



Islamabad POST

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China warns US over Nancy Pelosi's possible Taiwan visit

Detailed News On Page-07

Jokowi starts working visit to China, Japan

Detailed News On Page-07



Shoaib Akhtar reveals teaser for his biopic

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Europe must show solidarity

DNA

BRUSSELS: EU nations that have gas supplies independent of Russia need to demonstrate solidarity with countries forced to ration gas this coming winter, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in an interview published Monday. Von der Leyen told German news agency dpa, "Even member states that hardly purchase any Russian gas cannot escape the effects of a potential supply stop on our internal market." Von der Leyen noted that EU economies are so interconnected that a gas crisis in one state, such as comparatively well-off Germany, would affect other national economies.

Miftah says good days to come

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that the economy will be put on development trajectory and the issue of price-hike to be controlled in the next few months. In an exclusive interview with state run Radio Pakistan on Monday, the Finance Minister was confident that the economic targets set for the current fiscal year will be achieved as a result of better decision making by the present government. The Finance Minister, however said increasing exports could be challenging in view of looming recession in the West.

Algeria backs Syria's return to AL

DNA

DAMASCUS: Algeria's foreign minister on Monday decried Syria's decade-long suspension from the Arab League during a visit to Damascus, indicating support for the war-torn country's return to the organization under President Bashar Assad. Syria was expelled from the 22-member group and boycotted by its neighbors after the conflict broke out in March 2011, following a heavy-handed crackdown by Assad's government on mass protests demanding reforms.

Short order likely today SC rejects plea seeking full court

The Apex Court says this case is very simple; no need to constitute a full court



COURT REPORTER/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) Monday rejected the petition seeking the formation of a full bench for hearing the case of the Punjab chief minister's election — where Hamza Shahbaz defeated Pervez Elahi. According to the brief verdict, the same three-member bench — headed by Chief of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial, and comprising Justice Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar — will hear the petition filed by the PTI. Following the decision, the country's top court decided to adjourn the hearing on the ruling till 11:30am today (Tuesday). CJP Bandial had said that the court needed more legal clarification regarding the formation of a full bench to issue a verdict on the case. The CJP also said that he was unsure whether the decision on the said ruling will be made today. Meanwhile, the court also accepted the petition filed by PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and the PPP to become a party in the case. During the hearing,

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What is Article 63 A?

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Here is the detailed Article 63 A that deals with the disqualification of an MP. '63A. Disqualification on grounds of defection, etc.-(1) If a member of a Parliamentary Party composed of a single political party in a House— (a) resigns from membership of his political party or joins another Parliamentary Party; or (b) votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction issued by the Parliamentary Party to which he belongs, in relation to— (i) election of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister; or (ii) a vote of confidence or a vote of no-confidence; or (iii) a Money Bill or a Constitution (Amendment) Bill; he may be declared in writing by the Party Head to have defected from the political party, and the Party Head may forward a copy of the declaration to the Presiding Officer and the Chief Election Commissioner and shall similarly forward a copy thereof to the member concerned: Provided that before making the declaration, the Party Head shall provide such member with an opportunity to show cause as to why such declaration may not be made against him. Explanation.- "Party Head" means any person, by whatever name called, declared as such by the Party.

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Govt leaders' must be put on ECL: Fawad

Says Zardari fled to Dubai, others could follow suit as govt's days numbered

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Central Vice President Fawad Chaudhry demanded that the names of PDM's leaders should be placed on ECL, who were hell-bent on blackmailing the apex court to bring it under presser. Reacting to the press conference of the cabal of crooks including Maryam Nawaz here on Monday, he said that the gang of thieves launched a direct attack on the Supreme Court for which the august court used the term Sicilian mafia for this group. He said that the PML-N would now bring the next campaign against some army officers after the judiciary to bring both the institutions under pressure, as 531 registered accounts were used in the anti-judiciary campaign.

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'Nobody allowed to violate Constitution'

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said that no one would be allowed to criticise and violate the Constitution of Pakistan, and the law as well. Responding to Fawad Chaudhry's statement, she said that a person who abused and threatened national institutions should not worry about it.

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Pak rejects Indian Minister's comments

World community urged to take note of Indian atrocities

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan completely rejected and strongly condemned the unwarranted and totally unacceptable comments made by the Indian Defence Minister at a recent event in Jammu, the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement issued here. The Minister in his remarks distorted the well-established historical facts about the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, leveled baseless allegations and hurled threats against Pakistan, he added.

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PDM boycotts court hearing

Allied parties reject Supreme Court order regarding full court constitution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said Monday that "bench-fixing" is a crime similar to "match-fixing" and suo motu notice should be taken over it as she criticised a "specific" anti-PML-N bench being constituted for one-sided decisions. After the SC's decision regarding full court

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bench, PDM leaders rejected the verdict and announced that they will not be a part to court's proceedings. Moulana Fazlur Rehman said that the allied parties will boycott the forthcoming proceedings. Maryam, in a joint press conference alongside the coalition government leaders, including Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, Interior

Minister Rana Sanaullah, said: "Institutions are insulted from within, not outside. One wrong decision blows up an entire case. Criticism isn't needed where the right decisions are taken". The presser by the coalition government comes ahead of the significant Supreme Court hearing on Pervez Elahi's plea challenging Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Dost Mazari's ruling which called the recent re-election for the Punjab chief minister in favour of Hamza Shahbaz. Maryam said that ever since Hamza became the chief minister, PTI leaders have been repeatedly approaching SC — and this time, they jumped over the walls of the top court. Referring to the PTI's petition against the chief minister's July 22 election, Maryam said that the SC's doors were opened late at night and the registrar gave "sufficient time" to the party to draft its appeal.

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Corps Commanders discuss security

Forum resolve to continue relief efforts in rain affected areas

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: The 249th Corps Commanders' Conference on Monday reaffirmed resolve of the Armed Forces to extend complete support to civil administration in rescue and rehabilitation activities. The Corps Commander Conference held at General Headquarters was presided over by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, an Inter Services Public Rela-

tions (ISPR) news release said. The Forum took comprehensive review of the security situation with particular focus on Border and Internal Security. The COAS lauded successful ongoing counter terrorism operations and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of officers and men to ensure security of borders and safety of masses. The COAS also appreciated the efforts of formations in relief operations to mitigate challenges of people affected due to floods and heavy rainfalls in the country. "The forum reaffirmed the resolve of the Armed Forces to extend complete support to civil administration in rescue and rehabilitation activities," the ISPR said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Riina Koinka taking a selfie with the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during her visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — DNA

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Admin issues alert as water level reaches 15 ft — Page 04

The only cosmopolitan city is drowning — Page 05

Macron embarks on African visit to 'renew relationship' — Page 06

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CPEC: Third parties' participation crucial — Page 08

Ukraine eyes first grain exports 'this week'

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has estimated the value of grain stocks to be exported under the deal at around \$10 billion

AGENCIES

KYIV: Ukraine said Monday it expected to export its first grain shipments under a UN-backed deal to lift Russia's blockade "this week", days after missile strikes by the Kremlin threw the accord into doubt. Kyiv and Moscow on Friday agreed the landmark plan to release millions of tonnes of grain trapped in Ukraine's Black Sea ports in a move hailed as a major step to averting a global food crisis. Less than 24 hours later Moscow struck the port in Odessa — one of three exit hubs designated in the agreement — sparking fury in Kyiv and heightening fears the Kremlin would not go through with the deal. But despite the weekend attack, Ukraine's infrastructure minister Oleksandr Kubrakov told journalists Monday that Kyiv was still working to re-start exports and expected to see the agreement begin "working in the coming days". "We are preparing for everything to start this week," said Kubrakov, who led Ukraine's delegation

Russia will help Ukrainians 'get rid of regime': Lavrov

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, has said Moscow's ultimate goal in Ukraine is to topple the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, an apparent pivot from the Kremlin's earlier stance. Lavrov made the comments in Egypt at the beginning of a tour of Africa, where the top diplomat has sought to raise support while downplaying Russia's role in blocking grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports. He told envoys at an Arab League summit in Cairo late on Sunday that Moscow was determined

to help Ukrainians "liberate themselves from the burden of this absolutely unacceptable regime." He also said Kyiv and "its Western allies" were spreading propaganda intended to ensure that Ukraine "becomes the eternal enemy of Russia." "Russian and Ukrainian people would continue to live together, we will certainly help Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime, which is absolutely anti-people and anti-historical," he said. Lavrov's remarks contrasted with the Kremlin's stated position in the days following the February 24 invasion, when Russian officials said they

at last week's grain talks in Istanbul. Ukrainian officials said the port of Chornomorsk in southwestern Ukraine would be the first to be opened and insisted on the importance of security following the strike on nearby Odessa. "Our position is very simple. We signed an agreement with the UN and Turkey. If the sides guarantee security, the agreement will work. If they do not, it will not work," Kubrakov said. He said that de-mining will take place "exclusively" in the shipping lanes required for grain exports, while Ukrainian ships will accompany the departing convoys that will transport not only grain but also fertiliser. Ukraine and Russia are major exporters of agricultural products, but Moscow's invasion has severely disrupted Ukrainian wheat exports as the fighting damaged harvests and left ports blocked and mined. Russia's naval blockade helped send global prices soaring and sparked fears of famine as it left up to 25 million tonnes of wheat and other grains stranded in Ukraine.

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Four killed as Faisalabad receives 45mm rain

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad received 45 millimeters (mm) rain here on Tuesday and caused building-collapse incidents in different parts, which resulted in death of four people and injuries to 20 others. The heavy downpour also inundated low-lying areas and caused numerous problems for residents, pedestrians and passersby. Managing Director (MD) Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Abu Bakar Imran issued necessary directive to the field staff for pumping out rainwater from all main and important roads and streets. He said that WASA field staff was already alerted to drain out rainwater from streets and bazaars whereas flood emergency camps were working round-the-clock in different parts of the city to redress the public complaints without any delay. He said that dewatering sets and other machinery were in operational condition so that rainwater

could be drained out immediately after rain stops. Meanwhile, two persons namely – Ashfaq Ahmad (42) of Sadiq Abad, and Imran Naseem (45) of Rahim Yar Khan – were killed, while 12 others sustained injuries when roof of Shakeel Hotel situated at Sargodha Road near General Bus Stand collapsed due to rain. Rescue 1122 shifted the injured to Allied and DHQ hospitals. Among them included Muhammad Faiz (40), resident of Tibba Sultan, Muhammad Faizan (35) resident of Multan, Salamat Masih (35) resident of Dry Port Faisalabad, Abdul Kareem (40) resident of Mirpur Khas, Atif Saleem (36) resident of Bahawal Nagar, Ghulam Nabi (36) resident of Chak No.67-JB Sadhar Faisalabad, Khalid Mahmood (43) resident of Chak No.567-GB Jaranwala, Shahbaz Hanif (50) resident of Gulfishan Colony, Huzaif Akram (21) resident of Multan, Idrees Boota (50) resi-

dent of Mir Pur Khas, Qaisar Abbas (25) resident of Toba Tek Singh and Zafar Iqbal (56) resident of Gojra. Similarly, 2 persons including Muhammad Ashraf (60) resident of Millat Town A-block and his relative Umar Hayat (65) resident of Jhang were killed when roof of an old and redundant house caved in due to rain at Millat Road near Hasan Chowk. Meanwhile, six people including Khalid Ameer (20) resident of Chak No.239-GB Jaranwala City, Hayat Khan (45) resident of Zeenat Town Sargodha Road, Safina Bibi (25) and her mother Rani Bibi (50) residents of Chak No.189-RB Rasoolpur Chak Jhumra, Amjad (35) and his son Ahmad (4 years) residents of Jawad Club Chowk Islampur Narwala Road also received injuries in different building and wall collapse incidents in Faisalabad on Monday and Rescue-1122 teams shifted them to hospital for treatment, spokesman for Rescue-1122 said. – APP



HYDERABAD: District employees draining out rain water from the streets. – DNA

6th Space Summer School opens at IST

ISLAMABAD: The week-long 6th Space Summer School (SSS) under the auspices of the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) opened here at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) on Monday. NCGSA Chairman Dr Najam Abbas Naqvi was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the space summer school organized by the Space Education Research Lab, the partner lab of NCGSA, which would continue till July 29, a press release said. The SSS is a specialized annual programme designed specifically to engage and consequently spark an interest in the young generation towards the rapidly growing and promising field of space science, technology and its applications. Since its inception in 2017, SSS has engaged more than 1000 students

from different parts of Pakistan, familiarizing and equipping the young space enthusiasts with the latest trends, technologies and research breakthroughs in the space sector and enlightening them with the applications of space technology directly contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. SSS 2022 encapsulates a vast spectrum of space knowledge focusing the regional and global perspective under 6 exploration tracks. The voyage of space knowledge begins from earth and accelerates towards wonders of deep space, covering the tracks of atmosphere, aviation, rocketry, satellite technology, and astronomy & astrophysics. The school has been joined by over 110 students from 45 different institutions of Pakistan. Filling the en-

visioned mission of UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 5: Gender Equality, the school has an amalgamation of over 60 male, and more than 40 female participants joining from both, public and private schools. Targeted towards the students of Grade 5–12 in two categories: Abecedarian (Grade 5th-8th) and Virtuoso (Grade 9th-12th), Space Summer School 2022 invigorates the participants with a lifetime learning experience and a unique educational exposure through interactive lectures, hands-on activities, workshops, technology demonstrations and webinars delivered by subject matter experts. The school also features a navigation scavenger hunt, career counselling session, and astronomy observation night through the largest publicly owned telescope at IST. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan, Per Albert Ilsaas, calls on Chairman PTA at PTA Headquarters. – DNA

Commissioner for implementation of SOPs during Muharram

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud directed to implement Corona standard operating procedures (SOPs) during meetings, processions and majalis of Muharram-ul-Haram, in letter and spirit. He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting regarding maintenance of law and order during Muharram-ul-Haram and arrangements for meetings, processions and majalis. Besides, Capital City Police Officer (CCPO), Ijaz Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shafiqullah Khan, Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali, Director General (DG) Capital Metropolitan and officers of Rescue 1122, Health Department, Water Supply & Sanitation Programme (WSSP) the administrative officers of other concerned organizations also attended the meeting. The Commissioner directed unified security and administrative arrangements for the meetings, processions and sittings of all schools of thoughts. Similarly, the adminis-

tration was also directed to take the trading community into confidence regarding closure of bazaars and installation of CCTV cameras and sodium street lights for the surveillance of all meetings and processions. Furthermore, the Commissioner also sought the names of focal persons from all departments and ensure their attendance in the control room. He also directed making contacts with all schools of thoughts for maintaining religious harmony during Muharram. During the meeting, CCPO and Deputy Commissioner Peshawar gave detailed briefing regarding arrangements and preparations made so far. In light of briefings, the Commissioner directed the utilization of all available resources for maintenance of peace during Muharram-ul-Haram and also directed concerned agencies to ensuring performing their professional responsibilities with full responsibilities and further strengthening of mutual coordination. – APP

TikTok rolls out new features

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Popular short-video platform TikTok has recently announced the launch of several new features aimed at providing viewers with more ways to discover new content and tailor their viewing experience to their personal preferences. The new features include; Popular feed: a non-personalized feed of popular content appropriate for people aged 13 and older, Keyword mute: a way to filter content with specified words or hashtags from For You feeds, Reset: a way to reset your For You feed if your recommendations don't quite feel like they're for you anymore and Dispersion: Expanding TikTok's tests to diversify

and safeguard recommendations globally. The entertainment platform also plans to introduce a content classification system known as Content Levels. Content Levels is a system that classifies content that is commonly used by entertainment companies to identify how mature content is for audiences of different ages or with different tolerances of comfort for some themes. This system will add an additional layer of protection by classifying content that has passed through moderation. When the platform detects that a video contains mature or complex themes, for example, fictional scenes that may be too frightening or intense for younger audiences, a maturity score will be allocated to the video to help prevent those under 18 from viewing it across the TikTok experience.

Ambassador of Norway calls on chairman PTA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Pakistan Per Albert Ilsaas called on Chairman PTA, Maj General Amir Azeem Bajwa (R). During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including investment opportunities for Norwegian technology companies in Pakistan's ICT sector were discussed, said a news release issued here on Monday. Chairman PTA also apprised the Ambassador about expansion and digital innovation taking place in Pakistan's ICT sector. – APP

Corona vaccination campaign launched

PESHAWAR: One month-long Corona vaccination campaign has been launched in the provincial metropolis on Monday. The campaign will continue till August 25, 2022. In this connection, a meeting regarding Corona vaccination was also held with Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Shafiqullah Khan in the chair. The participants were told that during the one month campaign Corona vaccination would be administered to people in health centres, bus stations and other public places. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva met with Federal Minister of Education, Rana Tanveer Hussain. – DNA

20 booked over attacking FESCO official

FAISALABAD: The Sargodha Road police have registered a case against 20 people on the charge of attacking and torturing Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) of Tariq Abad subdivision. A spokesman for Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Tahir Sheikh said on Monday that electricity supply feeder of Islamia Park was out of order due to rain, which caused suspension of electricity supply in the area. After receiving complaints, the line staff including Shehbaz, Naveed, Arsalan and Abdus Sattar searched for fault and found that one HT Line was burnt which caused suspension of electricity supply. The complaint staff started repairing the

HT line when more than 15 people of the area including Niaz Ahmad, Kalil, Adeel and Rizwan gathered on the spot and forcefully removed the line staff from electricity pole. An altercation occurred during which people tortured the FESCO line staff who called SDO Tariqabad subdivision for help. SDO Asif Mehmood reached the spot in his private van (ZC-9092) and tried to cool down the matter, but the infuriated people also attacked him and tortured him, in addition to damaging windshield of his van. Later, the SDO filed a complaint with Sargodha Road police, who registered a case vide FIR No 1223/22 under sections 440, 353, 186, 342, 382, 148 and 149 of PPC and started investigation, the spokesman added. – APP

Typhoid preventive campaign in October

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar and Health Department has decided to conduct a two weeks long typhoid preventive vaccination campaign, said a press release issued here on Monday. The campaign will begin on October 3 and continue till October 15, 2022. During the campaign children from age of 9 month to 15 years in 52 Union Councils would be administered vaccines. In this

connection, a meeting was also held here with DC Peshawar, Shafiqullah Khan in the chair. The meeting reviewed arrangements regarding the campaign and directed the DHO to take all required measures for the purpose. Deputy Commissioner Peshawar has urged the parents to administer typhoid preventive vaccines to their children to save them from the disease. – APP

KP increases 15 per cent risk allowance for police

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has enhanced risk allowance for uniformed police personnel from BPS 7 to 16 by 15 percent of the 2017 initial basic pay in pursuance of the decision of the provincial cabinet. A notification issued here by KP Finance Department, said that the

risk allowance has been increased in lieu of the disparity reduction allowance with effect from July 1, 2022. It said that the allowance of Constable BS07 has been increased from Rs 5,754 to 7,400, Head Constable BPS 09 Rs 6,227 to 8,000, Assistant Sub Inspector BS-11 Rs 6,707 to

8,600, Sub Inspector BPS 14 Rs 8,020 to 10,300 and Inspector BPS 16 Rs 9,878 to 12,700. It further said that the conditions for grant of the enhanced risk allowance would remain the same as prescribed in para-2 of Finance Department letter dated April 30, 2009. – APP

Commissioner visits different districts affected by rain

KARACHI: Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon has continued his visits to the city during the ongoing monsoon and rain season. At the beginning of the visit Commissioner Karachi visited Civil Lion Pumping Station and inspected the water pumps after that Commissioner Karachi along with DC South Sadiq Murri inspected the ongoing drainage works on the tower. Commissioner Karachi identified these points. There was a need to install dewatering pumps on Jahan, Commissioner Karachi visited the house of Quaid-e-Azam House in Wazir Mansion and instructed the officers of relevant departments including DC Waste and where to remove water by installing external dewatering pumps. Later, Commissioner Karachi along with DC Kemari Mukhtiar Abro visited Sher Shah, Ghani Chowranghi, Five Star Chowranghi, Gujjar Nala, Nazimabad and other places. Briefing regarding water works, Commissioner Karachi Mohammad Iqbal Memon along with DC Central Tahi Saleem visited several places in the city including KDE Chowranghi, Sakhi Hassan, Power House Chowranghi Shafiq Mor and reviewed the drainage works. Lia, Commissioner Karachi instructed the officers of DC Central and related departments and said that Jin Ras Rainwater is collected on the roads, dewatering pumps should be installed to remove the fresh water so that the citizens do not have to go through the trouble. Commissioner Karachi Mohammad Iqbal Memon along with DC West Ghulam Qadir Talpur inspected the ongoing drainage works in Northern Bypass Mangho Peer, Yusuf Goth and other areas and visited the crack site on Hub Canal RD 465. – APP

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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



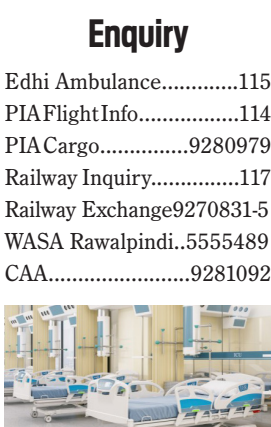
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ICCI for revising minimum tax for small traders

They stressed that the Finance Minister should immediately hold a meeting with ICCI and other trade bodies to sort out this important issue with mutual consultation so that small traders should be saved from extra financial burden

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the new fixed tax regime introduced by the FBR for the collection of sales tax with monthly electricity bills has created great concerns in the small traders as it would force them to pay minimum sales tax of Rs.3000 even though their electricity bill amount is less than Rs.1000 and urged that FBR should revise the minimum slab of sales tax in consultation with ICCI to save the small traders from unnecessary tax burden. Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that FBR was previously collecting sales tax in monthly electricity bills at the rate of 5% and 7.5% of the amount of bill, however, vide Circular No.09 of 2022-23, the tax authority has decided to charge minimum tax on monthly electricity bills of retailers @ Rs.3000 for monthly bill up to Rs.30,000, which is very discriminatory and will put extra tax burden on those small traders who are consuming less units of electricity bill. Therefore, he urged that the Finance



Minister and FBR Chairman should immediately engage ICCI into consultation to make the minimum tax proportional to the units of electricity bill so that it could be affordable for small traders.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that the Finance Minister and Chairman FBR had agreed to decide the final slabs of fixed tax

regime in consultation with ICCI and other trade bodies, but the tax slabs have been finalized without taking them on board, which is contrary to the assurance given. They stressed that the Finance

Minister should immediately hold a meeting with ICCI and other trade bodies to sort out this important issue with mutual consultation so that small traders should be saved from extra financial burden.

Eleven criminals arrested; narcotic, weapons recovered

The ICTP accelerated its efforts against criminal elements in city to curb the crime and to save the lives and property of the citizens

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory Police (ICTP) have arrested 11 criminals involved in different criminal activities and recovered narcotics and weapons from their possession. During the crackdown Shehzad Town police team arrested five accused namely Aamir Mehmood, Tahir Raza, Nasir Iqbal, Shahzaib and Shehzad Iqbal and recovered 2610 gram heroin, 1110

gram hashish and three 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession, a news release on Monday said. Women police station team apprehended a lady drug peddlers namely Kausar Bibi and recovered 1105 gram heroin from her possession. Ramna police arrested a drug peddler namely Aamir and recovered 1015 gram hashish from him. Golra police team arrested an

accused namely Shafique Khan involved in drug peddling and recovered 1223 gram hashish from his possession. Moreover, Lohi Bher police arrested a bootlegger namely Malik Kashif and recovered 30 liter liquor and one 30 bore pistol from their possession. Koral police arrested accused Gulfam and recovered 1150 gram hashish from him. Sabzi Mandi police team arrested an accused Waqar Hus-

sain and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Cases have been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway. The ICTP accelerated its efforts against criminal elements in the city to curb the crime and to save the lives and property of the citizens. Citizens are also requested to cooperate with police and inform about any suspicious activity around them. – APP

MoHR likely to complete national child labor survey in Dec 22

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) likely to complete national child labor survey in December 2022, initiated in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The findings of the study would provide information for enacting evidence-based policies, along with legislative and programmatic measures for eradication of child labor, said an official of National Commission on the Child Rights (NCRC). She added that the Na-

tional Commission on the Child Rights has issued guidelines to provincial Labor Departments for the implementation of Provincial Coordination Committee's suggestions on Child Labour, formation and activation of district vigilance committees under Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 2015 in line with ILO Conventions on Bonded Labour. She also added that the child labour survey was being conducted to look after and monitor the children's rights. – APP

Ruet-e-Hilal Committee to meet on Friday

ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's meeting would be held at the Deputy Commissioner Office, Quetta for sighting the crescent of Muharram-ul-Haram 1444 AH on Friday, July 29. According to the details as per official notification, the meetings of Zonal/District Ruet-e-Hilal Committees would be held at their respective headquarters at the same time. Similarly, the meeting of Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Islamabad Capital Territory would be held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony. – APP

PM grieved over demise of Agha Hamid Moosavi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed grief over the demise of chief of Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Fiqh-e-Jafaria, Allama Syed Hamid Ali Shah Moosavi. The prime minister said that late Allama Moosavi was virtuous and an advocate of Muslim unity. He prayed for peace of the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family and followers to bear the loss with fortitude. – APP

ITP continues crackdown against tinted glass

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic police continued crackdown against black paper, tinted glass vehicles here on Monday. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer said that the efforts of the officers and jawans had helped significantly to reduce the number of fatal accidents, a news release said. He said similar initiatives needed to be taken to ensure safety of life and property of the citizens and make Islamabad an accident-free city. The SSP said in future the ITP was aimed at enforcing a zero tolerance policy as it was a moral responsibility to spread awareness regarding road safety while enforcing laws. Similarly, the behavior of citizens on the road reflected the social norms of the society, he added. He said ITP officers were well trained through seminars and had been instructed to treat citizens with love, sincerity and humility. He was of the view that violation of traffic rules led to accidents. Appealing to the citizens, the SSP Traffic Islamabad said that to ensure smooth traffic, the role of the citizens was very important. "Obeying traffic rules can save not only life of one person but others as well. Never violate traffic laws and be responsible and patriot citizens, the SSP remarked. – APP

'Foolproof security to be made for Muharram'

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari on Monday said that strict security arrangements would be ensured for Muharram-ul-Haram to maintain peace and harmony in the region. According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson, the CPO said that the security standard operating procedures (SOPs) must be followed in letter and spirit, adding that no negligence would be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the responsible officials. He urged the masses to avoid standing on the rooftops of commercial and residential buildings situated along the routes of mourning processions. Police high-ups would monitor all the main congregations, the CPO said, adding that picketing and patrolling must be intensified during dispersal of religious gatherings. "The month of Muharram-ul-Haram teaches us a lesson to maintain an atmosphere of patience and brotherhood and for this purpose it is necessary that ulema of all religious sects should play their complete role for peace and mutual coexistence," he added. – APP

Dollar continues to fly high against rupee

ISLAMABAD: The American currency Monday gained Rs1.51 paise against the Pakistani Rupee and reached Rs229.88 in the interbank trading on the first day of the new business week. During the interbank trading the dollar rate went as up as Rs232 before receding as it was closed at Rs229.88 after seeing another 0.66 percent depreciation. The last closing of the US dollar was Rs228.37 against the Pakistani Rupee. SBP Governor Dr. Murtaza Syed in an exclusive SBP podcast said that Pakistan has achieved a very important milestone of the staff agreement with IMF program on track. Also, SBP Governor Dr. Inayat Hussain in an exclusive with SBP Podcast said that since December 21 PKR has depreciated by 18% and 12% of it is owing to strengthening of US\$ globally. "Domestic factors are also at play. We expect demand supply gap to narrow soon," he added. He further added since the staff level agreement with the IMF we have not received any complaint from banks or oil companies that they are facing difficulties in confirming imports LCs. Also, Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar is being reviewed and it will continue for the people of Pakistan. "We are addressing the difficulties of those who have deposited money as Bayana," says Deputy Governor SBP Sima Kamil. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exchanging views with Japan's Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro at Foreign Office. – DNA

Power tariff hikes to hit affordability: Experts

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The power sector of Pakistan has been badly incapacitated by the grave issues of circular debt, which is reflected in the continuous electricity tariff hikes and skyrocketing fuel price adjustments. Not only the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved a Rs11 per unit tariff hike for the high-end consumers on the request of the Ministry of Energy, the "flat slab rates" mechanism also has been implemented, burdening the low electricity consumers substantially. This was discussed during a meeting held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad to discuss the pitfalls of the power sector of Pakistan, impacts of circular debt, resolution mechanism, and assess the roadmap to address the issues. The meeting was co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Mirza Hamid Hassan, chair IPS Energy Steering Committee and former federal secretary, Ministry of Water and Power. Ashfaq Mehmood, former federal secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, Ameena Sohal, member board of directors, IESCO, and legal advisor to NEPRA, Syed Akhtar

Ali, energy expert, Raja Kamran, president Council of Economic and Energy Journalists, Naufil Shahrukh, IPS' GM Operations, and Hamza Naeem and Lubna Riaz, energy researchers at IPS also participated in the meeting to assess the power situation of the country and its impacts. It was pointed out in the discussion that Pakistan is among the countries with some of the lowest indexes of energy affordability, which has potential negative impacts on the overall economic progression. Primarily, the setting up of furnace oil, RLNG and RFO based generation facilities over the decades led to dependence on expensive fossil fuels, which caused the snowballing

of fiscal deficit of payments in the power sector. To maintain the exclusive functioning of the sector, electricity tariff hikes are being implemented, which will not resolve the problem in the short term, rather it will affect energy affordability of consumers. The speakers observed that circular debt, the core issue of the power sector, has jeopardized energy security and energy affordability in the country. It is a well-considered fact that Pakistan's electricity generation cost has jumped up to 160% since June last year and the government is now incapable of providing subsidies to consumers. While the factors attributed to the ballooning circular debt were identified as the

snowballing capacity payments, governance issues, inefficiencies in the distribution utilities, and fluctuating prices of fossil fuels in the international market, it was also mentioned that the burden of the debt was being transferred heavily to the end-consumers. In the recent price hike, it was ruled that the electricity tariff has also been raised through an amendment in the protected slab system for consumers utilizing less than 200 units of electricity, which consequently, would put a heavy burden on the low-income class of the country. Whereas, on the other side, the collection of additional advance taxes through electricity bills is also a counterfactual method that would lead to major issues of energy unaffordability. The after-effects of the new tariff hikes indicate that the applicable base tariff for those consuming 100-200 units would be Rs18.95, while those consuming 201-300 units would be charged Rs22.14, and the rate for 301-400 units has been increased to Rs 25.53, which previously stood at Rs11.74, Rs13.81, and Rs21.23. Along with that, fuel price adjustments subject to price fluctuations of petroleum products would also be charged from the consumers.



Briefs

Pakistan earns US \$737m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$737.720 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the eleven months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period last year. This shows increase of 47.83 percent as compared to US \$ 499.020 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of last fiscal year (2020-21), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 65.87 percent, by going up from US \$ 70.290 million last year to US \$ 116.590 million during the period under review. Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services surge by 114.52 percent from US \$31.890 million last year to US \$ 68.410 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services also rose by 25.47 percent from US \$38.400 million to US \$48.180 million current year, the PBS data revealed. The exports of air transport services increased by 48.90 percent by going up from US \$ 403.350 million last year to US \$600.600 million during July-May (2021-22). Among the air transport services, the exports of passengers services rose by 51.26 percent, from US \$ 263.740 million to US \$ 398.9400 million, whereas the exports of freight services dipped by 0.74 percent, from US \$27.190 million to US \$ 26.990 million, in addition the export of other air transport services surge by 55.37 percent from US \$ 112.420 million to US \$ 174.670 million. Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the period under review decreased by 19.10 percent by going down from US \$ 16.390 million to US \$ 13.260 million during this year, it added. – APP

IRSA releases 300999 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 300999 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 300999 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1138.10 feet, which was 88.01 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 35094 and 10000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 150257, 150257 and 179498 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 66000 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 84999 released from the Chenab River at Marala. –APP

No system can function sans supremacy of law: Dawar

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) and Chairman National Democratic Movement Mohsin Dawar on Monday said the country or any system of a nation cannot function without the supremacy of law. Addressing a joint media briefing here at the Prime Minister Secretariat along with other members of the Federal Cabinet, the National Democratic Movement chair said the judgment made by the apex Court judges to ban the entry of political leaders in the court premises would tarnish the epitome of rule of law. Dawar said the only binding document was the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan that kept the nation unified, adding, "if we will not uphold the Constitution supreme then it may create chaos in the country." Balchistan National Party (Mengal) MNA Agha Hassan Baloch said it was regrettable to ban the entry of political leaders and workers to hear the court proceedings. – APP

Admin issues alert as water level reaches 15 ft

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district administration here on Monday issued alert at Gawalmandi as water level sensor data showed 15 feet increase in Nullah Leh at Gawalmandi at 2 pm while pre-alert was issued for Kattarian where water level was 15.5 feet. According to a district administration spokesman, rainfall gauging stations on Monday recorded 26mm rainfall at Saidpur Village, 95mm at Golra, 66mm at PMD(H-8/2), 22mm at Shamsabad, and 26mm at Chaklala while average rainfall was recorded 64.78mm in basin of Nullah Leh. Alert at Kattarian would be issued at 15.7 ft while evacuation would be started at Gawalmandi if water level reaches at 20 ft.

The spokesman informed that Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Noor ul Amin Mengal had instructed the authorities of the administration, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and Rescue-1122 to finalize all the arrangements to meet any emergency like situation due to urban flooding in Nullah Leh and other nullahs. He said the water level in Nullah Leh was being monitored continuously and the machinery of Water and Sanitation Agency, Rawalpindi had been shifted to low-lying areas. The Commissioner had also directed the PDMA officers to keep the alert system updated and timely inform the people about the water level situation in Nullah Leh.

The WASA authorities were instructed to clear streets and roads and remove stagnant rain water particularly from Rattaamral, Kattarian, Tipu Road, Dhoke Naju, Gawalmandi, Zia ul Haq Colony and other low-lying areas as soon as possible. All the arrangements were also finalized to shift the people from low-lying areas to safe places in case water level reached at 20 feet at both the places, he added. He informed that all the departments concerned including PDMA, Rescue-1122 and Pak-Army were present in low-lying areas to cope with the situation. The authorities of WASA had been directed to utilize all available resources and mobilize their teams to remove stagnant rainwater from low-lying areas. The

DC also urged the citizens not to stand on the banks of Nullah Leh and other nullahs of the town. Various low-lying areas of Rawalpindi were submerged as heavy rain on Monday raised the water level in Nullah Leh. Water also entered homes in some localities. Rainwater accumulated in low-lying areas, squares and intersections in Rawalpindi also paralysed the drainage system in several areas of city and cantonment. According to a WASA spokesman, the teams of the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) pumped out the accumulated water from the affected areas as WASA had deployed teams in different areas particularly in low-lying areas to clear rainwater. – APP

Institutions should work under constitution

ISLAMABAD: Awami National Party (ANP) leader Aimal Wali Khan on Monday said all institutions of the state should work under the constitution of Pakistan or otherwise the country could head towards chaos. Addressing a joint press conference flanked by the members of the Federal Cabinet, Khan said the political leadership gave constitution to this country and it united the nation. "There is no precedent to the mockery being made of the constitution since its inception," he said.

Aimal Wali Khan was of the view that there was no point of 'all parties' sitting together to save the country when decisions of the nation's fate were being made elsewhere. "If a party president has no power then there is no use of his position and parliamentary leader must be given his powers," he queried, adding, "the parliamentary leader is answerable to the party president".

Wali Khan said, "the time has come to save the country and its economy," and added that if constitutional violations were left unpunished then the country could lead towards anarchy. ANP leader said, "I want to request through this platform that if anything happens to this government then its leadership should be allowed to decide its future course to cope with the situation. We will have to hold the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman accountable if we want to save this country."

Smooth traffic on highways NHA' top priority

ISLAMABAD: The smooth traffic flow on national highways and motorways was the top priority of NHA during rainy season. In a statement Spokesman NHA said that effective measures have been taken to ensure immediate repair of NHA network affected due to heavy rains. He said that the staff of the NHA was fully alert to repair affected portion on emergency basis. He said that the crack caused due to heavy rains on Sawan Bridge on Rawalpindi Grand Trunk (GT) road was filled, adding that the maintenance staff of the NHA completed the repair work due to which traffic is now flowing safely on GT road. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Lunch hosted by Representative/ Head of Mission of Embassy of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ms. Dilsad Senol for Ansar M Bhatti Editor daily Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Esma Eroglu(middle) also present. – DNA

Musical concert held to mark Pakistan Diamond Jubilee

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council(PAC) Monday organised a musical show titled "Azam Alishan, Shad Rahey Pakistan" in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan celebrations. The chief guest of the program was Naheed Manzoor and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. Speaking on the occasion, Naheed Manzoor said that we should also remember our ancestors on the occasion of Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, due to whose sacrifices we are breathing in free air. She added that Pakistan had made significant developments in every sector in

the last seven decades despite facing many challenges. She said today, Pakistan is among the 40 largest economies in the world, and noteworthy achievements have been made in the fields of education, health, agriculture, heavy industry, dams, infrastructure and services. Naheed expressed hope that Pakistan would be included in the 20 largest economies of the world till its platinum jubilee. She further described that with the hard work of our scientists day and night, today we are a nuclear power. In the end, she congratulated all the

singers for rendering the beautiful song. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Pakistan was a gift from Allah to the Muslims of India. He added that Pakistan has been valued in the Islamic world and has progressed in all spheres of life since independence. Among the singers, Bano Rahmat, a famous singer of Azad Kashmir and others, including Mohsin Pasha, Samina Khalid, Syeda Bushra Wakil, Hamza Ali, and Ramiz Ishaq, performed at the concert. A large number of people from different cities participated in the music festival. – APP

APHC expresses concern over unrelenting CASOs

ISLAMABAD: In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed deep concern over the continued cordon and search operations (CASOs) and arrest of youth by the Indian forces in the territory. The APHC spokesman in a statement issued on Monday said that the rapidly changing realities in the region also indicated the need for an immediate solution to the Kashmir dispute, Kashmir Media Service reported. The spokesman urged the world powers to focus on finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute so that the region could get out of the situation of constant tension. He expressed concern over the imposition of cruel laws in IIOJK aimed at keeping the freedom-loving people under constant pressure. The spokesman appealed to the justice-loving institutions and figures around the world to do their part in restoring the political rights of the oppressed Kashmiris. Meanwhile, Hurriyat leader, Dr Musab in a statement said that Kashmiris are struggling for their right to self-determination which was promised by India. Addressing a gathering of Hurriyat activists in Srinagar, he said there should be a plebiscite under United Nations supervision in Jammu and Kashmir to decide the fate of the disputed territory. – APP

Country's economy unable to afford new political crisis

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday said Pakistan's current economic situation could not afford any new political crisis, therefore the genuine demand for formation of a full bench of the Supreme Court to hear the case of Chief Minister Punjab should be accepted. Addressing a press conference here outside the Supreme Court, the minister said the incumbent federal government was taking the economy out of crisis towards stability but "if more political crisis are created, our efforts would go in vain and the country's economy might be in deep trouble". He said the dual standards of justice should be stopped against them adding, "we were jailed for months and years on the basis of false cases but the PTI leaders were given free hand". "If any of the PTI leader is jailed, he/she is released within 24 hours, similarly our name has been in the Exit Control List (ECL) for over three years but the names of PTI leaders in the ECL is removed within 48 hours," he added. Ahsan Iqbal said Imran Khan and his party leaders repeatedly gave statements against the institutions and the country's judiciary but nobody takes notice. For seven months, he said, former Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar did not act upon the Court's order but no one was there to send him any notice. "With due respect we are asking that why the country's laws apply only to us and not to Imran Khan and his party," he said adding, "we do not want judiciary to become a party with the political disputes of the country". – APP

PR making efforts to vacate Zhob Railway Station

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was putting all-out efforts to vacate the Zhob Railway Station building as soon as possible which was occupied by unauthorized outsiders and was being used for residential purposes following its permanent closure. The notices as per the new Ordinance of 2021 for removal of encroachment introduced by the federal government were being served to unauthorized occupants, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the efforts were being expedited with the assistance of local administration and the levies to retrieve the encroached structures and hopefully the encroachment issue would be resolved. The Zhob Railway Station was established in 1920 on the Bostan-Zhob section which was a narrow gauge section and it was closed for passenger traffic in 1985 and for goods traffic in 1990 being un-economical hence no, renovation of the station was carried out, since its closure, he added. He said the anti-encroachment operation for the vacation of these unauthorized service buildings would be carried out with the help of the district administration of Zhob due to the precarious law and order situation in this tribal area. To a question, the official said Pakistan Railways has taken several steps to improve the financial conditions of the department including Raabta. – APP

Five drug dealers arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested five drug dealers and recovered drugs, liquor from their possession during crackdown, informed police spokesman. During course of action, Rata Amral police arrested Manzoor and recovered 320 gram charas from his possession. Similarly, Westridge police held Ayaz, Tayyab and recovered 480 gram charas from their custody. Following operation, Naseerabad police recovered 110 grams of hashish from accused Bilal Nawaz, while Saddar Wah police recovered 10 liters of liquor from accused Ali. Police have registered separate cases against all the accused and further investigation was in progress. City Police Officer CPO Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari appreciated the performance of police teams adding that drug businesses would be closed down. – APP

Exports increase 40% in FY2022

On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 16.16 when compared to the exports of Rs.513,475 million in May 2022

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in rupee term witnessed an increase of 40.11 per cent during the current fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports during July-June (2021-2022) were recorded at Rs. 5,663,089 million as against Rs. 4,041,927 million during the corresponding period of last year showing an increase of 40.11 per cent, according to provisional data released by PBS. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports during the month of June 2022 increased by 39.98 per cent as compared to the exports of same month of last year. The exports in June 2020 were recorded at Rs.596,433 million as compared to exports of Rs.426,080 million during June, 2021. On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 16.16 when compared to the exports of Rs.513,475 million in May 2022. Main commodities of exports during June, 2022 were knitwear (Rs. 97,063 million), readymade garments (Rs. 75,350 million), bed wear (Rs. 58,049 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 41,082 million), rice other than Basmati (Rs.35,268 million),

cotton yarn (Rs.19,236 million), towels (Rs.18,643 million), madeup articles excluding towels and bedwear (Rs.14,089 million), rice Basmati (Rs.12,838 million) and fruits (Rs.9,699 million) On the other hand, imports, imports during July-June, 2021- 2022 totaled Rs.14,281,447 million as against Rs. 8,982,442 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 58.99%. Imports into Pakistan during June, 2022 amounted to Rs. 1,610,327 million as against Rs. 1,325,001 million in May, 2022 and Rs. 991,914 million during June, 2021 showing an increase of 21.53% over May, 2021 and of 62.35% over June, 2021. Main commodities of imports during June, 2022 were petroleum products (Rs. 418,314 million), petroleum crude (Rs.171,423 million), Natural Gas Liquefied (Rs. 143,007 million), iron & steel (Rs.66,058 million), plastic materials (Rs. 59,821 million), raw cotton (Rs.36,384 million), iron & steel scrap (Rs.31,586 million), palm oil (Rs. 29,258 million), motor cars ckd/skd (Rs.28,269 million) and electrical machinery & apparatus (Rs.25,623 million). – APP

IESCO plans E-Katcharies

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has planned to hold E-Katcharies via 'Facebook live' and telephone in its circles on Tuesday aimed at prompt addressing consumers' complaints and issues. The E-Katcharies were being regularly held in all company circles including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal, the spokesperson told. He said as per the schedule, all the operational circles would hold the E-Katcharies from 10:30am to 12:30 pm. The Operational Circles Incharge would attend customers complaints through facebook live and telephone calls. Islamabad Circle customers could participate in facebook live E-Kachary by using IDs SE IESCO Islamabad and Phone No. 051-9260194, Rawalpindi City Circle, SE IESCO Rawalpindi-City Phone No. 051-9292675. All valuable customers were requested to mention their name, reference No, Contact No and complete address while registering their complaint, the Spokespersons said. – APP

Furniture exports witness 79.74 percent increase

Jewellery exports also increased by 4.56 percent as the exports during current fiscal year

ISLAMABAD: Furniture exports during the twelve months of fiscal year of 2021-22 grew up by 79.74 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-May 2021-22, Furniture worth US \$9,361 were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 5,208 during the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Gems increased by 14.10 percent, worth US \$ 7,626 as compared to exports of \$6,684 during the same period of last year. Meanwhile, Jewellery exports also increased by 4.56 percent as the exports during current fiscal year recorded worth US \$14,361 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which recorded US \$13,735. During the period under review, Guar and guar products exports increased by 40.26 percent, worth US\$ 49,549 in current fiscal year, as compared to the exports of valuing US\$ 35,326 of the same period of last year. – APP



RAWALPINDI: Motorcyclist struggles to pass through accumulated rain water after heavy rain in the city. – APP

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Time to take precautions against Monkeypox

WE are deeply concerned by the potential outbreak of another global pandemic after the World Health Organization (WHO), on Saturday, sounded its highest alarm in relation to the Monkeypox viral disease, declaring it a global health emergency. Although a committee of experts voted 9-6 against sounding the highest alarm, the WHO's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus vetoed the decision, as he said he believed the "outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern". Previously, when the WHO first announced the Covid-19 pandemic as a global health emergency, Bangladesh, among other South Asian countries, showed little sign of taking the warning seriously. Therefore, we hope that policymakers this time will remain awake to the looming danger, and take preventive measures to ensure that citizens stay safe from the Monkeypox virus.

Reportedly, around 16,000 people have so far been affected by the disease in 72 countries. Initial symptoms of infection include fever, headaches, muscle pain, and back pain over a course of five days. Rashes subsequently appear on the face, the palms of hands and soles of feet, followed by lesions, spots, and finally scabs. The first case of Monkeypox in South Asia was only recently reported in India, where a middle-aged man who arrived from the Middle East was diagnosed with the disease. Within 10 days of that, India has confirmed four Monkeypox cases. With the arrival of the disease in South Asia and given how easily such diseases defy borders, Bangladesh needs to act fast.

The vast majority of cases recorded so far are suspected to have been transmitted sexually, but transmission of the disease may not be restricted to that. So it is incumbent upon the government to set up screening mechanisms at all ports of entry into the country, including airports, land routes, etc. Moreover, the government should set up expert committees in order to find out as much information about Monkeypox as possible, so that health authorities in particular, and people in general, understand the risks and possible preventive measures that can be taken. As we discovered from the pattern of Covid-19 pandemic, trying to prevent transmission at the early stage is the best way to fight an outbreak. Additionally, having a prepared healthcare system would go a long way in fighting any potential outbreak, and save lives. The government should also consider fast-tracking the planned construction of a vaccine plant which will be useful for all vaccine-related purposes in the future – including developing our own vaccines against Monkeypox if or when the need arises, which could potentially prove to be life-saving.



The only cosmopolitan city is drowning

Huma Arshad



“For Karachites rain is a pain in disguise!”

Data from the last 60 years reveals that Karachi faced a record-high rainfall back in 1967, which was broken in 2020. In 1967, Karachi's population was hardly 1.5 million, but in 2022 more than 30 million people live in the mega city and the record of 2020 be broken in 2022 and one can imagine how destructive it is now

EVERY year, Pakistan struggles to cope with the monsoon season, which batters the country from June through August and which sets off widespread criticism over poor planning. Pakistan has long ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, according to the Global Climate Risk Index. The country is

estimated to have lost nearly 10,000 lives to climate-related disasters and suffered about \$4 billion in losses between 1998 and 2018. When we see the situation in Karachi, Torrential rains, floods, and landslides in Karachi and surrounding areas have once again raised questions over poor urban planning in Pakistan's biggest and only cosmopolitan city. Dozens were killed and hundreds of people have been left homeless in Karachi ruining Eid celebrations.

This is a story of millions of Karachiites, who, instead of looking forward to the rainy season as is the romanticized notion in popular fiction and movies, must seek refuge from the havoc it wreaks due to the city's crumbling infrastructure. For years, authorities have pinned the blame on encroachments along the city's age-old storm water drains. The solution, they kept saying, lay in removing these encroachments and making them wider. And yet, two years of anti-encroachment drives that rendered thousands homeless could not save the city's streets from flooding. To an outsider, the level of incompetence and apathy on display is nothing less than mind-numbing. Nearly 100 projects were planned under the KTP, which included the Karachi bulk water supply scheme (K-4), circular railway, and waste disposal system. Unfortunately for Karachiites, the project never materialized. With the onset of the monsoon season, the city has already received more than 700 millimeters of rain and many roads have been inundated. Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) predictions of the upcoming monsoon rains in Karachi and across the country are alarming. It raises the question of whether there is an effective crisis management mechanism that can deal with the torrential rains in Karachi.

Data from the last 60 years reveals that Karachi faced a record-high rainfall back in 1967, which was broken in 2020. In 1967, Karachi's population was hardly 1.5 million, but in 2022 more than 30 million people live in the mega city and the record of 2020 be broken in 2022 and one can imagine how destructive it is now. It is not impossible to address Karachi's rain crisis, but it will be an uphill task because there is a need for ownership, planning, utilizing resources, and using scientific engineering tools. Also, eradicating illegal settlements, maintenance of drainage systems, and ensuring that storm drainage systems are functioning is not a difficult task. Each year is the same – authorities pretend to swing into action once the media highlights the damage caused by the rain. Once the water recedes, it is assumed that those who were displaced simply come back to their homes and everyone lives happily ever after. Since 2018 and even before that Karachi was always been neglected as it is generating enough revenue even with this poor infrastructure but the credit for generating revenue goes to the people of Karachi. Following the devastation Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif spoke to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, offering help after heavy rains brought life in Pakistan's largest city to a halt. The rains that began on the evening of Eid ul Adha's first day continued to pour till today, leaving several parts of Karachi submerged and main roads – including Shahrah-e-Faisal, Dr. Ziauddin Ahamd Road, and II Chundrigarh Road – inundated. Posh neighborhoods such as DHA and Clifton, too saw severe flooding as water entered the houses of the residents who pointed out the negligence of the authorities. Central Karachi is heavily affected by today's rain. The rain is causing massive power outages.

Countering climate change

Chris Doyle

Members of the credible scientific community are clear. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change determined that, “since systematic scientific assessments began in the 1970s, the influence of human activity on the warming of the climate system has evolved from theory to established fact”

AS temperatures surge upward shattering records and lives with an alarming consistency, it is jaw-dropping to just take stock of the phalanxes of climate-change deniers. Most species on this planet may reach the level of extinction before some of these diehard, cultist, fact-denying, science skeptics smell the coffee. Being a skeptic is one thing and perfectly acceptable. Challenging the research and insisting on evidence is responsible. It is legitimate to question how serious the crisis is, how fast the world has to act, how much time is left to deal with it, and what steps should be taken first. Many were latecomers to the gravity of the challenge life on Earth faces, not least in the Middle East. Yet even in the hydrocarbon rich states, that may be considered to have so much to lose on this front, tackling the environment and man-made climate change has become a top priority. It is also understandable why many simply do not wish to face the reality. It is tough. It is hard to get one's head around the challenge in front of us all. The attractions of wanting to believe the climate-change deniers are clear. What is not acceptable, and is frankly extremely dangerous, is the head in the boiling sand approach of the

climate change denial movement. This is a debate-free zone. It is akin to a religious belief that the climate has not altered one jot and those who say it has, are either grand conspirators or their victims. As too often nowadays, science and expertise are derided and dismissed. Worse still, are those who knowingly trumpet pseudo-science and dangerous conspiracies. Alarmingly many of those who parroted dangerous coronavirus pandemic conspiracy theories are also in the climate change conspiracy camp. Sadly, the most serious challenge is in the US, where largely far right groups try to undermine the science. One survey, in 2008, showed that in America, 92 percent of climate-skeptical materials were linked to conservative think tanks. While Democrats have tended to become more concerned about climate change, the Republican party is still dominated by climate-change skeptics. Members of the credible scientific community are clear. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change determined that, “since systematic scientific assessments began in the 1970s, the influence of human activity on the warming of the climate system has evolved from theory to established fact.” The science shows that climate change is not just happening but getting worse. Which begs the question what such delusional headbangers think is happening? Do they have to wait until all the ice sheets, and glaciers have disappeared? Given that, according to NASA, Greenland lost an average of 279 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2019, they may not have to wait long. Such attitudes represent a serious threat to our existence and have to be faced down. Climate change kills. It destroys homes and livelihoods. It will get worse and will only be halted with systematic and determined global action. When record temperatures are broken once again in Europe, they just say this is fake or quite natural. They think the same when learning nearly half the continent is facing drought this summer. The huge numbers of wildfires across Europe and elsewhere are just part of the natural cycle, though clearly, they are not given their increased frequency and intensity. Wildfires are getting more ferocious every year not least due to drier winters and longer, hotter summers. They have even broken out in Scandinavia and recently, in southern England, where temperatures tipped over 40 degrees Celsius for the first time in recorded history. Rail lines are buckling in the heat. Wildfires destroyed 41 homes around London.

Paris recorded temperatures of more than 40 degrees Celsius for only the third time since recordings began in 1873. In Greece, officials said that since the fire season commenced on May 1, they had tackled more than 2,500 fires. According to the World Health Organization, this year alone, “we have already witnessed more than 1,700 needless deaths in the present heatwave in Spain and Portugal alone.” Major cities suffering from heat stress will have to adapt. Early warning systems are needed. Urban construction will have to change. Rather than treat heatwaves as emergencies many countries will have to plan for them as standard, not rare, events. This is the future. In the hotter countries of the Middle East, extreme heat may render areas uninhabitable. Look at the dust storms in Iraq. In countries such as Britain, the population will have to adapt their housing and lifestyles to cope with temperatures the country is not used to. At the same time severe flooding in Europe is also an immense risk. How serious is this climate-change denial movement? It is hard to charge. A recent opinion poll in Britain showed that 70 percent of people believed climate change was the cause of the recent heatwave, but 17 percent claimed it was unrelated. Even if some of that 17 percent were skeptics, not denialists, it is worryingly high. A major public education program is required. Climate change should be taught at schools or at least incorporated significantly into the curriculum. The media too can play its role. Gone should be the days of false balance between eminent scientists and heavily paid climate denying lobbyists. Broadcasters and editors should abstain from marketing images of fun and children splashing in the water in the sun during a heatwave as if this was all normal and lovely. All of this leads up to the next COP climate conference in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh, in November. Many excuses for inaction may be made citing the global financial crisis and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It should not be a choice. Investment into countering climate change is too vital to be subject to the fate of the financial markets. The funding must be ringfenced. The impact of climate change cannot be left to the side to wait for another day. Speaking at the recent Petersburg Climate Dialogue in Berlin, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: “We have a choice. Collective action or collective suicide. It is in our hands.”

– Courtesy: Arab News

Another case of poliovirus

THE extremely rare poliovirus (vaccine-induced) case discovered by authorities in New York (the first in nearly a decade) has sent alarm bells ringing as health officials jolt to action with pop-up vaccination centres and calls for an urgent vaccination. Given nearly 93 per cent of children are vaccinated before the age of two, most Americans have nothing to worry about. But halfway across the world, reports of an 18-month-old being crippled by this highly infectious disease in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa raises the tally to 13 this year; dampening hopes of Pakistan ever shutting its doors on the polio outbreak. As nearly all of the cases reported at home have been of wild poliovirus, the explosion speaks more to the access to clean water and bears no relevance whatsoever to the detection in Rockland County. Nonetheless, the authorities would do better than to let the cluster slide by in a region already notorious for its reluctance to vaccination.

The widespread refusal stems from much-talked-about conspiracy theories that touch upon a little bit of everything (from Western-led sterilisation campaigns to terrorists' witchhunt to the installation of tracking chips). Continued attacks on polio vaccination teams, as if the very effective slander drive were not enough deterrents, have long been a question mark on the government's willingness to move heavens to ensure crossing its inoculation milestone. However, far more dangerous has been the rather new phenomenon of deceitful refusals. Of the cases found in North Waziristan, two boys had fake markers on their fingers, implying that their families did not hold any punches in registering their preferences.

That nothing much can be done for the hapless victims now because polio is a disease that spreads rather aggressively is a different tale altogether. Only a comprehensive investigation would reveal whether these markers ensued as a result of any dirty collusion with the health workers and if so, should the entire district's schedule be reviewed. In the meantime, engaging the ulema and local administration to dispel nefarious rumours (for the millionth time) and reminding the people that Pakistan, along with Afghanistan, is the “final frontier” in this global war remains the only reasonable step. We may have been lucky in New York and London but the 2019 outbreak in Malawi was traced back to our waters. The world is clearly not in the mood to let our negligence torpedo its eradication goals.

Truss v Sunak: What is unusual in the race for UK prime minister?

David Allen Green

The current political drama, however, is significantly different to the previous transfers of prime ministerial office. Never before has a prime minister resigned following mass resignations of other ministers, to the point that some government departments did not have ministers in the House of Commons

IN the United Kingdom, the next prime minister will either be the foreign secretary, Liz Truss, or the former chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak. These are the two politicians who will compete over the summer for the leadership of the governing Conservative Party. The result of the party poll is expected in the first week of September. In some ways, the current political drama in the United Kingdom is unexceptional. It is common for there to be a change of prime minister between general elections. Indeed, every prime minister since 1974 has either taken or lost office between general elections or both.

And it is not unusual for the potential successors to be serving or former senior cabinet ministers. In 1955, 1957, 1963, 1976, 1990, 2007, 2016 and 2019 the politician becoming prime minister between general elections held (or had recently held) one of the so-called “great offices of state” of foreign secretary, chancellor of the Exchequer, or home secretary. It is true that Sunak is not currently chancellor, as he was one of the dozens of ministers who resigned before the outgoing prime minister, Boris Johnson, announced his resignation, but subject to that proviso, it would not be unusual for a former chancellor to become prime minister. The current political drama, however, is significantly different to the previous transfers of prime ministerial office. Never before has a prime minister resigned following mass resignations of other ministers, to the point that some government departments did not have ministers in the House of Commons. And in two televised debates between candidates for the party leadership, many contenders de-

nounced all or part of the government's record and its economic policy. Such criticism even came from current ministers, who are supposedly bound by the doctrine of collective ministerial responsibility. So what is unusual here is not that there will be a new prime minister between general elections, or that the successor is (or was) a senior minister. It is that the authority of the office of prime minister itself has collapsed. The new prime minister not only will be taking over but also has to rebuild the credibility of the office itself.

And the new prime minister only has a limited time to do this. A new general election has to be called by the end of 2024 and has to take place by January 2025. The current parliament is more than halfway through its current term. The Conservative Party has been in government since 2010. At the 1964, 1997 and 2010 general elections, voters turned against the then-governing parties with the sense that it was “time for a change”. It is more likely than not that the same will happen again. This is especially the case when the main opposition party is largely united and focused, as it is now. The new prime minister will therefore be under intense political pressure to somehow secure re-election at the impending general election, as well as having to establish their authority in office and put in place new policies. This would be an extraordinary political test even for the most remarkable of politicians. Few observers think either of the current contestants for the premiership is such a politician. This means between now and the next general election it is likely that the political drama will continue.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Ukraine
eyes first...

FROM PAGE 01
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has estimated the value of grain stocks to be exported under the deal at around \$10 billion. The Kremlin insisted Monday that its strikes on Odessa "should not affect" the Turkish-brokered push to send the grain to world markets. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow's cruise missiles hit "exclusively" military infrastructure and were "not connected with the agreement on the export of grain."

Russia
will help...

FROM PAGE 01
sought to "denazify" and "demilitarise" Ukraine and downplayed the prospect of overthrowing Zelensky's government. After withdrawing from the outskirts of Kyiv and refocusing the fight to the eastern Donbas region in March, the Kremlin said it aimed to "liberate" the largely Russian-speaking population of the region, a characterisation Ukraine has dismissed as propaganda. Lavrov also told envoys that Russia had been ready to negotiate an end to the fighting in March, but that the West encouraged Ukraine to keep fighting.

Pak rejects
Indian...

FROM PAGE 01
He said, "This is not the first time that a senior Indian politician has tried to cast aspersions on the legitimate, indigenous and just freedom struggle of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIQJ). However, provocative statements by Indian political figures cannot alter the reality of IIQJ." India would be well advised to introspect as to why, despite imposing draconian laws, holding the entire Valley under military siege for decades, imprisoning thousands of innocent Kashmiris and their true representatives and wanton killing of over 100,000 Kashmiris, India had not been able to smother the flame of freedom from the heart of Kashmiris, he added.

PDM
boycotts...

FROM PAGE 01
"This is not what happens in our justice system," she said, adding that the PTI was given ample time to draft its petition by the registrar, while the common man is given months for the date of hearing. Noting that the judiciary interfered when Hamza was elected, she asked why the SC didn't call former NA deputy speaker Qasim Suri for violating the Constitution.

Govt
leaders'...

FROM PAGE 01
Fawad lamented that despite being on bail, the woman continued to hold a press conference against the judiciary even that at PM House Auditorium. Lashing out at Asif Ali Zardari, he said that whole of Sindh converted into a dam when it rained while he was on a mission to salvage the Punjab government by spending Sindh's money in Punjab. Regarding Zardari's departure to Dubai, Fawad said that Bilawal's father fled the country knowing that his government was only for a few days, adding that all these crooks could try to escape the country anytime; hence their names should be included in ECL.

'Nobody
allowed...

FROM PAGE 01
"Imran Khan will not be allowed to play the game of 'establishment and anti-establishment' just for a return to power," she added. The minister said that the Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief had admitted that he took the help of institutions and agencies to run the government for four years. She said that nobody would be allowed to bypass the justice system through bullying, threats and abuse. Mariyum remarked that the narrative of Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was the narrative of the constitution.

Macron embarks on African
visit to 'renew relationship'

The pullout from Mali follows a breakdown in relations with the country's ruling junta, which Western states accuse of relying on Russian Wagner mercenaries rather than European allies to fight an Islamist insurgency

AGENCIES

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron on Monday begins a three-nation tour of western African states in the first trip to Africa of his new term as he seeks to reboot France's post-colonial relationship with the continent. Macron will begin his July 25-28 tour, also the first venture outside Europe of his new mandate, with a visit to Cameroon, before moving on to Benin and then finishing the trip in Guinea-Bissau. At the top of the agenda in the talks will be food supply issues, with African nations fearing shortages especially of grain due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But security will also loom large as France prepares to complete its pullout from Mali this year, with all countries in the region seeking to head off fears of Islamist insurgencies. The trip to three countries which rarely feature on the itinerary of global leaders comes with Macron, who won a new term in April, pledging to keep up his bid for a new relationship between France and Africa. France has also followed with concern the emergence of other powers seeking a foothold in an area Paris still considers parts of its sphere of influence, notably Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan but also increasingly China and Russia. The tour "will show the commitment of the president in



Macron will meet President Paul Biya, 89, who has ruled the country for almost 40 years and is the longest-serving non-royal leader in the world. Biya has run the country with an iron fist, refusing demands for federalism and cracking down on the rebellion by separatists. Macron will move on Wednesday to Benin, a

neighbour of Africa's most populous nation Nigeria. The north of the country has faced more deadly attacks, with the jihadist threat now spreading from the Sahel to Gulf of Guinea nations. He is likely to be lauded for the return of 26 treasures were stolen in 1892 by French colonial forces from the capital of the Dahomey kingdom to the south of modern-day Benin. Benin was long praised for its thriving multi-party democracy. But critics say its

UmaroSissocoEmballo is preparing to take the helm of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). With all the countries criticised by activists over their rights records, the Elysee has insisted that governance and rights issues will be raised, albeit "without media noise but in the form of direct exchanges between the heads of states". Macron's first term was marked by visits to non-francophone African countries including regional powerhouses Nigeria and South Africa as he sought to engage with the entire continent and not just former French possessions. Benin is a former French colony, but Guinea-Bissau was once a Portuguese colony while Cameroon's colonial heritage is a mixture of British and German as well as French. Macron meanwhile has insisted France's military presence in the region will adapt rather than disappear once the pullout from Mali is complete. He announced last week that a rethink of France's presence would be complete by autumn, saying the military should be "less exposed" in the future but their deployment still a "strategic necessity". The pullout from Mali follows a breakdown in relations with the country's ruling junta, which Western states accuse of relying on Russian Wagner mercenaries rather than European allies to fight an Islamist insurgency.

Pakistan on back foot in
second Sri Lanka Test

DNA

GALLE: Ramesh Mendis led an inspired Sri Lanka spin attack to leave Pakistan in trouble at 191-7 in reply to the hosts' 378 on day two of the second Test on Monday. The tourists, who lead the two-match series 1-0, ended the day still trailing Sri Lanka by 187 runs in their first innings at Galle. Agha Salman resisted the bowling attack with his maiden Test fifty but fell to Prabath Jayasuriya's left-arm spin for 62 in the final moments of play before stumps was called. Jayasuriya got Salman caught at slip with a drifter coming into the right-handed batsman. Salman, who made his debut in the previous match, put on 46 runs with Yasir Shah, batting on 13, to lift Pakistan from 145-6. Ramesh rattled Pakistan's middle-order with his off-spin bowling on a pitch expected to turn

more from day three onwards. Pakistan suffered from a lack of partnerships after losing first-match hero Abdullah Shafique for a duck and skipper Babar Azam for 16 on either side of the lunch break.

Jayasuriya, who took 21 wickets in his first two Tests, bowled Azam on a turning delivery that got the edge of the dangerman's bat to crash onto the stumps. Imam-ul-Haq attempted to rebuild the innings with Mohammad Rizwan but Dhananjaya de Silva broke through with his off-spin to send back Imam on 32. De Silva is standing in as captain in place of Dimuth Karunaratne, who did not take the field in the Pakistan innings because of back pain. Rizwan hit a few boundaries to coun-



terattack but Ramesh trapped him lbw for 24 and a review did not help the wicketkeeper-batsman, with replays showing the ball would have hit leg stump. Pakistan had lost opener Shafique, who hit a match-winning 260 in the first Test, when he inside-edged a delivery from Asitha Fernando onto his stumps. Wickets kept tumbling but all-rounder Salman, who went wicketless in his six overs in Sri Lanka's innings, played the spinners on the front foot until his departure. Sri Lanka had resumed the day on 315-6 in former captain Angelo Mathews' landmark 100th Test, with overnight batsman Niroshan Dickwella making 51 and a useful cameo of 35 by Ramesh at number nine. Fast bowler Naseem Shah and leg-spinner Yasir claimed three wickets each to end Sri Lanka's innings in the first session.

Shoaib Akhtar
reveals teaser
for his biopic

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Sports biopics are not a new concept in other countries. However, former Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's biopic will be the first in Pakistan, as the ace leg pacer announced the upcoming release of his biopic on social media. Akhtar, on Sunday, tweeted a preview for the movie with the description, "Beginning of this beautiful journey. Announcing the launch of my story, my life, my biopic, 'Rawalpindi Express - Running Against The Odds'." "If you think you know a lot already, you're mistaken. You're in for a ride you've never taken before. An international project by Q Film Productions [and the] first foreign film about a Pakistani sportsman," he said. The short clip showed Akhtar's figure sprinting with his back turned towards the camera in a hazy frame with train tracks in the centre. A train siren could be heard in the background, but no locomotive could be seen, as the camera focused on him and his number 14 jersey. The film's release date was also mentioned in the teaser. Bringing to fruition an idea that the filmmaker had back in 2016, Muhammad Faraz Qaiser described it as "a dream come true." The former Pakistan cricket team pacer took 178, 247, and 19 wickets in three different formats during 46 Tests, 163 ODIs, and 15 T20Is.

What is Article 63 A?

FROM PAGE 01

(2) A member of a House shall be deemed to be a member of a Parliamentary Party if he, having been elected as a candidate or nominee of a political party which constitutes the Parliamentary Party in the House or, having been elected otherwise than as a candidate or nominee of a political party, has become a member of such Parliamentary Party after such election by means of a declaration in writing.
(3) Upon receipt of the declaration under clause (1), the Presiding Officer of the House shall within two days refer, and in case he fails to do so it shall be deemed that he has referred, the declaration to the Chief Election Commissioner who shall lay the declaration before the Election Commission for its decision thereon confirming the declaration or otherwise within thirty days of its receipt by the Chief Election Commissioner.
(4) Where the Election Commission confirms the declaration, the member referred to in clause (1) shall cease to be a member of the House and his seat shall become vacant.
(5) Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Election Commission may, within thirty days, prefer an appeal to the Supreme Court which shall decide the matter within ninety days from the date of the filing of the appeal.
(6) Nothing contained in this Article shall apply to the Chairman or Speaker of a House.
(7) For the purpose of this Article,
(a) "House" means the National Assembly or the Senate, in relation to the Federation; and a Provincial Assembly in relation to the Province, as the case may be;
(b) "Presiding Officer" means the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the Senate or the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, as the case may be.
(8) Article 63A substituted as aforesaid shall come into effect from the next general elections to be held after the commencement of the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Act, 2010: Provided that till Article 63A substituted as aforesaid comes into effect the provisions of existing Article 63A shall remain operative.

Pakistani
sportsmen
laud Arshad
Nadeem

WEB DESK

EUGENE: Pakistani Olympian Arshad Nadeem secured fifth place in the men's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships in Oregon, United States. It was his best throw of the season. He may not have won the medal but he won hearts of Pakistanis. Similarly, Pakistani sportsmen also extended their support for the javelin thrower for his best shot at the event. Taking to Twitter, Pakistani cricketer Shadab Khan wrote, "Proud of Arshad Nadeem. Fifth in the world. With more support and better facilities he can be in the top three." While sharing the video of Arshad's throw at the event on Twitter, Pakistani wrestler Inam Butt said, "What a throw!!! Well-done 86.16 meters shabash (well-done) Arshad Nadeem. Arshad got 5th place in world championship."



PRAGUE: Pakistan ambassador to Czech Republic, Muhammad Khalid Jamali meets deputy minister of defence Tomas Kopecky to review the progress made in defence cooperation since the signing of agreement in 2021. – DNA

Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan sign MoUs to boost co-op

Kazakhstan's president and his delegation praised the successful efforts of OPEC+ countries in enhancing stability in the global oil market, stressing importance of continuing this cooperation and the need for all participating countries to adhere to the agreement

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan have agreed to boost their bilateral ties and cooperation in several sectors with the signing of new memoranda of understanding (MoU) during the Kazakh President's visit to the Kingdom on Sunday, a joint statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency on Monday showed. Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman received Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Sunday where

they held official talks in the presence of several Saudi and Kazakh senior officials to discuss bilateral relations, issues of common interest and ways in which they can strengthen the cooperation in different industries between the two countries. The two leaders praised their economic and investment bilateral relations and agreed to further strengthen their cooperation with new partnerships and investment opportunities that were in line with the Kingdom's Saudi Vision 2030 and Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy. They also praised their existing cooperation, the Sau-

di-Kazakh Joint Committee, for its positive results and signed a number of MoUs pertaining to the private sector and concluded deals in energy, food, and medicine. Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan also signed MoUs in the fields of medicine, sports, tourism and finance. Opportunities to develop their bilateral cooperation in the fields of radio, television and news agencies were discussed, along with opportunities to enable the development of joint media opportunities between Kazakhstan and the Kingdom. They also agreed to enable private sector partnerships

and encourage investments from both countries in key sectors which included renewable energy, mining, agriculture, logistics, transport, and petrochemicals, as well as information technology which is in line with the countries' digital transformation efforts. In terms of trade and tourism, the leaders agreed to increase direct flights between the two countries and create multiple shipping transport routes. According to SPA, Saudi Arabia valued the support of the Kazakh government for Riyadh's bid to host Expo 2030. **Climate change:** They agreed on the importance

of adhering to the Paris Agreement and expressed their mutual support for the Saudi Green Initiative and Green Middle East plans, which were launched by the Kingdom, as well as Kazakhstan's Green Bridge Partnership Program. Kazakhstan's president and his delegation praised the successful efforts of the OPEC+ countries in enhancing stability in the global oil market, stressing the importance of continuing this cooperation and the need for all participating countries to adhere to the agreement. **Political cooperation:** The leaders exchanged

views on mutual, regional and international, issues of concern and interest, affirming their determination to enhance joint cooperation in continuing their efforts to push for global peace and stability. With regards to Yemen, the Kazakh side expressed their full support for international and regional efforts to reach a comprehensive political agreement based on the Gulf's initiatives and implementation mechanisms which were in line with the outcomes of the Yemen National Dialogue and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216.

SC rejects
plea seeking
full court

FROM PAGE 01

Deputy Speaker Mazari's lawyer, Irfan Qadir said he was instructed to speak regarding the formation of the full court only; therefore, he needed time to take instructions from his client. Meanwhile, Hamza Shahbaz's counsellor Mansoor Awan sought time to take instructions for arguments on merit. Justice Ijazul Ahsan reiterated that the decision to form a full court will be made on merit. Meanwhile, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarrar asserted that there was enough clarification in this regard.

Advocate Qadir said he was instructed to speak regarding the full court formation only; therefore, he needs time to take instructions from his client. Meanwhile, Hamza Shahbaz's counsellor Mansoor Awan sought time to take instructions for arguments on merit.

Justice Ahsan reiterated that the decision to form a full court will be taken on merit; meanwhile, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarrar asserted that there is enough clarification in this regard. Tarrar added that if the review petition is approved that there will be no need for a run-off election. During the hearing, CJP Bandial said that the case regarding the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) was heard by a full court because it was a "constitutional matter".

"We have sent the prime minister home with five judges at that time you [coalition parties] were celebrating and now you are standing against this," the chief justice said, adding that if this matter crosses the limit, then a full court will be formed. Presenting his arguments, advocate Qadir added that when allegations are levelled against the judges that similar bench is formed repeatedly then these charges can be rejected by the formation of a full court.

"There is no objection on the neutrality of the current three-member bench; however, to remove any ambiguities, a full court needs to be formed," the deputy speaker's counsellor said. CJP Bandial recalled that the SC had taken suo moto notice in the case of the federal government and announced its verdict by hearing the case day and night.

"In the federal government case, we were of the view that the National Assembly deputy speaker had violated Article 95; however, under the current scenario, the court hasn't taken suo moto notice," the chief justice said. He further added that instead of prolonging the case, it can be shortened, saying there was only one question to be addressed: whether the party head could give directions or not. "You have already given the answer to this question in affirmative," he told advocate Qadir. Continuing his argument, advocate Qadir said that the re-election for the chief minister was held in the light of the court's decisions. "Therefore, if the court refuses to accept the deputy speaker's decision to reject the votes of defecting members, there will be no need for re-election," he said, adding that the basis of this case is the Supreme Court's verdict "which must be reviewed first."

Advocate Qadir further said that there is a contradiction in Supreme Court's ruling on Article 63(A), "which gives the idea that the apex court is under pressure." However, he immediately added that he wasn't trying to disrespect the court as the top court was equally respectable for him as well. Citing an example of the difference of opinions among politicians which was wreaking havoc on the country, the deputy speaker's counsel said that if the judges also unite and form a full court, then the issue can be resolved easily.

While concluding his arguments, the lawyer urged the court not to hurry in making a decision and carefully deliberate it. On the other hand, PPP's counsel Farooq H Naek requested that the court should hear the case tomorrow morning "with a fresh mind". Justice Munib Akhtar intervened, saying that there should be no dictatorship of the party leader in the parliamentary party. Subsequently, PML-Q lawyer Salahuddin took the rostrum and said that in his opinion, "instructions to the parliamentary party are issued by the party head," as he also urged the formation of a full court bench.

Briefs

Nepal unveils action plan for tourism revival

AGENCIES

KATHMANDU: The Nepali government on Sunday announced a number of measures to revive the tourism industry battered by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a plan to declare the years between 2023 and 2033 as Visit Nepal Decade. Unveiling the Tourism Rehabilitation Action Plan, Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Nepal's minister for culture, tourism and civil aviation, said the government is breaking the tradition of announcing a single year as Visit Nepal Year so as to run a sustained campaign to promote tourism, a major foreign exchange earner and job creator for the country. As per the action plan, the Visit Nepal Decade is expected to come out within the next three months. The government plans to attract 1 million foreign tourists in the 2022-23 fiscal year which began in mid-July. "We have not yet set any target for the planned Visit Nepal Decade. We have to do further homework and consultations with the stakeholders," Hom Prasad Lutit, joint secretary at the tourism ministry, told Xinhua.

Turkish coast guard saves irregular migrants

ANKARA: Türkiye's coast guard saved the lives of irregular migrants in the Aegean Sea after they were pushed to the Turkish side by Greek forces, the country's National Defense Ministry said Monday.

A Turkish navy drone recorded footage of the Greek forces pushing the migrants from Rhodes Island on July 24 to Türkiye's Marmaris city, the ministry said in a tweet. The situation was immediately reported to the Turkish Coast Guard Command and the migrants were rescued, it added.

Ankara and international human rights groups have repeatedly condemned Greece's illegal practice of pushing back asylum seekers, saying it violates humanitarian values and international law by endangering the lives of vulnerable people, including women and children.

4 pro-democracy activists executed in Myanmar

MONITORING DESK

YANGON: The military junta in Myanmar executed four people, including top political activists, a spokesperson for the regime said on Monday. Executions were carried out over the weekend, and the military regime denied bodies to their families, according to a local news website, adding that Kyaw Min Yu, better known as Jimmy, former lawmaker Phyo Zayar Thaw, Hla Myo Aung, and Aung Thura Zaw were arrested last year.

China warns US over possible Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit

Addressing the issue of the recent threats, the paper alleged that 'the private rhetoric suggested a possible military response,' citing several people familiar with the situation as saying

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China has warned the United States of "strong measures" over a potential visit by the US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), saying Washington would be responsible for any consequences. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian raised the alarm at a regular press briefing on Monday, confirming an earlier report by the Financial Times which said Beijing has issued stern "private" warnings to the United States in reaction to Pelosi's planned trip to the self-ruled island. "The Chinese side has made it clear to

the US on many occasions that it is firmly opposed to Speaker Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. We are fully prepared," Lijian said. "If the US goes its own way, China will certainly take firm and forceful measures to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the United States should be held responsible for any serious consequences," he added. On Saturday, the Financial Times cited "six people familiar with Chinese warnings" as saying they were significantly stronger this time compared to Beijing's previous cautions concerning Washington's attitude towards the island. Addressing the issue of the recent threats, the paper alleged that "the private rhetoric suggested a possible military re-

sponse," citing several people familiar with the situation as saying. According to the Financial Times, Pelosi is expected to visit Chinese Taipei in August. While other US lawmakers and former officials have visited Chinese Taipei in recent months, Pelosi would be the highest-ranking American legislator to visit island territory in 25 years. The last time a US House speaker paid a visit to Chinese Taipei was in 1997, when Newt Gingrich met the self-ruled Island's then-President Lee Teng-hui. Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has reflected concerns from the nation's military about Pelosi's planned visit, saying, "I think that the military thinks it's not a good idea right now,

but I don't know what the status is." Chinese Taipei falls under China's sovereignty, and under the "one China" policy, almost all world countries – the US included – recognize that sovereignty. But, in violation of its own stated policy and in an attempt to irritate Beijing, Washington has maintained and recently ramped up diplomatic contact with the self-proclaimed government in Chinese Taipei. Washington is also the island's largest weapon supplier. Tensions between Washington and Beijing over the issue of Chinese Taipei have intensified in recent months. China has been flying fighter jets close to Chinese Taipei while the US has reportedly had troops deployed in the territory for the past year for training purposes.

Azerbaijan, UAE discuss expanding cooperation

WEB DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have discussed the expansion of cooperation in trade, mutual investment, SMBs, logistics, and tourism sectors, Azernews reports. The discussion took place during the meeting between Azerbaijan's Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov and UAE Ambassador Mohammed Murad Al Blooshi. During the meeting, the minister emphasized the high level of relations between the two countries based on the principles of mutual friendship and respect. He also noted the successful cooperation in the economic sphere between Azerbaijan and the UAE. The parties also discussed the development of trade and economic partnership between the two countries.

The diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates were established on September 1, 1992. The trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$50.4 million in 2021. Last year, Azerbaijan and the UAE signed agreements on pilot projects in renewable energy. Under the agreement, the building of a 230-MW solar power plant is envisaged. On March 15, a groundbreaking ceremony for the 230 MW Garadagh solar power plant, to be constructed by the United Arab Emirates' Masdar company, was held in Baku's Gulistan Palace. The plant is designed to produce 500 million kWh of electricity per year and supply it to approximately 110,000 households. It will reduce gas consumption by 110 million cubic meters and environmental emissions by 200,000 tons.



ANKARA: Pakistan ambassador to Türkiye, Syrus Qazi paid a courtesy visit to Nebil DABUR, DG of SESRIC, a subsidiary of OIC. – DNA

Tunisians vote in referendum on new constitution

FOREIGN DESK

TUNIS: Tunisians voted Monday on a constitution seen as a key test for President Kais Saied, who promoted the charter that would give his office nearly unchecked powers in a break with the country's democracy. The referendum comes a year to the day after Saied sacked the government and froze parliament in a power grab that his rivals condemned as a coup against the only democracy to have emerged from the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. His moves were however welcomed by many Tunisians tired of a grinding economic crisis and a system they felt had brought little improvement to their lives in the decade since the overthrow of dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Monday's vote is widely expected to pass, but turnout will be seen as a test of Saied's popularity after a year of increasingly tight one-man rule that has seen scant progress on tackling the North African country's economic woes. Speaking after voting got underway, Saied told journalists "Tunisians faced a 'historic choice'." "Together we are founding a new republic based on genuine freedom, justice and national dignity," he said. He also accused unnamed rivals of distributing money to persuade people not to vote, without giving evidence. "We will not let Tunisia fall prey to those who are stalking it, from inside and out," he said. In the capital, six people waited to vote at a school turned into a polling station, the entrance guarded by two soldiers with assault rifles, alongside a posse of police. "For me, the

referendum is about protecting the country's future," said Tarik al-Jmaï, 42, after casting his ballot. Some 9.3 million out of Tunisia's 12 million people are eligible to take part, including around 356,000 who began voting overseas on Saturday. "The biggest unknown in this referendum is the turnout and whether it will be low or very low," said analyst Youssef Cherif. No minimum participation has been set for the constitution to pass, nor any provision made for a "no" result. Saied's critics have warned Tunisia risks sliding back towards dictatorship. Opposition parties and civil society groups have called for a boycott, while the powerful UGTT trade union has declined to take a position. Saied's charter would replace a 2014 constitution that was a hard-won compromise between Islamist-leaning and secular forces after three years of political turmoil. His supporters blame the hybrid parliamentary-presidential system it introduced, and the dominant Islamist-influenced Ennahdha party, for years of political crises and corruption. Saied's draft for the constitution was published this month with little reference even to an earlier draft produced by a committee he appointed himself. Sadeq Belaid, a mentor of Saied who led the process, warned the president's draft was far removed from that of the committee and risked creating a "dictatorial system". A slightly amended version did little to address such concerns. The new text would place the head of state in command of the army, give him full executive control and allow him to appoint a government without parliamentary approval.

Jokowi commences working visit to China

JAKARTA: President Joko Widodo (Jokowi), accompanied by First Lady Iriana Joko Widodo, departed for Beijing, China, on Monday, to begin a series of foreign visits to three East Asian countries: China, Japan, and South Korea. "The three countries are also important partners in the context of the G20," Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said as quoted in a statement received by the Press, Media, and Information Bureau of the Presidential Secretariat in Jakarta on Monday. Marsudi said the three countries are also Indonesia's strategic partners in the economic sector. She explained that President Jokowi will meet with leaders from the three countries to discuss several matters ranging from global issues to cooperation in various aspects, such as trade to infrastructure. "Various issues from trade cooperation, investment, health, infrastructure, fisheries, to regional and world issues will be discussed with the leaders of the three

countries," the foreign minister noted. The president and his entourage took off aboard the Garuda Indonesia (GIA-1) aircraft from the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Tangerang, Banten Province, at around 14:00 local time. The head of state and Mrs. Iriana will take an around seven-hour flight to the Beijing Capital International Airport, China, and are expected to arrive on Monday night. On the flight to Beijing, China, President Jokowi and Mrs. Iriana are accompanied by Minister of State Secretary Pratikno, Minister of State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) Erick Thohir, Minister of Investment/Head of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Bahli Lahadalia, Head of the Presidential Secretariat Heru Budi Hartono, and Head of State Protocol Andy Rachmianto. Meanwhile, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi were in Beijing to prepare for the president's visit. – ANTARA

Nine regions of Kazakhstan put on storm alert

NEWS DESK

NURSULTAN: Storm alert was issued nine regions of Kazakhstan, Kazinform cites the press service of the National Met Office Kazhydromet. Abai region is to expect 15-20mps northeasterly wind in the south on July 26. The west of Akmol region is to see thunderstorms. Southerly, southeasterly wind is to reach 15-20mps in the southwest at daytime. The north of Aktobe region

is to expect heavy rains during the day. The south, east, and north of the region are to brace for thunderstorms and hail. Southeasterly wind turning southwestward is to reach 15-20mps during thunderstorms. Aktobe city is to brace for thunderstorms. Southeasterly wind turning southwestward is to reach 16mps during thunderstorms. The north, northeast, and south-east of West Kazakhstan region are to expect thunderstorms, hail, and squalls. Southwesterly wind turning

northwestward is to gust 15-20mps during thunderstorms. Ural'sk city is to brace for thunderstorms and hail. The south of Karaganda region is to see northeasterly, easterly wind with gusts of up to 15-20mps and 35 degrees Celsius at daytime. High fire hazard is to persist in the region's southeast. Kyzylorda region is to expect thunderstorms in the north in the nighttime and morning. Dust tides are to batter the region's north and center during the day.

Pak-China olive cooperation possesses immense potential

NEWS DESK

FUZHOU: Pak-China olive cooperation possesses immense potential, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday quoting Chen Rui, General Manager of Fujian Baihejiang Industrial Development Co., Ltd. "As one of the main olive producing areas in China, the processing industrial chain in Fujian Province is still far from perfect. The supply of high-quality olives is in short supply; besides, the by-product market also contains unlimited potential. Nameley, the market space is huge. In the future, if we can introduce excellent olive varieties from countries along the Belt and Road, including Pakistan, and carry out planting and processing technology exchanges with them, undoubtedly it will be a win-win situation," Chen Rui said. Edible olives are rich in nutrients, providing protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamin C, calcium, phosphorus, iron and other minerals. Its content of vitamin C is 10 times that of apples and

5 times that of pears and peaches. He told CEN that Pakistan, which has a large area of land suitable for growing olive trees, can produce about 1,500 tons of olive oil and 830 tons of table olives per year, all of which are consumed domestically. Now, Pakistan is the only South Asian country to be included in the International Olive Council. Farhan Pasha, the science officer in charge of the olive program at the Barani Agricultural Research Institute, told CEN that the main areas in Pakistan fit for olive cultivation are Balochistan, KPK and Punjab, etc. Pakistan has 10 million acres of land suitable for olive cultivation, which is almost twice as much as Spain, the world's largest olive oil producer. Nevertheless, the cultivation and processing of edible olives in Pakistan is facing a series of challenges, which also brings opportunities for agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan in this field. According to Farhan Pasha, Pakistani olive growers often need to use costly imported fertilizers or pesticides when faced with pests and diseases, but this is beyond

the purchasing power of most ordinary farmers. Therefore, if China provides effective measures to increase production or control pests and diseases, this will be the most ideal result. Chen put forward a specific plan for this, "Bio-pesticides are our best choice due to ordinary pesticides may cause soil hardening or pesticide residues. Even the most common biological materials such as well-proportioned ginger and pepper spray can have a very good sterilizing and insecticidal effect. In terms of pest control, we use breeding beneficial insects, such as ladybugs, to kill pests." As for fertilizers, Chen emphasized that in most cases, his olive orchard chooses organic bio-fertilizers, such as chicken and sheep manure, which are of great help in increasing production. At present, there are two main varieties of edible olives, in his orchard, with a total planting area of about 2,500 mu (about 166.67 hectares). In the past five years, the annual output has been about 500,000 kilograms, and the annual output value can reach 50 million yuan.

Staff shortages continues at European airports

AGENCIES

GENEVA: While the number of airport staff across Europe is decreasing, the rise in the number of passengers and flights continues to make the travel of international passengers to the region an ordeal. With the start of the holiday season, the mutually increasing international flights from the countries of the region since June have caused a crisis in many airports where the staff has been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current employees are on strike.

There are long queues for ticket checks and baggage loading at the international airports of many countries, while long waits are experienced for baggage handling at the arrivals section. Flight cancellations occur at airports where some personnel have been on strike for more than a month. No passenger plane took off for a day due to the security guards' strike at Brussels Airport in Belgium on June 20. Since the security screening of passengers and luggage could not be performed, no departing flight from Brussels Airport could be performed. The airport could only provide services for arriving passengers and cargoes on that day. The strikes of the employees of the airline companies also cause congestion at Brussels Airport, with flights either delayed or canceled. Disruptions at Brussels and Charleroi airports due to Ryanair employees' strikes since Friday have led to backlogs.

Singapore inflation hits 6.7% in June

FOREIGN DESK

SINGAPORE: Singapore's annual inflation in June was 6.7%, the highest since October 2008, official figures showed on Monday. The figure recorded last month was 5.6%. Inflation rose for services, food, retail, and utilities, data released by the Singapore Department of Statistics said. Food inflation hit 5.4% in June compared to 4.5% in May, while prices for retail and other goods also picked up, 3.1% in June from 1.8% in May. While food inflation "rose as a result of larger increases in the prices of both food services and non-cooked food," electricity and gas prices also increased, with inflation at 20% in June compared to 19.9% in May. Private transport costs, meanwhile, jumped 21.9% from 18.5% in May "as car prices and petrol costs picked up more strongly." On a month-on-month basis, overall inflation increased by 1%.

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Briefs

Russia to cut
Nord Stream
1 gas flow

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russian gas giant Gazprom said Monday it was cutting daily gas deliveries via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 33 million cubic metres starting Wednesday. That would correspond to 20% of the pipeline's capacity. The current flow of gas into Germany is only at 40%. Nord Stream 1 begins north of Saint Petersburg in Russia and ends at a station near Greifswald on Germany's northern Baltic Sea coast. The company said it was halting the operation of another turbine due to the "technical condition of the engine". The full capacity of Nord Stream 1 is over 160 cubic meters of gas exported daily. Stopping the turbine will result in reduced capacity of 33 million cubic meters. Gazprom said the production capacity is to be reduced at Russia's Portovaya compressor station. Germany's Ministry for Economic Affairs said there was "no technical reason" for the gas delivery cut, AFP news agency reported a government spokesperson as saying.

Torrential
rains wreak
havoc in
Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: Torrential rains continued for a second day on Monday in Karachi leaving at least five people dead in various incidents of electrocution during the past 24 hours, according to police sources. The electrocution incidents reportedly took place in the areas of Tesar Town, Lyari, Liaquatabad and SITE. Acting Governor Sindh Agha Siraj Durrani, while expressing regret over the loss of precious human lives during the rains, urged people to stay at home.

WHO
hands over
medicines to
Balochistan
govt

QUETTA: World Health Organization (WHO)'s head in Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala handed over medicines and other equipment worth over 800 million dollars to the health department of Balochistan government for preventing cholera in rain hit areas of the province. WHO's Head Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala distributed donations to the flood affected areas and medicines for the cholera epidemic as well as the newly constructed Covid-19 vaccination center at the Pak-Afghan Chaman border. Equipment, supplies and furniture were handed over to chief secretary Balochistan, on Monday. On the occasion, Secretary Health Saleh Muhammad Nasir, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shahak Baloch, Director General Health Services Balochistan Dr. Noor Ahmad Qazi, Dr. Lubni Khalil, Provincial Coordinator Dr. Akhtar Buledi, DHO Dr. Noor Bizenjo, officials of WHO, UNICEF and EPI were also present. WHO, Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala was talking to journalists on the occasion of the inauguration of overall cholera vaccination campaign in 37 Union councils of 18 districts. He said that by drinking clean water, washing hands with soap, and eating well-cooked food, cholera could be prevented from spreading in flood-affected areas of Balochistan saying that Cholera vaccine was being given to children for the first time in Pakistan and was inaugurated on Monday in Balochistan. Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala visited the provincial office of Provincial PDMA during his visit to Quetta and got information about the arrangements for flood and cholera outbreak. He lauded the efforts of the Government of Balochistan, especially the health department for the measures taken in the recent epidemics and flood situation to take timely and effective actions in the affected areas and to save precious human lives. - APP

CPEC: Third parties' participation crucial

Both sides have agreed to well grasp the general direction of development of the CPEC, Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have agreed on participation of third parties in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and exchanges among media and think tanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with the existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday. During the third meeting of Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination under the CPEC held last week, both sides agreed to well

grasp the general direction of development of the CPEC, he said during his regular briefing held here. He said the two sides agreed to properly cope with risks and challenges to accumulate positive energy for, inject new impetus into, and provide a strong guarantee for the development of CPEC. The relevant CPEC meeting held via video link and co-chaired by China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood exchanged views and reached common understandings on the participation of

third parties in CPEC, exchanges among media and think tanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghanistan. The spokesperson said that the two sides also agreed to continue to deepen media cooperation and do a good job in telling a CPEC stories, and innovate and expand cooperation among think tanks to provide more public support and insights for the development of CPEC. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to follow through on the important consensus

reached by the leaders of the two countries, and push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner to better benefit the two countries and two peoples, he added. Meanwhile, in a tweet, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that the third meeting of CPEC JWG on International Cooperation placed emphasis on high-quality development of CPEC. As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened by CPEC, he added.

Monsoon:
102 people
die in
Balochistan

QUETTA: As many as 102 deaths have occurred so far due to the torrential rains and flash floods in Balochistan, Spokesperson of the Balochistan Government, Farah Azeem Shah said on Monday. She said that those who died in the rain-related incidents included 39 men, 30 women and 33 children. The rains have damaged 580 kilometers of roads, eleven bridges and five dams in the province. Besides, 706 cattle have also died due to floods. However, about the government's immediate response and resolve, she noted that the provincial government is continuing the relief operation in the rain-affected districts by utilizing all available resources. Farah Azeem Shah praised the initiative of the provincial government and the Chief Minister of Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo for issuing compensation money to the families of the people who died due to heavy monsoon rains and floods. - APP



ISLAMABAD: PMLN leader Maryam Nawaz alongwith other Government allies jointly addressing a press conference at PM Office. - APP

Alvi offers virtual
education to students
in Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has reiterated Pakistan's offer to provide virtual and online education facilities to the students of Afghanistan through Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and the Virtual University of Pakistan (VUP). The offer was made when the Minister of Education of Afghanistan visited the President and said that higher education is in dire straits in Afghanistan. While talking to Mufti Taqi Usmani after being informed that Mufti Sahib was going to Afghanistan for discussions with the leadership. The President said that since Afghanistan doesn't possess nationwide internet connectivity, therefore, initially the education materials of AIU and VUP can be communicated to Afghan students, both male and female, through its television network. The President said that the Government and the State of Pakistan believed in providing equal educational opportunities for women, at par with its male population. Iqra in Quran is for all Muslims and is not gender specific. He further said that keeping in view the spe-

cific socio-political concerns of Afghanistan, women could be imparted education by making special arrangements as deemed appropriate and as was initially pledged by the current Afghan leadership.

He said that Islam emphasises imparting education to all without making any distinction between men and women. He further observed that if Afghanistan was taking measures to provide education to its female population according to its own preferences, then this far-reaching initiative should also be properly publicized through all channels of media and communication tools to rest of the world to allay their concerns in this regard. Pakistan wants peace and development in Afghanistan and it can't happen without development of their own human resource. The President also communicated Govt of Pakistan's offers of providing online and virtual education facilities to Afghanistan during his meetings with the Afghan Ambassador and Afghan Counsel Generals and with other Afghan government leadership, directly or indirectly, through his interaction with them on various occasions.

Shujaat, Fazl discuss
political situation over call

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Chief Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday held a consultative conversation on call. In their telephonic contact, the two leaders thoroughly discussed the political situation in the country. It is pertinent to mention here that the political chaos has deepened in Punjab due to the constitutional clash between the opponent parties amid the Punjab Chief Minister election. The dispute started over Shujaat Hussain's letter that declared the PML-Q votes in favor of Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) Hamza Shahbaz. While it served as a setback for Hamza's opponent, who is none other than the PML-Q leader Pervaiz Elahi himself. Where Shujaat Hussain's letter harmed PML-Q internally, it also raised serious questions regarding Supreme Court's verdict over the interpretation of Article 63 (A). Meanwhile, a three-member bench of the SC headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial will hear the petition filed by Pervaiz Elahi against Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's ruling over the election of Punjab CM on Monday. Furthermore, Chaudhary Shujaat was not summoned by the Supreme Court and he will not appear. Chaudhry Shujaat and Salik Hussain are said to be residing in Islamabad.

Several victims in
Canadian mass shooting

DNA

LANGLEY: There were several victims of a mass shooting early on Monday in the Canadian province of British Columbia, local media reported, and police said one person was in custody. Police had earlier issued an emergency alert for multiple shootings in the city of Langley and asked residents to stay alert and away from the area of the incident. Langley police in a statement said they responded to "multiple reports of shots fired with several victims and several different scenes through-

out the City of Langley, and one scene in the Township of Langley" and asked the public to remain out of several areas, including the parking lot of a casino and a bus stop. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Sergeant Rebecca Parslow would not comment on whether there had been any fatalities but said police were bringing in investigators from the Lower Mainland major crimes and integrated homicide investigation team. "Multiple shooting scenes in the downtown core in the city of Langley with 1 incident in Langley township involving transient victims," an alert sent to B.C. residents' phones read.

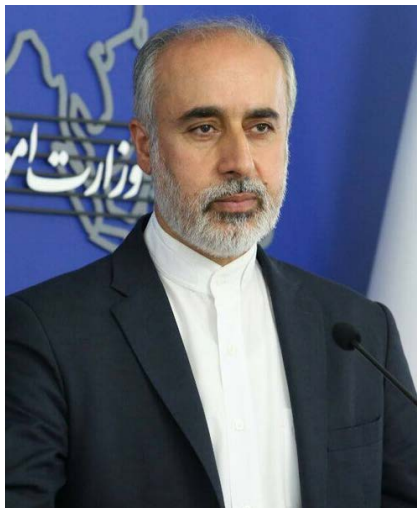
Iran says it won't be rushed into 'quick' deal

Tensions have also risen concerning Iran's compliance with nuclear commitments it made to world powers

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran said Monday it would not be rushed into a "quick" deal reviving its faltering 2015 nuclear accord with world powers, as negotiations remained deadlocked. "They demand that Iran makes a quick decision, (insisting that) time is limited and Iran must respond quickly," foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told reporters, referring to Western parties to the nuclear deal. Kanani said the Islamic republic would "not sacrifice the country's fundamental interests... with a rushed process". It was being put under "psychological pressure and unilateral expectations", he said. But "if the US acts constructively and positively, an agreement

is close," Kanani said. The 2015 deal gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its atomic programme to guarantee that it could not develop a nuclear weapon - something it has always denied seeking. But the US' unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump and Washington's reimposition of biting economic sanctions prompted Iran to begin rolling back on its own commitments. Talks in Vienna that started in April 2021 to restore the deal have stalled since March amid differences between Tehran and Washington on several issues. The two sides negotiated indirectly through the European Union coordinator. Qatar hosted indirect talks last month between the United States and Iran in a bid to get the Vienna process back on track, but those discussions broke



up after two days without any breakthrough. On Thursday, State Department spokesman Ned Price said Iran "doesn't seem to have made the political decision - or decisions, I should say - necessary to achieve a mutual return to compliance" with the deal. Tensions have also risen concerning Iran's compliance with nuclear commitments it made to world powers. In June the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran was removing 27 surveillance cameras at its nuclear facilities as the IAEA passed a resolution censuring Tehran over its lack of cooperation. On Monday the head of Iran's nuclear organisation, Mohammed Eslami, said the cameras would not be reconnected until after the relaunch of the nuclear deal. Eslami said the cameras were aimed at showing that the West's claims that Iran is seeking "an atomic bomb" are baseless.

No
monkeypox
case in Pak
so far

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Monday said that not a single case of monkeypox has been reported so far in Pakistan. According to the official sources, the situation is being closely monitored by the health authorities and all the national and provincial health authorities have been advised to remain on high alert for any suspected case of monkeypox. They added timely detection and notification are important for prompt implementation of preventive measures and all public and private hospitals have been directed to ensure readiness for isolation and treatment. They said that concerned health authorities and professionals at all levels, stakeholders, especially the Central Health Establishment including monitoring points of entry have also been asked to remain vigilant. They said that an effective monitoring mechanism has been developed on a scientific basis at all points of entry. They added that the screening of all incoming passengers will be ensured particularly passengers coming from African countries. They said that instructions have also been issued for strong coordination among concerned organizations while steps are also being taken for awareness of the public. Monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease that is caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Although the natural reservoir of monkeypox remains unknown, however, African rodents and non-human primates like monkeys may harbor the virus and infect people. The patient develops a rash within one to three days after the appearance of fever, often beginning on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body. Other symptoms include headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and lymphadenopathy. - APP

SL asks China
for help
with trade,
investment

NEWS DESK

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has asked China to help with trade, investment and tourism to help it grow sustainably, Colombo's envoy to Beijing said on Monday as it negotiates for an emergency \$4 billion package to help it emerge from an economic meltdown. The island nation of 22 million people is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948 after running out of foreign reserves. Protesters angry about the shortages of fuel, food and medicine toppled the Rajapaksa ruling family. Ambassador Palitha Kohona's emphasis on China as a key to Sri Lanka's economic recovery reflects Beijing's status as one of Sri Lanka's two largest foreign creditors, along with Japan. China also holds some 10 per cent of Sri Lanka's external debt. In an interview with Reuters at Sri Lanka's Beijing embassy, Kohona said Colombo wants China to ask its companies to buy more Sri Lankan black tea, sapphirine, spices and garments and to make Chinese import rules more transparent and easier to navigate.

Gold scales
new peak,
price jumps
by Rs2,000

DNA

KARACHI: Gold scaled to a new peak on Monday as the delayed political uncertainty clouded the economic outlook and bolstered bullion's safe-haven allure, though analysts said the rapid pace of gains could prompt some correction. The precious commodity has emerged as a safe asset in these challenging times of the economic and political crisis. People were aggressively buying gold to protect their cash from deflation.