situation there. The world needs to recognize who has opposed Yemeni legitimacy and who continues to hold the Yemeni people hostage. International aid is being bought and sold; Yemeni children are being recruited into the military, and the refusal to reopen blocked roads for the people of Taiz illustrates the lack of respect for the Yemeni people. There are many questions and had they been answered with all honesty and sincerity it would have resolved the problems so that the pointless suffering of Yemeni people as a result of Iranian terrorism would have ended forever.

Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Punjab: Free electricity for up to 100 units usage

FROM PAGE 01
CM Hamza further said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programme will continue and international donors will come, adding that the friendly countries will help Pakistan. "The economic situation will be back on track," he assured. Beraing the PTI, the chief minister said that the nation will hold the party leaders accountable. "The PTI government ruined the economy and Imran Khan has to give an account of the foreign funding, Toshakhana, and Farah Gogi's corruption of billions of rupees." Talking about the Punjab by-polls set to take place on July 17, CM Hamza said that the PML-N will come out on top.

Israeli shot likely killed Palestinian..

FROM PAGE 01
"There is no clear [finding] as to exactly what happened, and there is going to be pressure from the public, [and] from Congress, to actually push this further. To try and find some way in which a more definitive answer can be found," he said. "There is no clear definition of exactly what happened, why it happened, who did it." On Saturday, Akram al-Khatib, general prosecutor for the Palestinian Authority, said that officials had "agreed to transfer the bullet to the Americans for examination". However, conflicting reports over who would conduct the tests on the bullet emerged on Sunday, with an Israeli military spokesman telling Army Radio: "The test will not be American. The test will be an Israeli test, with an American presence throughout."

Expatriates voting rights' revocation...

FROM PAGE 01
Khan, filing the petition through his lawyers, has made the federal government, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) parties in the case. The PTI chairman prayed to the court for declaring the amendments "unconstitutional, ultra vires and void, ab initio and to strike down the same". He asked the court to declare that section 94(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 as inserted by the Elections (Amendment) Act, 2021, is the existing law, and that all institutions, especially ECP and NADRA, are bound to act in accordance with it. "Direct the ECP and all relevant authorities to take necessary steps to give effect to the right of overseas Pakistanis to vote in all future elections, especially the upcoming general elections from their country of residence," reads the petition. In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, he asked the court to direct the ECP to grant the necessary approvals and funds to NADRA for developing the new iVoting System so it can be used in the next general elections. "Grant a continuing mandamus and supervise the process of putting in place a system for ensuring that overseas Pakistanis are able to cast their votes in all future elections, especially the upcoming general elections, from their country of residence," he prayed to the court.

IHC warns of summoning PM Shahbaz

FROM PAGE 01
Reprimanding the deputy attorney general, the court asked, "Then, what is the purpose of recruiting so many policemen?" At this, PPP leader Farhatullah Babar said, "So many people were picked up but it is not known yet who picked them." "Which party do you represent? Has it ever been in government?" asked the court. Babar said that he is affiliated with the PPP and it had been in the government. "When people were picked up in your government, then what did you do? inquired the judge.

Babar optimistic about team's good show against Sri Lanka

Babar Azam's side converged in Islamabad on June 25 to finalise their preparations for the Test series at the Pindi Cricket Stadium with a seven-day camp that ended on July 2. The national cricket team will be departing for Sri Lanka on July 6

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan all-format cricket teams captain Babar Azam has said that the national team has prepared hard and he is optimistic about the team's good show against Sri Lanka. Addressing a press conference ahead of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, the skipper said here on Monday, "We are well aware of the Sri Lankan conditions that's why we have prepared hard and trained very well for the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. Hopefully, all the boys will play with great responsibility and help their side win the series." He said that the national team has practised at special pitches for the spin chal-

lenge. "Spin pitches were specially prepared at the National High-Performance Center (NHPC) while practice matches were also played on similar kinds of tracks in Rawalpindi. Conditions in Sri Lanka are quite similar to Pakistan, so we have prepared well to play spin in Sri Lanka." When asked whether Pakistani pacers would also deliver against Sri Lanka at their home soil, Babar replied: "If the pacers get less wickets in the match between Australia and Sri Lanka, it does not mean that our pacers cannot succeed either. Our pace battery has enough capacity to put pressure on the Lankan batters and hopefully, they will pose a threat to Sri Lankan batters." But the captain believes that



spinners will play a key role in Sri Lankan conditions, saying leg-spinner Yasir Shah and left-arm spinners Nauman Ali and Mohammad Nawaz will be crucial for them in Tests against Sri Lanka. "Yasir has returned to our squad and his form is good. Nauman and Nawaz are the other two key op-

tions for us to dominate in Sri Lankan conditions that usually favour spinners." Babar said he is eager to gain a top position in Test format as well. "I am working really hard to make my performance equal to white-ball format. Gaining top position and making Pakistan proud is such a great

feeling. I will try my best to continue performing for my country." Former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar attended the national team's training camp and met fast bowlers. Babar said Shoaib Akhtar's meeting with pacers helped them learn a lot. "Our fast bowlers got useful tips from Shoaib Bhai. Hopefully, his motivation and tips to our pacers will help them deliver against Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka." Babar Azam's side converged in Islamabad on June 25 to finalise their preparations for the Test series at the Pindi Cricket Stadium with a seven-day camp that ended on July 2. The national cricket team will be departing for Sri Lanka on July 6. While Pakistan will play a three-day warm-up match between July 11-13. The first

Test will be played at Galle from July 16, while the second Test will be staged at Colombo from July 24. Spin specialist Yasir Shah has made a comeback in the team as he was instrumental in Pakistan's 2-1 victory over Sri Lanka on their last tour of the island in 2015, snaring 24 wickets at 19.33. He comes back into the side after regaining full fitness. **PAKISTAN TEST SQUAD FOR SRI LANKA:** Babar Azam (captain), Mohammad Rizwan (vice-captain, wicket-keeper), Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, FawadAlam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Nauman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicketkeeper), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi, Shan Masood and Yasir Shah.

'Bushra Bibi behind the anti-state campaigns'

FROM PAGE 01
also it was her personal opinion to link the political opponents' statements with sedition. The minister it had been confirmed that Bushra Bibi led the campaign against institutions and it was her who had been instigating her party's spokesmen to use abusive language against opponents in their "unethical" press conference. She said Bushra Bibi was pushing the narrative of "treachery and foreign conspiracy" by hiding in her abode at "Money Gala." Political opponents were being abused by Bushra Bibi from everywhere with the aim to hide her unprecedented corruption, she added. She said the PTI had also confessed that the treason cases were filed against political opponents to conceal Bushra's corruption. However, the champions of foreign conspiracy narrative were now caught begging and apologizing to the country whom Imran Khan accused of the regime change conspiracy. The minister said Imran Khan was seeking apology from that country by imploring 'let the bygones be bygones'.

PTI warns against leaking...

FROM PAGE 01
the official secrets act as the conversation between a prime minister and his principal secretary was protected under the law. She said that the process of phone tapping falls under the category of contempt of court but even then the security line of Imran Khan's house was also tapped, as Ansar Abbasi hinted that telephone audio of Imran Khan and Azam Khan, the then his principal secretary, would be leaked. Dr. Mazari raised question that the Supreme Court put an end to phone tapping in the Benazir Bhutto case but even then the illegal practice of phone tapping was being carried out. She said that this was being done solely to conceal the conspiracy, demanding the apex court to take a suo motu notice on the matter. Shireen Mazari said that phone tapping was illegal and only intelligence agencies can do it because they had the means and the technical ability to do so. She said that if these cabal of crooks would talk about patriotism nobody would buy their narrative, adding that one wonders how much the US help in tapping the phones. Dr. Mazari made it clear that the whole drama of audios leak was hatched because the handlers of the conspiracy scared of the party's massive power shows because neutrals and the government failed to find evidence of corruption against Imran Khan. Speaking on the occasion, Fawad Chaudhry said that the biggest problem in the country at present was load shedding, as even there would be no light on Eid-ul-Adha because the government did not have the money to buy imported fuel. Fawad said that Hamad Azhar demanded the government to name 20 closed power plants, but to date no list has been shown. Fawad said that problems was escalating to an alarming extent but they has no plan to end power outages.

Israel uses Palestinian dead bodies in labs

DNA

RAMALLAH: Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh says Israel continues to withhold the bodies of Palestinians killed by the regime's forces to use them in laboratories of medical schools in flagrant violation of human rights. "The (Israeli) occupation authorities are augmenting the pain of the families bereaved at the loss of their children by withholding the corpses of their children and using them in the laboratories of medical schools in Israeli universities in flagrant violation of human rights, values, principles and scientific ethics," Shtayyeh said at weekly cabinet meeting in the central West Bank city of Ramallah on Monday. The Palestinian premier further called on world's universities to boycott the Israeli colleges involved in



withholding Palestinians' bodies killed by Israeli gunfire in order to put pressure on Tel Aviv to show respect for the dead Palestinians and to immediately release the dozens of withheld corpses so that their families can bid them farewell in a manner that befits them and respect their feelings.

Shtayyeh added that Israel's violence against Palestinians will not stop, stating that the number of people killed by Israeli forces has reached 78 across the occupied territories since the beginning of 2022, including 15 children. The last victim was Kamel Abdallah Alwaneh, a 19-year-

old Palestinian youth, who died of his serious injuries on Sunday, a day after he was targeted by Israeli gunfire during skirmishes that erupted in the town of Jab'a, near the city of Jenin in the north of the occupied West Bank.

In recent months, heavy clashes have been going on between the Israeli forces and Palestinians on a weekly basis over Tel Aviv's settlement expansion policies across the occupied Palestinian territories. About 700,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East al-Quds. All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law as they are built on occupied land. The UN Security Council has condemned Israel's settlement activities in several resolutions.

Shaheen joins KP police as goodwill ambassador

PESHAWAR: Cricket is one of the most followed sports in Pakistan and cricketers attain celebrity-like status as can be seen in the case of Shahid Afridi. Similarly, his soon-to-be son-in-law Shaheen Shah Afridi has also amassed a lot of following since his rise to fame. The left-arm pacer has been appointed as KP Police Department's "Goodwill Ambassador" to promote a softer image of the police and bridge the trust deficit between the police and the public. For this, a ceremony was held in Peshawar where Shaheen Afridi was appointed as an honorary Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Addressing the people present at the event, Afridi paid tribute to the martyrs of KP police and praised everyone for playing a vital role in ensuring safety of the citizens. - DNA

Barristers continue strike in England

DNA

LONDON: Criminal defense barristers in England and Wales on Monday continued the strike they started last week. The strike was triggered by a dispute over pay and conditions, and the criminal defense barristers will stage a new three-day

walkout starting on Monday. The Criminal Bar Association (CBA) argued that barristers have lost 28% of their real earnings since 2006. Barristers will gather at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Liverpool Crown Court, Nottingham Crown Court and Birmingham Crown Court in support of CBA action.

"My life is in danger" says Ramiz Raja

"My salary as PCB chairman is zero," highlighted Ramiz Raja in front of National Assembly's Standing Committee for Sports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja shared that his life is under threat, hence he uses the car accordingly. Raja, alongside PCB's high officials, appeared in front of the National Assembly's Standing Committee for Sports. During the discussion, the PCB chief was asked about his salary and expenses since he took charge in 2021. "My salary as PCB chairman is zero," he told committee members. "I haven't taken any unnecessary perks so far as chairman. I haven't taken an entertainment allowance and spent just 2.5 lac rupees on my official tours as of yet," shared Raja. The cricketer-turned-administrator ensured that he never took advantage of his PCB chairmanship. "I am here to work for cricket's promotion. Neither I took my wife on any official tour nor benefited any of my relatives," Raja responded to a member's question. The former cricketer also told committee members that his family was against his decision to take PCB chairmanship. "My family didn't want me to accept PCB chairmanship. They knew, PCB chairman gets nothing except being called out every time," he stressed. Earlier, PCB released a document, featuring the expenses of their head. According to a released document, Raja spent around four million rupees during his first six months in the office. - DNA

HK lawmaker who met Xi tests positive for Covid-19

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong lawmaker who met President Xi Jinping during a rare visit by the Chinese leader to the territory last week said he tested positive for COVID-19 two days after the meeting. Steven Ho, who is part of the city's largest pro-Beijing party, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), tested positive for coronavirus on July 2 and has self isolated, according to an announcement on his Facebook page on Sunday. Ho said he tested negative for the virus on June 30, the day he was shown in a photo with Xi, displayed by local broadcaster RTHK. Xi was in Hong Kong to mark the 25th handover celebration of the territory to the mainland from Britain and swear in the city's new leader John Lee. It was his first public trip outside the Chinese mainland since the coronavirus pandemic began. - APP

Myanmar assures China of 'continuing democratic transition'

YANGON: Myanmar has committed to "continuing the democratic transition process" in accordance with the roadmap defined by the ruling junta and to fulfilling its obligations to ASEAN on the five-point consensus, China said late Sunday. The commitment was made by Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin during a meeting with his visiting Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the 7th Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Bagan, Myanmar, on Sunday, said a statement released by China's Foreign Ministry. Lwin stated that Myanmar will "continue to push forward the process of democratic transition" by executing the "five-point roadmap" of the junta-led SAC and the ASEAN's "five-point consensus." "China sincerely hopes that Myanmar will enjoy political and social stability," Wang told Lwin. The Buddhist-majority country saw its latest military coup in February last year, which was met with widespread civil unrest. In its attempts to quell dissent, the military has used lethal force, killing over 2,000 people. The UN estimates that more than 700,000 people were internally displaced in the country as of June 1, in-



cluding more than 250,000 children. The Burmese military, known locally as the Tatmadaw, deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy government, prompting international condemnation. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, proposed a five-point consensus to bring the country back to normalcy, but the junta has not responded positively. Beijing's statement comes after the special envoy of the current ASEAN chair paid his second trip to Myanmar last week. Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, however, was again barred from meeting incarcerated Suu Kyi. - DNA

44th Bali Arts Festival 2022 after Covid-19

ANTARA

JAKARTA: The melodious sound of traditional musical instrument and the cheers of thousands of spectators filled the Bali Provincial Cultural Park in Denpasar City, thereby announcing that the Bali Arts Festival (PKB) had returned. The biggest art festival held by the Bali provincial government since 1978 was not implemented in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Later, it was conducted both through online and offline means in 2021. Meanwhile, in 2022, the local community as well as foreign and domestic tourists are allowed to attend and enjoy the festival in person. Various outstanding cultural performances presented can be watched for free at the month-long festival to be held from June 12 to July 10, 2022. While opening the 44th edition of the festival, Home Affairs Minister Muhammad Tito Karnavian lauded the attempt of the Bali provincial government to hold the festival despite the COVID-19 pandemic being far from over. The decision to implement the event was taken on account of the fact that the number of additional daily cases of COVID-19 had decreased and the booster vaccination coverage in the province had reached

57.51 percent, according to the Health Ministry's website as of July 4, 2022. Thus, the province has the highest booster vaccination coverage in Indonesia. Hence, the audiences can watch the various cultural performances safely and comfortably. The event began with a parade, locally called "peed aya," which involved at least 2,400 artists and was witnessed by thousands of spectators on June 12, 2022. The



parade's participants do not only come from the nine districts and cities in Bali Province but also came from universities, schools, banks, and the private sector. The 44th PKB is themed "Danu Kerthi: Hu-luningAmreta" that embodies the spirit of preserving water as a source of life. In addition to the parade, other activities included in the festival, comprise performance (rekasadena), competition (wimba-

kara), exhibition (kandarupa), workshop (kriyaloka), gathering (widyatula), and cultural award (adisewakanugraha). A total of 16,150 artists and 200 dance studios, social organizations (sekaa), and art communities will be involved throughout the festival. The artists will not only come from various regions in Bali Province but also from Yogyakarta, Papua, North Sumatra, West Nusa Tenggara, and Jakarta. The 44th PKB will showcase several gong kebyar (Balinese traditional music with dynamic tempo and rhythm) performances from various dance studios. For instance, Gong Kebyar Gladag from Denpasar City will perform along with Gong Kebyar Pinda Gianyar; Gong Kebyar P-erean Kangan from Tabanan District along with Gong Kebyar Peliatan from Gianyar District; as well as Gong Kebyar Sibang Gede from Badung District along with the Denpasar City Indonesian Arts Institute. Meanwhile, the competition was held for various participant groups, including kids, teenagers, male adults, and general adults. The competition included baleganjur (Balinese traditional "gamelan" musical instrument set) performance contest, barong ket (Balinese traditional dance) performance contest, traditional Balinese attire contest, and classical wayang (puppet) painting contest.

India likely to shift G20 summit from Srinagar

FROM PAGE 01
Within a day after the announcement was made, Islamabad sharply reacted and announced it will approach the G-20 members to reject the venue. Soon, China too opposed the holding of G-20 meeting in disputed Jammu and Kashmir. The Hindu reported that the "confusion emerged" after the letter issued by Jammu and Kashmir Principal Secretary Manoj Kumar Dwivedi appeared in the media, dated June 23 sanctioning the constitution of a 5-member committee for the "overall coordination of G-20 meetings" in Jammu and Kashmir. It was followed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha announcing it to be a "matter of privilege" to host the G-20 summit.

Briefs

President Jokowi donates one-ton cattle for sacrifice

ANTARA

JAKARTA: President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) has donated one ton of cattle purchased from a farmer in Bone District, South Sulawesi, for the residents of Selayar Islands District during this year's Eid al-Adha. South Sulawesi provincial Livestock Office Head Nurlina Saking stated that President Jokowi's limousine cattle, weighing 1,006 kilograms, would be slaughtered during the Qurbani ritual and distributed to residents. "President Joko Widodo's cattle will be transported from Bone to Selayar on Thursday (July 7), and we will monitor the process until the cows reach the destination," Saking stated here on Monday. She expressed optimism that the process would be smooth despite the need to use land and sea routes for transportation to reach Selayar Islands. "The Selayar Islands District authority will retrieve and transport (the cows) to their destination," she noted. The office head remarked that the limousine cattle had been purchased at Rp77 million (US\$5,159).

Thousands evacuate from Sydney floods

FOREIGN DESK

SYDNEY: Rapidly rising rivers swamped swathes of rain-lashed Sydney on Monday, forcing thousands to flee "dangerous" floods as the city's largest dam spilled torrents of water. On the third day of torrential east coast rains, emergency workers said they had rescued more than 140 people since the stormy weather began. But evacuated residents in one area of western Sydney were now being allowed to return home, officials said, as weather conditions in New South Wales were forecast to ease over the next 24 hours.

Many of those rescued had been trapped in their cars trying to cross flood-swept roads or were unable to leave homes surrounded by rising waters. Australia has been at the sharp end of climate change, with droughts, deadly bushfires, bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef and floods becoming more common and intense as global weather patterns change. Higher temperatures mean the atmosphere holds more moisture, unleashing more rain. About 32,000 people were under orders to evacuate or be ready to flee across New South Wales, the state's emergency services said.

Monkeypox cases in Brazil rise to 76

AGENCIES

SU PAULO: A new case of monkeypox has been confirmed in Brazil, bringing the total number in the country to 76, the Ministry of Health reported on Sunday. The case, discovered in the Federal District of Brasilia, involves a man in his 30s who had recently traveled abroad. The patient is in isolation and monitored by medical professionals. The ministry added that it had requested the Center for Strategic Information in Health Surveillance to collect all data on monkeypox cases in the country.

Brazil, the most populated country in Latin America, has registered the highest number of cases in the state of Sao Paulo with 52 confirmed infections, followed by Rio de Janeiro with 16. The ministry said the rest of the cases have been reported in the states of Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio Grande do Norte, and the Federal District.

Iran supports peaceful deal of Karabakh conflict: Abdollahian

'Our bilateral trade volume grew by 30% last year,' the Azerbaijani foreign minister pointed out. He, however, noted that Tehran and Baku needed to further bolster ties as they enjoy great economic and trade potential

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has reiterated Tehran's support for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on principles of the international law. "In today's talks, the issue of the territorial integrity of countries, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, was once again emphasized by us. We also reaffirmed our support for the peaceful settlement of the ongoing Karabakh conflict based on the well-known principles of the international law," Amir-Abdollahian said at a joint press conference with the visiting Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov in Tehran on Monday. "Since the beginning of the Karabakh dispute, the Islamic Republic has always declared its readiness to help resolve the conflict through dialogue. We are still ready to continue our support and assistance in this regard, so that the remaining issues would be resolved on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the involved parties and through political dialogue," he added.

Also in his remarks, Amir-Abdollahian said the Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan have cleared up all previous misunderstandings between the two neighboring Muslim countries. The regime, he said, had used the flare-up of the latest tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2020 to establish a presence in parts of Azerbaijan. Tensions started to



flare up after Azerbaijan's president criticized military exercises by the Iranian Army's Ground Forces in the northwestern part of the country. Tehran hit back by saying that holding drills is part of the national sovereignty, warning that Israel's anti-Iran activities in neighboring countries will not be tolerated. But later Azerbaijan released

the two Iranian truck drivers whose arrest had strained ties between Baku and Tehran. "During today's negotiations, a wide range of bilateral issues were thoroughly discussed and relevant viewpoints exchanged. As you know, the presidents of the two countries have had two one-on-one meetings in the last 10 months. During the meetings, especially

in last week's meeting between Ilham Aliyev and [his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim] Raeisi, constructive and forward-looking talks on a new phase of mutual ties between the two countries were held," Amir-Abdollahian said. "We stressed the need for deepening the relations between the two countries on the basis of understanding, trust and mutual interests," the Iranian foreign minister added. The top Iranian diplomat stressed that various existing diplomatic formats between two or more countries should be seriously taken into consideration given unfolding developments and new conditions. Amir-Abdollahian went on to note that he had tabled a proposal on hosting a tripartite foreign ministerial meeting between Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey in Tehran during his last week meeting with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara.

Amir-Abdollahian also extended the Iranian president's invitation to Aliyev to visit Tehran, emphasizing that consultations are underway to determine the timing of the trip. Bayramov, for his part, said that he had fruitful talks with Iranian officials during Monday's talks on matters of mutual interest as well as regional issues. "Our bilateral trade volume grew by 30% last year," the Azerbaijani foreign minister pointed out. He, however, noted that Tehran and Baku needed to further bolster ties as they enjoy great economic and trade potential. He also said that his country has reached an argument with Iran to make joint cars and tractors, adding that cooperation on building dams and power plants is also among top priorities for the two neighbors.

Ukraine recovery moot opens in Switzerland

FOREIGN DESK

KIEV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned of the "colossal" work ahead as leaders from dozens of countries and organisations gathered in Switzerland Monday to hash out a "Marshall Plan" to rebuild his war-torn country. Zelensky, who is due to deliver a video address to the conference when it opens Monday afternoon, stressed Sunday the towering challenges that recovering from the devastation wrought since Russia launched its full-scale invasion on Feb.24. "The volume of the works on already liberated territories is really colossal," he said. "And we will have to free over 2,000 villages and towns in the east and south of Ukraine." The two-day conference, held under tight security in the picturesque southern Swiss city of Lugano, had been planned well before the invasion, and had originally been slated to discuss reforms in Ukraine before being repurposed to focus on reconstruction.

Ukraine needs \$750b for recovery plan

WEB DESK

KYIV: Ukraine needs \$750b for a three-stage recovery plan in the wake of Russia's invasion, its prime minister said on Monday. Denys Shmygal also told the Ukraine Recovery Conference hosted by Switzerland that there had been over \$100 billion of direct damage to Ukrainian infrastructure from Russia's invasion. "Today, the direct infrastructure losses of Ukraine stand at over \$100 billion," he said. "Who will pay for the renewal plan, which is already being valued at \$750 billion?" Shmygal added that the Ukrainian government believed that a key source of funding for the recovery plan should be assets confiscated from Russian oligarchs.

Pope Francis hopes to visit Moscow, Kiev

AGENCIES

LONDON: Pope Francis hopes to visit Russia and Ukraine after returning from Canada later in the month, as he himself said in an interview with Reuters. According to him, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin had discussed a possible visit to Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Reuters points out that "no pope has ever visited Moscow" and Pope Francis's position on the Ukrainian conflict complicates the situation. "When the Vatican first asked about a trip several months ago, Francis said Moscow replied that it was not the right time," the news outlet notes.

France's Macron reshuffles cabinet

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has reshuffled his Cabinet after losing his absolute majority in the National Assembly. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne will continue to head the new government that prominently excluded Damien Abad, the solidarity minister accused of attempted rape, and three junior ministers Amelie de Montchalin (sports), Brigitte Bourguignon (health), and Justine Benin (maritime) who lost their seats in the recently concluded parliamentary elections.

Last week, French prosecutors opened an investigation into Abad after rape accusations were levelled by three women shortly after his appointment last month. He has denied the allegations calling them "despicable slanders." Abad will be replaced by Jean-Francois Combe, director-general of the Red Cross. Emergency physician Francois Braun has been named the new health minister and OECD Chief Economist Laurence Boone will oversee the Europe portfolio previously handled by Clement Beaune, who has been given charge of the minister delegate in charge of transport. The appointment of professional experts and specialists as ministers follows the naming of Black historian Pap Ndiaye to the post of education minister last month. He and other top-ranking ministers have retained their portfolios, including Economic and Finance Minister Bruno Marie, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, Europe and Foreign Affairs Minister Catherine Colonna, Law Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti, and Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu. – Agencies

Turkish inflation hits two-decade high of 78.6%

AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: Inflation in Turkey in June soared to an annual rate of 78.6 percent, the highest in 24 years, official data showed on Monday, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's unconventional economic policies continued to take their toll. The figure released by Turkey's state statistic agency was the highest since January 1998. Inflation had stood at 73.5 percent in May and at 15.0 percent at the start of last year. Economy Minister Nureddin Nebati on Friday "promised" that consumer prices will start dropping in December.

The data showed that headline inflation was driven by a 123.4-percent jump in the cost of transportation and a 94-percent increase in non-alcoholic drinks. The price of household goods surged by 81.1 percent, the statistics agency calculated. Turkey's economic crisis started when Erdogan forced the central bank to go through with a series of interest rate cuts last year. The policy rate went down despite rising consumer prices. But the Turkish leader rejects conventional economics and affirms that high interest rates cause prices to rise.

Marcos vows to boost Philippines' grains output

WEB DESK

MANILA: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr vowed on Monday to do what it takes to boost his country's rice and corn production, seeking to reduce reliance on imports and avoid being hit hard by a food crisis now looming across the world. Marcos, who was sworn in as president last week and has appointed himself agriculture minister, said the Philippines - the world's second-biggest rice importer - was now at a disadvantageous position over its food supply. "When we look around the world, everyone is preparing for it," Marcos said during a meeting with senior agriculture officials, referring to the food crisis. "So we should really pay close attention to what we can do." Marcos comes to power at a critical time, with inflation at its highest in more than three years and as the world faces a tightening food supply, resulting from the conflict between major cereals exporters Russia and Ukraine. A transcript of the meeting provided by the presidential mentioned no specific remedial measures or targets, but Marcos said the government would ensure affordability of food prices. To ensure long-term food sufficiency and affordability, Marcos reiterated a campaign promise to "reconstruct our value chain", within his six-year term, to lessen dependence on food imports. He also sought a review of a 2019 Rice Tariffication Law, which opened the Philippine door wider to imports by removing the annual quota on purchases and limiting the government's role in rice trade to ensuring supply during emergencies.

NATO chief attented change of command ceremony

BRUSSELS: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday attended the change of command ceremony of the military alliance's Allied Command Operations. "We are here today to honor two outstanding military leaders. General Tod Wolters, United States Air Force. And General Christopher Cavoli, United States Army," Stoltenberg said addressing the ceremony at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium. Stoltenberg was introducing NATO's outgoing and incumbent Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR). "To be called SACEUR is to serve 30 Allies and one billion people," he said. "To be called SACEUR is to lead. The millions of women and men in uniform across our Alliance. – Agencies



STOCKHOLM: Pakistan ambassador to Sweden Zahoor Ahmed called on the ambassador of Qatar. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the issues of mutual interest. – DNA

We are united by one great goal: Mirziyoyev

Under the pretext of disagreeing with the constitutional reform, certain forces, for their selfish purposes, tried to shake up and destabilize the situation, choosing the path of aggression and violence

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Republic of Karakalpakstan. As is known, these days an important political process continues in Uzbekistan - a nationwide discussion of amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. All conditions have been created for the free expression of will and opinion of citizens based on democratic principles. But under the pretext of disagreeing with the constitutional reform, certain forces, for their selfish purposes, tried to shake up and destabilize the situation, choosing the path of aggression and violence. On July 1, in the city of Nukus, a group of people, contrary to the legitimate demands of the authorities, organized riots and attempted to seize the buildings of local government bodies hiding behind populist slogans, manipulating the consciousness and trust of citizens.

On July 2, despite the demands to stop violations of public order, these persons continued their destructive actions. Moving along the streets of Nukus, the rioters caused significant damage to infrastructure facilities, broke windows, and set fires. To seize weapons, several groups attempted to storm the buildings of the Main Department of Internal Affairs of

the city of Nukus and the Department of the National Guard. Taking advantage of relative numerical superiority, they attacked law enforcement officers, beat them, inflicting grievous bodily harm. Unfortunately, there are casualties among the civilian population and law enforcement officers. In this regard, to ensure the safety of citizens, protect their rights

and freedoms, restore law and order, a state of emergency was introduced on the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan from July 3 to August 2, 2022, by Decree of the President. On July 3, a meeting was held in Nukus with the participation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The commandant of the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan reported on



the introduction of a state of emergency and noted that the situation was taken under full control. At the meeting, which was held via videoconference, the Head of the state spoke with responsible officials from all districts of the region, listened to their reports on the measures taken to ensure the safety of citizens, strengthen law and order. They noted that after yesterday's address by the President, the situation has stabilized and life is returning to normal.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited Jakaterek mahalla of Nukus and talked with the residents. Local elders noted with regret that in recent events, some of the youth made mistakes and committed illegal acts, falling under the influence of external subversive forces and succumbing to emotional impulses. It was emphasized that the Uzbeks and Karakalpakhs are one people with two languages, it is necessary to value and protect the unity and peace in the country. The President met with deputies of the Jokargy Kenes, the leadership of the Council of Ministers and public representatives of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. It was emphasized that the draft Constitutional Law "On introducing amendments and addenda to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan" will be finalized based on the proposals and opinions of Uzbekistan people.

Briefs

Copenhagen
shooting
suspect
remanded

AGENCIES

COPENHAGEN: The chief suspect in a Copenhagen mall shooting was Monday remanded into a psychiatric care facility, one day after three people, including two teenagers, were shot dead. "The court remands the 22-year-old in a closed psychiatric ward," Copenhagen police said in a statement, following a two-hour hearing involving the suspect. The suspected perpetrator of the attack, which took place late on Sunday afternoon, would be kept in custody for at least 24 days, which can then be extended, according to police. The young man was brought before a judge at midday at the Copenhagen district court on Monday.

With no fuel
and cash, Sri
Lanka grinds
to a halt

MONITORING DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has less than a day's worth of fuel left, the energy minister says, with public transport grinding to a halt as the country's economic crisis deepens. Power and energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera on Sunday said petrol reserves were about 4,000 tonnes, just below one day's worth of consumption, as queues snaked through the main city of Colombo for kilometres. The cash-strapped nation on Sunday extended school closures because there is not enough fuel for teachers and parents to get children to classrooms, with most pumping stations being without fuel for days. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Al Jazeera last week the petrol shortage will last until July 22 when the next oil shipment is expected.

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Ukrainian forces were taking up new defensive lines in the east on Monday, preparing for a hard new phase in the war as President Vladimir Putin proclaimed Russia's victory in the months-long battle of Luhansk. Russia's capture of the city of Lysychansk on Sunday brought an end to one of the biggest battles in Europe for generations, which saw Moscow bring the full might of its ground forces to bear on a small pocket of the front line for two months. The battle completes Russia's conquest of Luhansk province, one of two regions it has demanded Ukraine cede to separatists in the Donbas region. During a brief televised meeting with his defence minister, Putin congratulated Russian forces on their "victories in the Luhansk direction". Those who participated in the combat should "absolutely rest and recover their military preparedness", while other units continue fighting in other areas, he said. The battle is the closest Moscow has come to achieving one of its stated objectives since its forces were defeated trying to capture Kyiv in March, and marks Russia's biggest victory since it captured the southern port of Mariupol in late May. Both sides suffered thousands dead and wounded, while

Rebuilding Ukraine
'common task' of world

AGENCIES

LUGANO: Rebuilding Ukraine was the "common task of the whole democratic world", Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday, insisting the recovery of his war-torn country would serve world peace. "Reconstruction of Ukraine is the biggest contribution to the support of global peace," Zelensky said, speaking via video link to an international conference in Switzerland on rebuilding his nation. The two-day conference, held under tight security in the picturesque southern Swiss city of Lugano, had been planned well before Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24. It had originally been slated to discuss re-

forms in Ukraine before being repurposed to focus on reconstruction. Lugano is not a pledging conference but will instead attempt to lay out the principles and priorities for a rebuilding process designed to begin even as the war rages. Zelensky said the aim of reconstruction was "the most ambitious project of our time". But he told the leaders from dozens of countries, international organisations and the private sector that the colossal investments that would be needed were not for Ukraine alone. "Reconstruction of Ukraine is not a local task of a single nation. It is a common task of the whole democratic world," he said. "We are uniting the democratic world... The outlook of free people always prevails."

claiming to have inflicted far greater losses on their enemy, along a loop of the Siverskyi Donets river that winds through Luhansk

and Donetsk. Lysychansk, neighbouring Sievierodonetsk and surrounding towns - many with heavy industrialised plants that served as fortified bunkers for defenders - were razed to a wasteland by relentless Russian bombardment. Russia repeatedly tried and failed to surround the Ukrainians, eventually opting to blast them out instead with the brute force of its artillery.

Military experts say the battle could prove to be a turning point in the war - not because of the strategic value of the ruined cities themselves, which is limited - but because of the impact of the losses on both sides' ability to fight on. "I think it's a tactical victory for Russia but at an enormous cost," said Neil Melvin of the RUSI think tank in London, comparing the battle to the huge fights over meagre territorial gains characteristic of World War One. "This has taken 60 days to make very slow progress," he said. "I think the Russians may declare some kind of victory, but the key war battle is still yet to come." Moscow will hope Ukraine's retreat gives Russian forces momentum to push further West into neighbouring Donetsk province, where Ukraine still holds the cities of Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Bakhmut.

China
rejects NASA
accusation

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Monday rejected as an irresponsible smear a warning from the chief of NASA that China might "take over" the moon as part of a military programme, saying it has always called for the building of a community of nations in outer space. China has stepped up the pace of its space programme in the past decade, with exploration of the moon a focus. China made its first lunar uncrewed landing in 2013 and expects to launch rockets powerful enough to send astronauts to the moon towards the end of this decade. "We must be very concerned that China is landing on the moon and saying: 'It's ours now and you stay out'," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson told German newspaper Bild in an interview published on Saturday.

Modi govt
using state
institutions
against
opposition

DNA

BANGALORE: The joint candidate of the opposition parties for the presidential election in India, Yashwant Sinha, has said that Modi's fascist Indian government is using Indian investigative agencies like the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Election Commission as well as state governors as a weapon against the opposition. Yashwant Sinha, a former minister and former leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), told a meeting of the Congress Legislative Party in Bangalore that the BJP government had attacked the country's democratic and secular identity over the past eight years.

UN rights mission
finds 'probable' mass
graves in Libya

According to insider knowledge,
there might still be up to 100 as of
yet undiscovered mass graves

WEB DESK

GENEVA: A UN-appointed mission to Libya said on Monday there are "probable mass graves" yet to be investigated, possibly as many as 100, in a town where hundreds of bodies have already been found and it urged Tripoli to continue searching. The report to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council this week details how a militia run by seven brothers executed and imprisoned hundreds of people between 2016-2020, sometimes keeping them in tiny oven-like structures called "the boxes" which were set alight during interrogations. The evidence of kidnappings, murder and torture in Tarhouna by the independent Fact-Finding Mission represents one of the most egregious examples of human rights

abuses in the turbulent period since long-ruling Muammar Qaddafi's ousting in 2011. Among the victims were the disabled as well as women and children, the 51-page report said. Based on the testimonies of residents and two site visits, the mission found "reasonable grounds" that the Kaniyat militia committed crimes against humanity. It identified four commanders who participated directly in them. Already, Libyan authorities have recovered 247 bodies in mass and individual grave sites in the Tarhouna area in Western Libya. Many were still handcuffed and blindfolded. The mission used satellite imagery showing signs of soil disturbances among other evidence to identify three new likely sites. But there could be many more, it said, citing an existing grave known as 'The Land-fill' where just a tiny fraction of the site has been investigated.

Yemeni troops launch
campaign against Al-Qaeda

Elite counterterrorism troops have
been deployed in mountains and valleys in
Abyan to prevent Al-Qaeda in the Arabian
Peninsula, its branch in Yemen

NEWS DESK

AL-MUKALLA: Yemeni special forces have launched an offensive against Al-Qaeda in the southern governorate of Abyan, amid reports that the terrorist group is attempting a comeback. Elite counterterrorism troops have been deployed in mountains and valleys in Abyan to prevent Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, its branch in Yemen, from turning those areas into safe havens or launch pads for strikes against government troops in the south. Abdul Rahman Al-Shonini, commander of counterterrorism forces in Abyan, said the campaign was launched after receiving information that AQAP was gathering in remote valleys and mountains to launch attacks against government troops in the south. He vowed to thwart

its attempts to resurge in Abyan. His forces have not encountered any resistance as AQAP terrorists have reportedly fled to their hideouts in mountains between Abyan and Al-Bayda governorate.

Last month, local media and residents said masked AQAP terrorists appeared in some valleys and areas in Abyan, ambushing troops and kidnapping residents. Local security officials accuse AQAP of orchestrating a string of attacks that killed at least 10 soldiers in Abyan and Shabwa governorate last month. In 2015, AQAP exploited instability stemming from the war in Yemen to seize large swaths of land in southern governorates, including Hadramout, Abyan and Lahj. Thanks to military support from the Arab coalition, Yemeni troops managed to push AQAP from key cities, killing and capturing hundreds of terrorists.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

KP Cabinet authorizes
CM to sign IMF deal MoU

Necessary arrangements are being made to continue Sehat Card Scheme under the direction of the CM till transfer of funds from the federal govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet in a meeting held here Monday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair authorized the Chief Minister to sign MoU in connection with the IMF Agreement under the shared fiscal responsibilities of the Federal and Provincial Governments. It was also unanimously decided that the rights of the province would be protected at every cost. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various Government Departments. Provincial Ministers Taimur Salim Jhagra, Anwar Zeb Khan and Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & PRs Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at ITLA'A Cell informed that the federal government by withdrawing support has deprived the people of merged districts from the free treatment facility which

was being provided to them under the Sehat Card Scheme. They further informed that the center has stopped the monthly payment under the Net Hyde Profit since April 2022 and a letter was sent to the federal government by the provincial government on June 29 which hasn't been responded yet. Agreement with the IMF is a collective responsibility, however, protecting the interests of the province is also our foremost responsibility which would be fulfilled any way. The people of merged areas are our brethren, and they would not be deprived of the free treatment facility, they observed. No decision to ink MoU, they said, has been taken as yet and we don't want to do politics on this issue. However, the MoU will be signed as and when our concerns are addressed by the federal government, they remarked. The federal government, they said, has been treating the small provinces especially the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa step-motherly and despite financial constraints, the chief minister has approved to continue the Sehat Card Program within the province's own resources. Necess-

ary arrangements, they informed, are being made to continue Sehat Card Scheme under the direction of the Chief Minister till the transfer of funds from the federal government. They further informed that the cabinet accorded approval to declare 24074 Hectares (59489 Acres) area in South Waziristan as Gomal Zam Dam Wetland Conservancy to intensively protect the wildlife resources as well as enhance the population of the target wildlife species. The site has great potential to provide habitats to the migratory as well as native birds and animals like wolf, jackal, jungle cat, rock pigeon, partridges, chukar, Eurasian sparrow hawk, common kingfisher, green bee-eater and crested lark etc. The cabinet, they further informed, also approved a sum of Rs.29.389 million as supplementary grant to be paid to the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Peshawar, Government of Pakistan to clear the outstanding dues from 2001-22 on account of lease money of the Cereal Crops Research Institute (CCRI) Pirsabak, Nowshera.



MURREE SPARKLETTS®
Bottled Drinking Water
ISO/IEC 17025 | ISO 9001, 22000, 14001,
45001 Certified Company

We Only Offer



Excellence in
Quality & Innovation



A Reasonable Price



Efficient Services



A Genuine Pakistani Brand

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE BY MURREE SPARKLETTS
LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE!

Others call it "Marketing Support", "Trade Promotion", "Exclusivity Rights", "Shelf placement"- we call it **UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES**. Millions of rupees are exchanging hands above and below the table in the garb of product promotion. Trade institutions i.e Restaurants, Marts & other outlets are being bribed & forced to keep/sell only specific products. We at Murree Sparkletts (a division of Murree Brewery Company) believe all such practices are unethical. We say **LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE** which product to consume. By dishing out millions of rupees, beverage companies are depriving the public at large their right of choice.

SAY NO TO INVISIBLE CORRUPTION.

