



Islamabad POST

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China attack on Taiwan not imminent; US closely watching

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Germany slams UK's plan to dismantle deal

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Bairstow brings ton after verbal clash with Kohli

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Justice Chowhan appointed Hon CG of Gambia

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Renowned

jurist, intellectual and judge, Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan has been appointed at the Honorary Consul General of Gambia in Islamabad with consular jurisdiction over whole of Pakistan. The President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi has signed the appointment letter. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had already signed the letter of the appointment. The President further wrote in the letter that Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan may be given all facilities available to the diplomats including all sorts of immunities. It may be mentioned here that Justice Chowhan has served as the Judge of the International Court of Justice, The Hague, and Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Gambia.

Shujaat lauds PM's policies

LAHORE: Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called on Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PMLQ) supremo Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. During the meeting both leaders discussed the current political situation. While admiring PM Shehbaz's policies, Shujaat said he has spent more than 10 years in government and opposition but Shehbaz Sharif is the first Prime Minister who gave priority to agriculture filed in the budget, adding that before him no one has taken such significant steps. - APP

Appointment of COAS will be on time

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday said that the appointment of the army chief will be held on time and as per the prescribed procedure. Speaking during a ceremony in Faisalabad, the home minister said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had "red-marked" Pakistan after the Imran Khan-led government increased subsidies.

PM directs to restart shut power plants

Prime Minister chaired a meeting to overcome the issues of energy crises



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting on power load-shedding issues. - DNA

ABID RAZA/DNA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the authorities concerned to take immediate steps for making the shut-down power plants functional and sought a report entailing clear reasons over the load-shedding. The prime minister chaired an important meeting to overcome the issues of power load-shedding and energy crises. The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Petroleum Mussadiq Malik whereas, Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir, Minister

for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, MNA, and PM's Special Assistant on Public Policy/Strategic Communications Fahad Hussain participated the meeting via videolink. The relevant authorities also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the steps to resolve the ongoing power crises in the country were discussed. The prime minister also directed for resolution of the issues of provinces regarding provision of drinking water and agriculture facilities on priority basis. The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) was told to take an independent decision after mutual consultation of the provinces.

Punjab, Sindh lift curbs on markets

The restriction will come into effect once again from July 11

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Following the lifting of restrictions in Punjab, the Government of Sindh Sunday decided to revert the notification issued regarding time limitations for businesses on account of Eid ul Adha. According to a notification issued by the province's home department, the restriction will come into effect once again from July 11. Earlier in June, the Government of Sindh directed all markets across the province to close at 9pm in order to save electricity as the country was witnessing constant power outages. It was said that the measure would remain in effect till July 16, however, with Eid ul Adha just around the corner, the provincial government has decided to lift the restrictions temporarily. According to the notification, the decision to suspend the closure orders has been taken in the "interest of the people". "On the eve of Eid ul Adha, the Government of Sindh is pleased to suspend the operation of this department notifications [...] regarding imposing restrictions on closing hours of various shops, restaurants, wedding halls, etc in the territorial jurisdiction of Sindh province with immediate effect," the notification read.

COVID cases see minor drop

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The fresh COVID-19 case count in Pakistan slumped down to 650 a day after a sharp hike in infections across the country, the National Institute of Health, Islamabad (NIH) data showed Sunday morning. Pakistan has been witnessing a constant rise in coronavirus cases since mid-June. On Sunday, Pakistan reported a 3.88% COVID-19 positivity rate with 650 new infections that were detected after countrywide diagnostic testing on 16,755 samples during the last 24 hours. The fresh cases pushed the country's total number of COVID-19 cases reported since the start of the pandemic to 1,537,947. Meanwhile, the number of COVID-19 patients being treated in critical care units climbed to 138, while two more patients suffering from the virus died overnight.

Eid ul Azha Five-day holidays announced

The Cabinet Division is now expected to notify the holidays in a separate notification

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday approved a five-day holiday on account of Eidul Azha, which will be celebrated on July 10, according to a statement issued by the PM's Office. "The prime minister has seen and is pleased to approve the Eid-ul-Azha holidays from 8th July to 12th July (Friday to Tuesday)," the statement said. The Cabinet Division is now expected to notify the holidays in a separate notification. The Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee chairman Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad had on June 29 announced the commencement of the month of Zilhaj from July 1, with Eid falling on July 10. Azad had stressed that a message of unity should be taken forward. The chairman then held prayers for peace and stability in the country. On June 29, Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel noted that Covid cases in Pakistan had been rising and called on the public to be cautious during the upcoming Eidul Azha holidays.

Dozens die as bus falls into a ditch in DI Khan

The bus was on its way from Pindi to Quetta when it met an accident

BUREAU REPORT

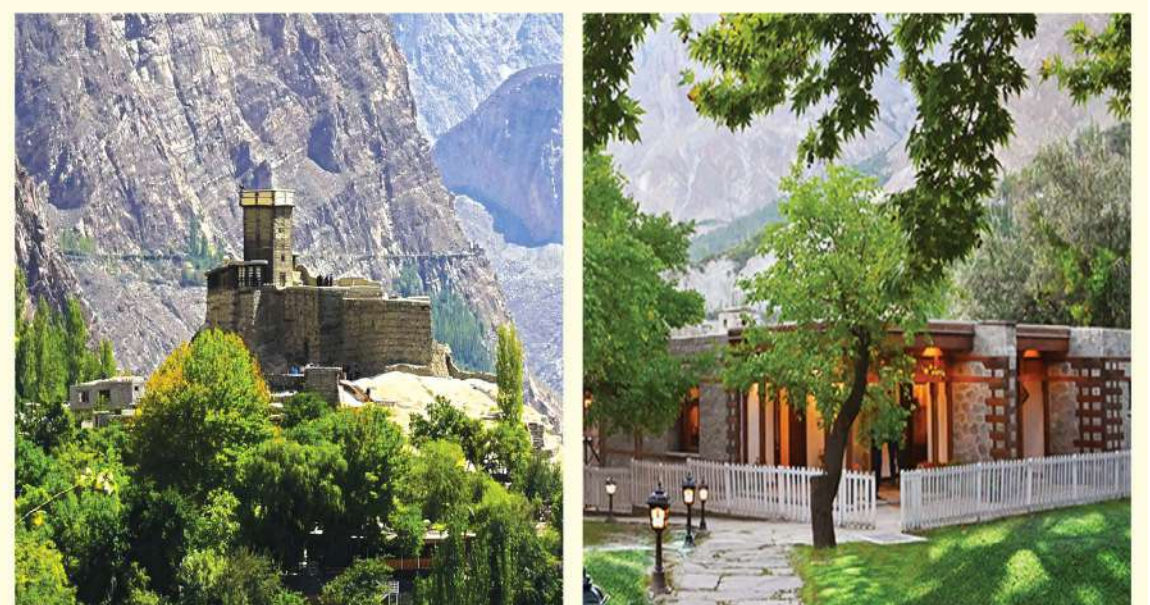
ZHOB: At least 20 passengers died and 15 other were injured on Sunday morning after a passenger bus fell into a gorge in Mughal Kot area of Drazinda tehsil in district Dera Ismail Khan. According to the DI Khan police, a Super Sada Bahar coach was on its way from Rawalpindi to Quetta when it met an accident in an area bordering Balochistan. According to the eyewitnesses, the driver lost control over the steering due to overspeeding amid rain; resultantly, the vehicle skidded into the gorge. According to the rescue sources, the bodies of the two deceased have been shifted to Zhob Hospital, whereas, the rest have been moved to Mughal Kot Hospital in Dera Ismail Khan. Television footage showed rescue workers assisting bloodied passengers, while in another scene, the wreckage could be seen. Sherani Assistant Commissioner Mehtab Shah said the accident occurred near Dana Sar area. He said that the bus plunged into the ravine while speeding, killing 19 passengers and injuring 15 others. Rescue teams rushed to the scene soon after receiving information, Mehtab Shah said, adding the bodies had been taken to Civil Hospital Mughal Kot where the

Continued on Page 06

Turkish, Palestine embassies grieved

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Embassy in Islamabad has expressed sorrow over the loss of lives in bus accident in Sherani Balochistan. In a social media message the Turkish Embassy said "We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives in the unfortunate bus accident in Shirani, Balochistan. We wish Allah's mercy upon those who lost their lives and extend our condolences to the families & friends affected by this tragedy. We also wish a speedy recovery to all the injured". Meanwhile, Ambassador of Palestine Ahmad Rabei has expressed sorrow over bus incident. In a message he said, "Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in the unfortunate bus accident in the road of Balochistan". On behalf of Palestinian people we wish Allah's mercy upon those who lost their lives and extend our condolences to Pakistani brotherly people and to the families.



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Anti-coup protesters defy security forces in Sudan - Page 07

India bars Kashmiri journalist from leaving - Page 08

Russia claims to have control of Luhansk region

Ukraine: Russian ship detained by Turkey

AGENCIES

KYIV: Turkish customs authorities have detained a Russian cargo ship carrying grain which Ukraine says is stolen, Ukraine's ambassador to Turkey said on Sunday. Ukraine had previously asked Turkey to detain the Russian-flagged Zhibek Zholy cargo ship, according to an official and documents viewed by Reuters. Reuters reporters saw the Zhibek Zholy ship anchored about 1 km from shore and outside of the Karasu port on Sunday, with no obvious signs of movement aboard or by other vessels nearby. "We have full co-operation. The ship is currently standing at the entrance to the

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NEWS DESK

KYIV: Russia said on Sunday its forces had taken control of Ukraine's eastern Luhansk region after capturing the final Ukrainian holdout of Lysychansk in heavy fighting, though Ukraine did not confirm the claim. Control of Luhansk, a key war aim for Russia, would come after weeks slow advances, hand Moscow a limited political win and shift the battlefield focus to neighbouring Donetsk region, where Ukraine still controls substantial territory. Driven back from the Ukrainian capital Kyiv following its Feb. 24 invasion, Russia has concentrated its military campaign on the Donbas, which includes Luhansk and Donetsk. Moscow-backed separatist proxies have been fighting there since Russia's first military intervention in Ukraine in 2014. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu informed President Vladimir Putin that Luhansk had been "liberated", the defence

Continued on Page 06

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 (National Day)
 - July 04 / **USA**
Independence Day
 - July 05 / **Algeria**
Independence Day
 - July 09 / **Argentina**
Independence Day
 - July 09 / **Mongolia**
Revolution Day
 - July 14 / **France**
National Day
 - July 15 / **Brunei**
Sultan's Birthday
 - July 20 / **TRNC**
Independence Day
 - July 21 / **Belgium**
National Day
 - July 23 / **Egypt**
National Day
 - July 26 / **Cuba**
National Day
 - July 26 / **Liberia**
National Day
 - July 30 / **Morocco**
National Day



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Inquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange9270831-5
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- CAA.....9281092



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- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International.4603666



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
- Potohar Town.....9209224
- RawalTown.....5773343

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMAAD: Ambassador of Republic of Korea Suh Sangpyo in a group photo with winners of the KPOP music competition, organized by the Korean embassy- DNA

47th Int'l Nathiagali Summer College concludes

ISLAMABAD: The 47th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs concluded Sunday in Nathiagali. Member Science Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Masood Iqbal was the chief guest in the closing ceremony. In his closing address, he assured that the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) will support all kinds of scientific linkages developed during this summer college. He praised the efforts of all seniors who put their heart into it and took personal interest to continue this college without any break for the last 47 years. Dr. Shafiqat Karim, Scientific Secretary of 47th INSC presented in detail an overview of all that is important and fascinating in today's science and technology, which were covered during the two weeks. He also praised the organizing and scientific committees for their untiring efforts for smooth holding of this college. Earlier, this two weeks scientific discourse was inaugurated by Chairman PAEC, Dr Raja Ali Raza on 20th June. In his inaugural address, the chairman PAEC emphasized the importance of sustained and dedicated work in all sectors of science and technology to help transform the country into a developed society. Addressing the inaugural session of 47th International Nathiagali Summer College, he said maximizing international cooperation and building bridges to the world scientific community will be an important element in that endeavour. - APP

US Mission celebrates Pak women for completing Program

This inaugural four-week program encourages women to consider careers in the energy sector and advances the role women play in Pakistan's

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Agency for International Development Mission Director Reed Aeschliman presided over a graduation ceremony for 17 female Pakistani university students who successfully completed the U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council (USPWC) Future of Women in Energy Scholar's pilot program. The graduation ceremony took place at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. This inaugural four-week program encourages women to consider careers in the energy sector and advances the role women play in Pakistan's. All of the participants are female Pakistani undergraduate students pursuing degrees in the sciences. The program is a product of a U.S. commitment to advance women's educational and economic participation in Pakistan's energy sector at the U.S.-Pakistan Energy Dialogue held in September 2021. Mission Director Reed said during the grad-



uation ceremony: "As we celebrate 75 years of relations with Pakistan this year, today's milestone shows the scope of this amazing partnership. This program supports wom-

en's empowerment, education, and job opportunities. It shows the depth and breadth of our mutual commitment and the opportunities for further cooperation." The program, a cooperative effort between USPWC, U.S. Mission Pakistan, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Texas A&M University, and Texas A&M University at Qatar, kicked off with a two-week study program at Texas A&M University's campus in Qatar on June 3. Scholars learned about energy topics such as energy infrastructure, energy security, and the role of women in the energy sector, and developed independent projects on different facets of the energy economy. The students returned to Pakistan for a two-week career immersion program in Islamabad and Lahore, visiting public and private sector companies and agencies involved in Pakistan's energy sector. The students developed a practical under-

standing of the multifaceted challenges faced by Pakistan's energy sector. Many Pakistani and international companies and public-sector employers keen to promote women's participation in the energy sector also contributed to the program. Expanding diversity and inclusion of women is essential to realize a clean and secure energy future for Pakistan. The U.S.-Pakistan Women's Council is a public-private partnership that seeks to increase women's economic participation in Pakistan by catalyzing commitments from the private sector, civil society, and government leaders in both countries to advance women's economic empowerment in Pakistan. Its members include Pepsico, Coca Cola, Citi, General Electric, Procter and Gamble, S&P Global, the Resource Group, Engro, the Hashoo Group, the American Business Council and U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-Pakistan Business Council among other leading champions of gender equity.

President reprimands NHA for denying employment to a widow

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to appoint the widow of a deceased employee under the Prime Minister's Assistance Package without further delay and to report compliance to the Wafaqi Mohtasib within 30-days. While expressing displeasure, the president noted that the widow, having five minor children to support, had been denied her right for employment on the flimsy ground that she had applied for the job after the stipulated time of one year after her husband's death. The president gave these orders while rejecting a representation of NHA against the

orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing NHA to grant employment to Ishrat Bibi (the complainant) whose husband was a driver in NHA and had died during service. President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Sunday. He also observed that even though the widow had applied after a passage of more than two years and eight months after her husband's death, but she had produced an Office Memorandum (O.M) of the Establishment Division during the hearing which took care of this aspect. The president noted that NHA appeared to have overlooked

this important fact and termed the stance of NHA on her employment as ill-founded and directed it to process her appointment. According to the details, the widow had applied for her appointment with supporting documents required by NHA, but she was denied employment. Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib who passed the orders for her employment. NHA, however, instead of implementing the decision filed a representation with the president. The president upheld the order of Wafaqi Mohtasib and directed NHA to make compliance within 30 days. - APP

No one to be allowed to collect hides without NoC

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration would not allow anyone to collect hides of sacrificial animals without permission and a No-objection Certificate (NoC) issued by the authorities concerned as per the directives of the Punjab Government. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office Rawalpindi had announced that the applications for collecting hides of sacrificial animals would be received till June 30 and after the deadline, no application would be entertained. According to a district administration spokesman, the administration would not allow anyone to collect hides without permission of the authorities as the Punjab government has imposed a ban on the collection of hides without NoC on Eid ul Azha. The charity organizations wanting to collect the hides of the sacrificial animals were directed to submit applications to the office of DC Rawalpindi for permission letter by June 30. The Home Department of the Punjab Government had banned the collection of the hides without the approval of the competent authority. - APP



ITP accelerates campaign against one-way violators

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The traffic police of the capital has expedited campaign against the violation of one-way rules and issued 8,511 fine tickets during the last two weeks to the violators. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP), Islamabad Dr Nasir Akbar Khan, special squads had been constituted which will be

deployed exclusively on all major highways of Islamabad like Expressway, Srinagar Highway, Margalla Road, IJP Road, Murree Road, 7th Avenue and 9th Avenue.

The purpose of this campaign is to ensure safety of the citizens and provide secure road environment to them. The Zonal DSPs have also been directed to intensify the action and launch special awareness drive about the risks of one-way and other traffic violations.

Special broadcasts would also be aired on ITP FM Radio 92.4 through which the public can be informed about the disadvantages of violating one-way traffic rules. It has also been decided to prosecute such violators and initiate lawful action against them. The traffic police has also appealed citizens not to violate one-way for the protection of not only their own life and property but also of others.

Principals enjoy two salaries; Teachers struggle

In many cases, the government servants at ministries left their offices after 8 pm. We, the daily wagers, are the backbone of the institution but we are paid Rs. 17000 per month

ISLAMABAD: The teaching staff working on daily wage in the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) are struggling hard to make their both ends meet at the time when the principals are enjoying two salaries on the pretext of evening shift. According to an official source, the principals of Islamabad Model Colleges are drawing double salaries; one for morning shift and another 75 pc of their pay for evening shift; their daily wage staff working on minimum wage are struggling to make ends meet. The principals make 8-10 times the salary of a daily wage teacher at their respective colleges. On the other hand Director Model Colleg-

es sitting at Federal Directorate (FDE) is also eligible to draw 75 pc of his pay on the pretext of administering the institutions but Area Education Officer dealing with these colleges is not eligible. Interestingly Headmistresses of these colleges are also not eligible for this extra pay which the principals are drawing. The staff of these colleges held FDE responsible for such types of anomalies. A daily wage teacher at Islamabad Model College for girls F-10/2 believes that payment of Principals for both the shifts has gotten out of hand and is 10 times high than a daily wage. Are they really con-

tributing 10 times as much value? The answer is no. Principals observe similar working hours for both the shifts which an average government servant observes in any other government department. In many cases, the government servants at ministries left their offices after 8 pm. We, the daily wagers, are the backbone of the institution but we are paid Rs. 17000 per month. A Headmistress at a local college on the condition of anonymity said, "Headmistresses in the same institutions are doing the same job as Principals but we have not been given remuneration for the evening shift. Consequently many

headmistresses are not interested working in second shift. Principal's financial benefits are a major contributor to rising inequality in income. They are getting more because of their influence at FDE to set remuneration for evening shift. What do the principals and director actually do all day which we are not doing? "Headmistresses and teachers are outraged because they just see it as primarily unfair, but there is also a very strong argument that this discriminatory policy of FDE is demoralizing rest of the staff", she said while urging to fix all types of discrimination within the department". - APP

Nominations invited for 2023 Zayed Award for Human Fraternity

ISLAMABAD: The organizing committee of 'Zayed Award for Human Fraternity' in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates has invited nominations for the fourth cycle of the award till October 31. The Zayed Award for Human Fraternity is an independent global award that honours individuals and entities that make outstanding contributions towards human progress and peaceful coexistence. Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, secretary-general and member of the Judging Committee for the 2023 prize on the occasion said, "The Committee looks forward to identifying the personalities and entities that have effectively contributed to finding pioneering solutions to contemporary challenges in the field of promoting human fraternity." - APP

Briefs

PAP developed to combat human trafficking

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), Syed Kausar Abbas on Sunday said that the government has constituted committees in collaboration with public private partnership in order to combat the Human Trafficking. Talking to APP, he said that comprehensive Provincial Action Plan (PAP) was developed in consultation with all the relevant stakeholders including police, FIA, labor department, home department, social welfare, media, human rights department of Punjab. He further added that with this Action Plan, an agreement was made on spreading public awareness on trafficking in person by developing awareness content with the help and collaboration of government departments and its effective dissemination with coordination and help from media houses. - APP

Paymob, NIFT sign agreement to securely enable digital payments

ISLAMABAD: Paymob, leading omni-channel financial services platform in the MENAP region, signed an agreement with National Institutional Facilitation Technologies (NIFT) to facilitate digital transfer and payments in the country.

Under the agreement, Paymob will enable digital payments for their merchants using the NIFT ePay platform which supports account, wallet and card-based payments. Paymob's payment infrastructure enables SMEs to accept digital payments online and in-store whilst providing them better access to financial services. As an API integrator, Paymob's gateway sits on merchants' websites to facilitate payment capture.

In addition to conventional bank cards, Paymob merchants will have access to mobile wallets, QR payments, bank card installment plans, and Buy-Now Pay-Later (BNPL) options all of which serve to drive an increased volume of transactions and revenue. Paymob plans to extend its Tap-on-Phone payment acceptance service to the Pakistan market. The company will also launch cards to enable B2B transactions for its merchants and build tools for merchants to better manage and grow their business. NIFT was established in 1995 as a joint venture between six major Pakistani banks and entrepreneurs from the private sector. - APP

PBC pensioners gets 10% increase in pension

ISLAMABAD: Due to the intervention of Federal Ombudsman, the Radio Pakistan pensioners have got 10% increase in their pensions. According to a press release issued here on Sunday, more than 50 pensioners of Radio Pakistan had filed complaints with the Federal Ombudsman for their failure to get 10% increase in their pensions, which was allowed by the Federal Government in April, 2022.

During hearing proceedings, the representative of Radio Pakistan informed that the funds allocated by the Finance Division were insufficient to meet the pensioners demand. The Ombudsman gave verdict in favour of the complainants and directed the management of Radio Pakistan to arrange funds at earliest and increase the pension of the complainants within 30 days. Finally, with the efforts of Consultant Implementation Pervez Halim Rajput, the PBC management has endorsed the 10% increase in the pension of Radio Pakistan employees' along with arrears. The pensioners of Radio Pakistan have thanked the Federal Ombudsman for timely intervention to resolve their grievances. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ms Naima Ansari President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IWCCI) hosted a dinner in honor of Award Winning Ladies of IWCCI. Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group , Raja Azhar(Businessman from London) Ch.Iftikhar (Gujrat CCI) , Ms Samina Fazil (Group Leader) , Ms Sadaf Asim Abbasi ,Ms Mumtaz Akhtar, Ms Rizwana Asif, Ms Farida Rashid, Ms Mussarat Jabeen, Ms Rabia Raheel , Dr Johria Azhar, Ms Irum Irfan, Ms Zunaira Umer and others in a groupphoto on the occasion.-- DNA

Call to promote commercial ties between USA, Pakistan

"The United States continues to encourage Pakistan to improve the business climate to make it easier for U.S. businesses to invest, operate, and create jobs. US companies can introduce new technologies and generate returns that translate into higher incomes for local workers and capital for additional investments"

DNA

ISLAMABAD* U.S. Special Representative (S/R) for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed visited Islamabad July 1-3 as part of a multi-city trip to Pakistan. During his visit, S/R Syed underscored the U.S. government's commitment to growing U.S.-Pakistan commercial and economic ties. In his meetings with Pakistan's Ministers of Finance, Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, S/R Syed stressed the decades-long history of economic partnership between the United States and Pakistan. "U.S.-Pakistan trade and investment

cooperation is an ongoing, essential part of our bilateral relationship. In my discussions with Pakistani leaders from government, business, and civil society, we are exploring concrete ways in which we can build on that relationship to benefit both of our countries," he noted. "The United States continues to encourage Pakistan to improve the



business climate to make it easier for U.S. businesses to invest, operate, and create jobs. U.S. companies can introduce new technologies and generate returns that translate into higher incomes for local workers and capital for additional investments," he noted. "We already have a strong base. We hope Pakistan will continue implementing reforms to make it more attractive

for global investors."

S/R Syed also met with representatives from the Board of Investment where he noted that the United States is Pakistan's largest single-country export market and one of Pakistan's largest sources of foreign investment, adding, "We must capitalize on that potential and nurture even greater economic ties." As he listened to representatives of women-led businesses, incubators, and chambers of commerce, S/R Syed stressed that "the United States will broaden our bilateral trade, boost investment, and expand entrepreneurial and educational opportunities to build on 75 years of our relationship."

Innovation key to successful entrepreneurship: Meher

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and former Senior Vice President chamber Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said that innovation is a key to successful entrepreneurship for promoting business and enhancing profitability besides competing local and global markets. He stated this in his keynote address at a workshop on "The importance of Innovation in Entrepreneurship" held under the aegis of United Business Group in Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lahore, according to a press release received here. He said the suc-

cessful exploitation of new ideas is crucial to a business being able to improve its process and better the products and services to market, increase its efficiency and most importantly, enhance its profitability. He said marketplaces, whether local, national, regional or global are becoming highly competitive. Competition has increased as a result and knowledge-sharing opportunities offered by the internet. He said innovation enhances the nature, creativity and design thinking process of a brand. Meher Kashif said a new business can attain the height of success by learn-

ing the steps of creativeness. He said it can open the doors of various opportunities by helping the business to keep up with the trends as it also help grow your business manifolds with better range of products. He said "we need to work together and use the skills within our communities to build strong, diverse and sustainable business". Further adding, he said we also need to get better at clearly communicating how climate change will affect us if we don't reduce our carbon dioxide emissions, reduce global warming and clean up our land and the ocean. - APP

ANF foils 2 bids to smuggle heroin abroad; recovers over five kg heroin

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) conducted operations on Sunday and managed to foil two bids to smuggle heroin abroad, recovering over five kg heroin besides netting three accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF acting on a tip-off conducted an operation at entry gate of Islamabad International Airport and foiled a bid to smuggle heroin abroad. ANF managed to recover 2,600 grams heroin and netted three accused namely Jorge Masih with 2,600 grams heroin which was tactfully concealed in his trolley bag. On the pointation of the arrested accused, two other persons namely Ilyas Masih and Rizwan Masih were also sent behind the bars who confessed to smuggling heroin abroad in the past. In another operation, ANF Islamabad and ANF Intelligence conducted a raid at an office of a private courier company in Islamabad and foiled a bid to smuggle 2,770 grams heroin to the UK through courier service. - APP

10% turnout of women voters will be discarded. She also discussed the toll of unpaid labour on women, including domestic work, which puts undue burden. While Senator Fawzia Arshad stated that women have tremendous potential to empower themselves and that women from all spheres of life have the capability to succeed. She urged women to make themselves strong enough to raise their voice for the issues. Similarly, Farhat Ullah Babar, stated that it is the responsibility of the parliamentarians to ensure that we first create safe environment in the parliament and the country, which will then naturally lead to safe working environments for women. He commended the hard work that women did over the past decades to promote their rights, especially highlighting how hard women politicians work, and that every political party has produced great woman leaders.

Experts from various fields took to the stage for a panel discussion on the issues faced by women in the workplace, and demands for better working condition, as well as the role of policymaking for safe working environments for women. Myra Imran, seasoned journalist and Vice President of the National Press Club stated that she found women journalists to be more determined and hard working than male journalists, and often cover women issues-related beats, such as domestic violence, health and women empowerment. She also stated that the Press Club now has a dedicated room for women journalists only. Dr. Shahla Tabassum, Head of the Gender Studies Department at Fatima Jinnah Women University stressed the need of not only conducive working environments for women, but also conducive educational environments for women. - APP

Relief, rehabilitation measures for KP's underprivileged discussed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Managing Director Amir Fida Paracha and Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday discussed various possible measures for the relief and rehabilitation of the needy and deprived people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Faisal Karim Kundi met with the MD at PBM headquarters. Paracha vowed taking practical steps to support the deprived and backward classes of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "PBM's poor-friendly policies were glimmers of hope for the deprived persons throughout the country," he said while expressing his enthusiasm for making the organization accessible to the persons of remote and deprived areas. Amir Fida Paracha also informed that Bomb Blast victims and other disabled persons would also be provided artificial limbs while other initiatives like women empowerment, medical treatment for the poor patients, educational stipends for the deserving students, education and care of orphan and poor children were also part of the welfare activities in the province. While congratulating Managing Director PBM on assuming the charge, Faisal Karim Kundi hoped that PBM would become more vibrant and potent under the dynamic leadership of its new chief. - APP

SSDO & WWA holds District Convention

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) in collaboration with the Women Workers Alliance (WWA) held a District Convention to demand for administrative improvements for better labour governance at all levels. The Chief Guest was Chaudhary Salik Hussain, Federal Minister of the Board of Investment and Special Initiatives, while Senators Seemi Ezdi, Fawzia Arshad and Farhat Ullah Babar also graced the event. It was also attended by over a hundred women workers from diverse sections of the labour force, including those working in academia, civil society, media, business, law, education, sanitation, hospitality industry, healthcare and public service. Chief guest Chaudhary Salik Hussain in his address said that the Board of Investment will now work closely with the Women Chamber of Commerce and help direct foreign funding to women led initiatives. He also said that we all have to work together to create a safer environment for the female in the country. Senator Seemi Ezdi stated that a lot of work is done by legislators to empower women. 5% of tickets for general seats are reserved for women, and during the election process, any polling station with less than

Animal buyers returning without shopping

When contacted, President Jamiat Ul Quresh Pakistan Khursheed Ahmed Qureshi said that the primary cause of the increase in the prices of animals was the demand and supply gap

RAWALPINDI: The shoppers visiting cattle markets were returning without purchasing as the prices of sacrificial animals were skyrocketing. With only one week left for Eid-ul-Azha, fewer buyers were seen at the cattle markets set up by the Rawalpindi administration at eleven points in the district. Residents, who arrived here at Bhatta Chowk sale point along with their children, said on Sunday that animal sellers were demanding excessive prices beyond their purchasing limit. Adil Mir, a buyer at the market, said last year he purchased a small goat of 25 kilograms for Rs 45,000, but now the same animal was being demanded at up to Rs 90,000, which showed the rate of sacrificial animals had gone up by 100 per cent. Waqas Younas, another buyer at Adiala Road market, said the rates of goats, sheep, buffalos and cows were inflated, forcing the people to go home empty-handed. He said buffalos and cows of 160 kilograms, which

were available at not more than Rs 160,000 last year, were demanded up to Rs 300,000 this year. He called upon the district administration to take steps to save the public from fleecing of sellers. When contacted, President Jamiat Ul Quresh Pakistan Khursheed Ahmed Qureshi said that the primary cause of the increase in the prices of animals was the demand and supply gap. He said that animal production had witnessed a steep decline during previous years as the departments concerned had failed to adopt a comprehensive policy to boost the production of halal meat, resulting in mutton price at Rs 1,700 per kg and beef price per kg at Rs 1,000 in the market. Giving details about online shopping for sacrificial animals, Qureshi, a member of the Board of Directors of Livestock and Dairy Development Directorate, said that online shopping for sacrificial had reached up to 70 per cent due to the Covid-19 pandemic, adding the people preferred online platforms. He said the use of online platforms to purchase sacrificial animals could also be another reason for small crowds at the cattle markets, adding that online companies were offering a goat of 14 kg at Rs. 41,000 and 14 kilograms of share in cows or buffaloes at Rs 20,000. Gul Khan, a calf seller from Rajanpur, said the rise in transportation charges, cost of animal breeding and bribes collected by the police officials of various departments led to increased animal prices. Meanwhile, Director Livestock Dr Sarfraz Chatta told APP that livestock teams were administering the vaccination to the animals against the LSV and Congo virus while suspected animals were also being separated at the cattle markets. He said that animals found having positive symptoms of Congo or LSV would not be allowed to enter markets at any cost. The Director informed that LSD had al-

ready established seven check posts on the entry points of the district at the Toll plaza, Tarnol, Toll plaza, Mandra, Toll Plaza, Taxila, Chakri, Motorway Interchange, Barian and Kashmir check-posts, Murree, while 14 posts had also set up at the Attock, Jehlum and Chakwal district to avoid the entry of the affected animals in Rawalpindi. Rawalpindi administration had established cattle markets of sacrificial animals at Bhatta Chowk near Koh-e-Noor Mills Rawalpindi Cantt, Punjab Cooperative Housing Society Adiala Road on Adiala Road, Chakri Road near Al-Haram City. Gujjar Khan cattle market at Gulyana Road, Mangal Chowk near Kalar by-pass, Tanki road near Chan Shah Jalayr in Kahuta, Chovera Bazaar near Rescue-1122, Kotli Sattian, HIT near Sunday Bazaar timber market road Taxila, Sharif Hospital Stop on G.T.Road Wah Cantt, Tehsil Road, Lower Bazaar Murree and Jhika Gali Murree, he added. - APP

In order to protect the citizens from the Congo and Corona viruses, the authorities concerned were directed to take solid steps besides ensuring arrangements for health and hygiene of the animals. - APP

AIU invites applications under PM Electric Wheelchair Scheme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has invited applications under Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Scheme from its disabled students enrolled in the semesters autumn 2021 and spring 2022. In a notification issued by the Directorate of Students Affairs, Deans, DG regional services, HODs of all academic departments as well as regional directors have been communicated to display application forms at prominent places as well as circulate widely so that not a single disabled student of AIU is deprived of the electric wheelchair. Principal officers have also been instructed to provide assistance and guidance to the applicants in this regard. Duly filled and signed application form with all necessary documents including a disability certificate must be submitted to Director, Students Affairs, Directorate of SA&CS, Block 25/Gateway Block, Ground Floor, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad before 18th July 2022.

CGH free medical camps; 1650 heart patients provided free treatment

RAWALPINDI: Cantonment General Hospital (CGH), organizing five free medical camps for heart patients has provided free medicines and treatment to over 1650. According to RCB spokesman, Administrator CGH Brig. @ Hassan Ibraheem and Deputy Administrator Dr Attique ud Din, doctors and paramedical staff were also present at free medical camps. Renowned Cardiologist Dr Hamdan Waqas and his team, here the other day, checked up over 250 patients and provided free medicines. Several medical tests of a large number of the patients were also conducted. He informed that CGH had organized five free medical camps in which over 1650 patients were checked up and provided free medicines.

The residents of Cantonment areas have appreciated the role of President Cantonment Board Brig. Salman Nazar, Cantonment Executive Officer, Imran Gulzar, doctors, staff and administration of CGH and RCB for organizing free medical camps and providing free medicines and treatment to the heart patients. - APP

Citizens advised to adopt precautionary measures

RAWALPINDI: The citizens have been advised to adopt all possible precautionary measures to avoid Corona and Congo viruses on Eid ul Azha. According to a district administration spokesman, the district administration had set up 11 cattle markets for the sale of sacrificial animals in the Rawalpindi district. The administration on the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq, had set up 11 cattle markets to facilitate the citizens to purchase sacrificial animals for Eid ul Azha.

In Rawalpindi, cattle markets of sacrificial animals were set up at Bhatta Chowk near Koh-e-Noor Mills Rawalpindi Cantt, Punjab Cooperative Housing Society Adiala Road on Adiala Road and Chakri Road near Al-Haram City. Cattle markets were also set up on Gulyana Road, Mangal Chowk near Kalar by-pass, Tanki road near Chan Shah Jalayr Kahuta, Chovera Bazaar near Rescue-1122, Kotli Sattian, HIT near Sunday Bazaar timber market road Taxila, Sharif Hospital Stop on G.T.Road Wah Cantt, Tehsil Road, Lower Bazaar Murree and Jhika Gali Murree, he added. - APP

Biden's gamble on lowering oil prices

Joe Biden's trip to Saudi Arabia this month highlights the paradox of American power. The US has the economic heft to punish an opponent – but not enough to alter the behaviour of a determined adversary. Sanctions will see Russia's economy contract by 9% next year. But Washington needs more nations to join its camp to halt Moscow's brutal invasion of Ukraine. Mr Biden has been forced to prioritise war objectives over ethics in meeting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who the CIA says ordered the barbaric murder of the prominent journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The havoc that Russia's war has caused on the world's energy markets is contributing to an economic crisis that is playing into the hands of Mr Biden's domestic opponents. This highlights the west's failure to confront the climate emergency with a less carbon-intensive economic model. The green agenda risks being derailed by sky-high hydrocarbon prices. Boycotts and bans against Russia, even as they take a toll on the global economy, will cause ordinary Russians hardship. But this has not moved Vladimir Putin. Soaring crude prices fuel Moscow's war machine. A price cap on Russia's petroleum exports might choke off the cash. But a concern is that China and India will buy Mr Putin's oil at a price that still lets the Kremlin profit. Clever technical solutions mask hard choices. Sanctions drive up energy prices for consumers unless there are alternative supplies available. Right now, to bring down oil prices means producing more planet-destroying energy. The US is pursuing a three-pronged strategy: increasing pressure on Russia; getting more oil into markets to bring prices down; and allowing central banks to raise interest rates to levels that look as if they might cause a recession. The latter is designed to signal to oil producers that energy prices will collapse. The painful recessions of the 1970s and early 1980s played a part in bringing down oil prices after energy shocks – and contributed to the Soviet Union's disintegration. But this took 15 years. Mr Putin's Russia may not be as powerful as its forerunner. It might be more brittle than the Soviet Union. But there are few signs of imminent collapse. As the west seeks to reduce its reliance on Russian hydrocarbons, there seems to be a global "gold rush" for new fossil fuel projects defended as temporary supply measures. The risk, with the US as the largest hydrocarbon producer, is that the world becomes locked into an irreversible climate catastrophe. Europe might become as reliant on US gas as it once was on Russian gas. Yet during his time in office the sector's market value has doubled because prices have risen. Jarringly, as the climate emergency grows ever more urgent, fossil fuel appears the pivot on which the war in Ukraine will turn.

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Economic decisions

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

The future of Pakistan's economic fabric will not bode well if the internal crisis continues to mount. Rising inflation accompanied by petrol price hikes is a burden on the citizen's shoulders. The members of the lower-middle and lower class will find it difficult to survive in the coming days. Whether one calls it a way to please the IMF and the Western powers or an internal plan for satisfying vested interests, the country needs a plan to come out of this predicament. The economic crisis in Sri Lanka and its fallout should be taken as a case study by Pakistani economists and policymakers. Economic mismanagement is considered to be the root cause of Sri Lanka's crisis. According to the Asian Development Bank, the crisis in Sri Lanka is an example of a Twin Deficit. This refers to the state's national expenditures becoming higher than national revenue and having an insufficient production of tradable products and services. Economic and financial parallels can be drawn between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Inflation is rising and the currency is devaluing with each passing day. Furthermore, the current and fiscal account deficits are becoming a problem to handle and bring them back to normalcy. Familial political hierarchy and directionless policymaking have also resulted in the economic debacle that Pakistan and Sri Lanka are facing. If Pakistan wishes not to become the second Sri Lanka in South Asia, it needs to put its best policies into effect. How will the current government bypass the demands of the IMF and Western powers is yet to be seen. To make Pakistan stand back on its feet, strong internal coordination is required that is not affected and faltered by any notion presented by the West. This seems an impossible feat, but not unachievable. If trading with Russia is an option, then it must be chosen as Pakistan has witnessed and experienced in the past how its relations with the US can turn sour within hours.

Marshall plan for the Middle East

Ronald S. Lauder

A fixed sum of money could be given to young entrepreneurs to create new businesses, which would be closely monitored. If they prove to be viable but need a financial boost after a year, another small infusion could be given. In other words, provide Palestinians with all the things that made Israel and other countries financially viable, which would help create a new and successful Palestine

US President Joe Biden is about to embark on what might be the most important trip of his presidency so far. He will visit the oil-rich Middle East, in particular Saudi Arabia, to convey to the Kingdom the fact that it remains a strong ally and that the entire region is still vital to US strategic interests. I believe this visit presents an even greater opportunity that the President should consider, which could solve one of the longest-running historical conflicts –

greater effort on the Israeli side." We have also heard public statements of a kind never voiced in the past. In a stunning interview with Al Arabiya in 2020, veteran Saudi diplomat Prince Bandar bin Sultan, a former ambassador to the US, spoke candidly about the mistakes made by Palestinian leaders over the years in failing to accept Israel's peace proposals. A recent secret military summit that took place in Egypt between the

one that is preventing stronger partnerships and long-term peace in the region. I am referring to the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. A growing number of Arab leaders are saying in private that they would very much like to take the same steps toward reconciliation with Israel that we witnessed with the Abraham Accords in 2020, but that they cannot do so until a solution is reached with the Palestinians. One official I met went so far as to say he would be happy if he at least "saw a

US Central Command and Israeli and Arab military officials is another indication of the changing attitudes due to the unifying threat from Iran. It might seem counterintuitive, given the decades of failed peace efforts, but I believe this is exactly the right time to offer the Palestinians a new initiative – one that they cannot turn down. What I am suggesting is a "Marshall Plan" that would offer the next generation of Palestinians a future of wealth, success and self-reliance, rather than the dismal prospects of the past. The original Marshall Plan, named after US Secretary of State George C. Marshall, formed the basis for rebuilding a shattered Europe after the Second World War and has been used ever since as a model for healing other conflicts. This is because it might have been the most successful foreign policy initiative in history. It accomplished many things at once. It rebuilt and modernized European industry destroyed during the war and it restored the confidence of an entire, demoralized continent. But its most important benefit was that it helped pacify Europe, which in the space of less than 40 years had endured two world wars that killed more than 100 million human beings. If peace between the Israelis and Palestinians seems intractable, we should bear in mind that the strong, stable Europe we have known for the past seven decades was never a forgone conclusion after the Second World War. Just as the Marshall Plan put Europe on a sound financial footing, the Palestinian plan

should focus on the creation of small businesses, home building, hotels, restaurants and job creation that would offer a positive future to the next generation. A fixed sum of money could be given to young entrepreneurs to create new businesses, which would be closely monitored. If they prove to be viable but need a financial boost after a year, another small infusion could be given. In other words, provide Palestinians with all the things that made Israel and other countries financially viable, which would help create a new and successful Palestine. Within three-to-five years, I believe per capita wealth would double annually. The wealthier a future Palestinian nation becomes, the more likely it is that it could be the viable, successful country it should be – and every country in the region would benefit from this change. The funding could be shared by the US, Europe, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East, including Israel which, along with the Palestinians, would be the chief beneficiary. Israel is one of the leading high-tech incubators in the world. Younger Palestinians know this and are very interested in being involved in this sector. Palestinian parents would have to decide whether their hatred of Israel is so strong that they would prefer their children to grow up in poverty and die as "martyrs" – or share in a better economic future with their Jewish neighbors and have fuller lives and happier families.

In the past there has not always been adequate accountability in terms of the aid money given to Palestinians. The new plan would have to be closely monitored by an organization that is trusted by all sides, which would keep an eye on where the money goes and how it is used. Many of the details still have to be worked out, as problems are sure to arise. But issues cropped up with the original Marshall Plan and had to be ironed out as it progressed. Nothing ever runs completely smoothly, especially when dealing with long-standing and visceral hatreds; there was enough animosity between Britain, France and Germany immediately after 1945 to fill volumes. If those countries were able to focus on a brighter, shared future then that is the model we can use today. The Marshall Plan focused on bridge builders. I know there are bridge builders in the Middle East right now. I have met them. I know they want to move forward. In the end, the Marshall Plan did not help Europe alone, it helped the entire world. In the same way, a new future for Palestinians and Israelis would have benefits that extend far beyond the immediate region. President Biden and his team have, with their upcoming visit to the Middle East, a moment in which to create the same kind of opportunity for peace in a troubled region that the Marshall Plan represented 75 years ago. It is a moment that could change the world for the better.

Courtesy: Arab News

Qatar WC offers lessons for human rights struggles

James M. Dorsey

The fact is that lagging enforcement of policies and legal changes is a problem across the broad spectrum of Qatari policies and reform efforts, including the Gulf state's high-profile, fast-paced, mediation-driven foreign policy

It's a good time, almost 12 years after the world soccer body, FIFA, awarded Qatar the 2022 World Cup hosting rights and five months before the tournament, to evaluate the campaign to reform the country's erstwhile onerous labor system and accommodate fans whose lifestyles violate restrictive laws and/or go against deeply rooted cultural attitudes. Ultimately the balance sheet shows a mixed bag even if one takes into account that Qatari autocracy has proven to be more responsive and flexible in responding to pressure by human rights and labour groups than its Gulf brothers in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. On the plus side, the initial wave of condemnation of the country's repressive kafala labour system that put employees at the mercy of their employers persuaded Qatar to become the first Gulf state, if not the first Arab state, to engage with its critics. Engagement meant giving human rights groups and trade unions access to the country, allowing them to operate and hold news conferences in Qatar, and involving them in drafting reforms and World Cup-related model

labour contracts. This was unprecedented in a region where local activists are behind bars or worse and foreign critics don't even make it onto an inbound flight. The reforms were imperfect and not far-reaching enough, even if Qatar introduced significant improvements in the conditions for unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Furthermore, on the plus side, the hosting rights sparked limited but nonetheless taboo-breaking discussions that touched on sensitive subjects such as LGBT rights and the granting of citizenship to non-nationals. Qataris openly questioned the granting of citizenship to foreign athletes so they could be included in the Qatar national team for the 2016 Olympics rather than medical personnel and other professionals who had contributed to national welfare and development. Hosting the World Cup has further forced Qatar, albeit in a limited fashion, to come to grips with issues like LGBT rights that do not simply violate the country's laws but go against its social grain to produce an inclusive tournament. In some ways, that may have been more difficult than reforming the labour regime if one considers the difference between standing up for democratic freedoms that may have broad public support and the recognition of LGBT rights. In contrast to democratic rights, opposition to LGBT rights is deeply engrained in Qatar and other Muslim soci-

eties. It would likely be socially rejected, even if they were enshrined in law. The difference means that the defense of LGBT and other socially controversial rights forces activists and human and LGBT rights groups to rethink their strategies and adopt alternative, more long-term approaches. It also means that they will have to embrace less Western-centric attitudes frequently prevalent in the campaign to reform Qatar's labour system. Those attitudes were evident in debates that were also often skewed by bias, prejudice, bigotry, and sour grapes. Moreover, the criticism often failed to consider the context. As a result, achieving results and pushing for reform was, to a degree, undermined by what appeared to be a ganging up on Qatar and a singling out of the Gulf state. Labour is an example. Human rights groups and trade unions treated onerous labour conditions in Qatar, even if the World Cup turned it into a prime target, as uniquely Qatari rather than a global problem that manifests itself in other parts of the world such as Southeast Asia and even Western democracies like Britain. Recent reporting by The Guardian showed that expatriate medical and caregiver personnel face similar curtailing of rights and abuse in Britain. By the same token, Qatar was taken to task for being slow in implementing its reforms and ensuring that they were applied not only to World Cup projects but nationwide. The fact is that lagging enforcement of policies and legal changes is a problem across the broad spectrum of Qatari policies and reform efforts, including the Gulf state's high-profile, fast-paced, mediation-driven foreign policy. Qatar's handling of illegal recruitment fees paid by workers is a case in point. The Supreme Committee for Delivery

& Legacy, the Qatari organizer of the World Cup, has obliged companies it contracts to repay the fees without workers having to provide proof of payment. Companies have so far pledged to repay roughly USD\$28.5 million to some 49,000 workers, \$22 million of which have already been paid out. It is a step the government could apply nationally with relative ease to demonstrate sincerity and, more fundamentally, counter the criticism. Similarly, in response to complaints raised by human rights groups and others, the government could also offer to compensate families of workers who die on construction sites. Again, none of these measures would dent Qatar budgets but would earn the Gulf state immeasurable goodwill. The consequence of singling out Qatar without putting it in a broader context was that initial Qatari willingness to work with its critics weakened as attitudes hardened. Increasingly self-confident, Qatar engaged less with its critics and responded to criticism more aggressively. That was evident at the FIFA Congress in Doha in March when Supreme Committee secretary-general Hassan al Thawadi responded to critical remarks by Lise Klaveness, the head of the Norwegian Football Association, by saying: "We're not seeking validation. Legacy is being delivered as we speak. We've showcased to the world what tournament hosting can do." Furthermore, Qatar has done itself no favours in its dealings with the media regarding its mediocre responses to inquiries and efforts to inhibit independent reporting and suppress what Qatari officials would consider negative stories. Take Qatar's handling of the case of Abdullah Ibhais, a Jordani-

an-Palestinian Supreme Committee communications executive, who posed putting a spin on a strike by migrant workers, including some assigned to World Cup-related projects. The workers were on strike because their salaries had not been paid. Mr. Ibhais was subsequently accused of leaking state secrets and awarding a social media tender to a Turkish bidder in return for Turkish citizenship. He asserts that he was forced to sign a confession and was initially refused access to a lawyer. Mr. Ibhais was sentenced to five years in prison based on evidence that, according to Human Rights Watch, was "vague, circumstantial, and in some cases contradictory." However, an appeals court subsequently reduced his sentence to three years in jail. Qatar's cost-benefit analysis is often skewed as its repressive and defensive actions cause greater reputational damage than the incidents it tries to suppress. It remains an open question whether Qatar is driven by bad faith, ill will, and lack of political will or ineptitude that gets it stuck in a rout. The bottom line of all of this is not whether criticism of Qatar is justified. It largely is. The question for human rights groups and other activists is what is, given the nature of the issues and the fact that the window on leverage over Qatar is closing, what lessons can be learned from the experience of the last decade and what is the best strategy and approach going forward. There may be no immediate answers, but what is evident is that strategies and approaches aim to encourage further reforms, and post-World Cup reform will have to be updated and adapted.

Briefs

Govt to pay back Rs1,50,000 to Hajjis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to pay back a subsidy of Rs1,50,000 to Hajj pilgrims on their return to Pakistan. The federal cabinet has approved the subsidy for the Hajj pilgrims. As per the cabinet decision, a subsidy of Rs1,50,000 will be given to all Hajj pilgrims on their return to the country. A private television channel report said that the federal government has also transferred the total amount of the subsidy to the Ministry of Religious Affairs to pay back the Hajjis.

North Korea says US seeks 'military supremacy' in Asia

DNA

PYONGYANG: North Korea accused the United States and its allies, Japan and South Korea, of targeting Pyongyang to gain "military supremacy" in the Indo-Pacific, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported on Sunday. The KCNA said that the North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the "reality clearly shows that the real purpose of the US spreading the rumor about 'threat from North Korea' is to provide an excuse for attaining military supremacy over the Asia-Pacific region." "The prevailing situation more urgently calls for building up the country's defenses to actively cope with the rapid aggravation of the security environment," the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson's comments came after the leaders of the US, South Korea and Japan agreed to strengthen "deterrence capabilities" to counter North Korea on the sidelines of a three-day summit of NATO leaders earlier this week. The North accused the US and its allies of a plan to create a military alliance like NATO in the region, hours before Biden was set to meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol at the final day of the summit in Madrid. The meeting of the leaders of the three countries - US, South Korea, and Japan - on June 30, the final day of the summit, gained prominence because the US has sought to repair fractured ties between its two major allies, South Korea and Japan.

The White House released a statement after the meeting of the leaders, saying they discussed "enhancing trilateral cooperation throughout the Indo-Pacific," adding, "particularly in regard to addressing the evolving threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs."

Palestinian teen shot by Israeli forces dies

AGENCIES

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian teenager died on Sunday after being shot by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank a day earlier, Palestinian medical sources said. The 17-year-old was identified as Kamel Alawnah by the Palestinian health ministry, which said he "succumbed to wounds from live fire by the occupation (Israeli army) in the abdomen and hand in Jenin". A Palestinian medical source told AFP that Alawnah was wounded in Jaba, a village in the Jenin governorate of the northern West Bank. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the incident. Forty-nine Palestinians have been killed since late March across Israel and the Palestinian territories; civilians, attackers and suspected freedom fighters among them.



ISLAMABAD: Mian Mehmood Hon. Consul General of Republic of Moldova and his wife hosted a dinner reception for the outgoing DHM of Jordan Dr. Maen Khareasat. Those who attended the reception included Federal Minister for SAFRON Senator Talah Mahmood, federal secretaries, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugjo, Ambassador of Jordan Ibrahim Almadani, CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani, DHM Norwegian embassy Dr. Noor Khan, Editor Daily Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE Ansar M Bhatti and others. (DETAILED COVERAGE IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF CENTRELINE MAGAZINE) - DNA

India bars Kashmiri journalist from leaving

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist from Indian-occupied Kashmir, Sana Irfan Mattoo, was barred by immigration officials at the New Delhi airport from travelling to France on Saturday "without any reasons", the Indian Express reported. In a tweet, Mattoo said she was scheduled to travel from Delhi to Paris [on Saturday] for a book launch and photography exhibition as one of 10 award winners of the Serendipity Arles grant 2020. "I was not given any reason but told I would not be able to travel internationally," the journalist added. Mattoo said that she was stopped despite procuring a French visa. "This is insane, there is nothing against me. One of the officials told me I should check the reason from

India facing 'possible collapse', says Nobel laureate

NEW DELHI: The biggest crisis that India is facing today is the "possible collapse of the nation", Nobel laureate and renowned economist Amartya Sen said. Speaking at the inauguration of Amartya Research Centre in Kolkata's Salt Lake area, Sen said that people should work towards maintaining unity and added that divisions should not be made along religious lines. "I think if someone asks me if I'm scared of something, I would say yes. There is a reason to be afraid now. The current situation in the country has become a cause for fear," Hindustan Times quoted him as saying. - DNA

Kashmir from where directions had come. I don't understand why I was stopped," Al Jazeera quoted her as saying. Mattoo told the outlet that she was "disheartened" by the move since she was looking forward to the opportunity for a long time. A resident of Srinagar, the 28-year-old works as a photojournalist for the international wire agency Reuters. Mattoo won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography along with three other Reuters photographers for their coverage of Covid-19's second wave in India. The move against Mattoo comes in the wake of recent clampdowns on Indian journalists who have been critics of the Modi-led government. In January, Indian authorities arrested Sajad Gul, an independent journalist and media student in IoK, which was followed by the arrest of the editor of Kashmir Walla news portal, Fahad Shah, in February.

Taliban still illegitimate rulers, say women activists

KABUL: The Taliban remain illegitimate rulers despite a declaration by thousands of male clerics endorsing their headline government, Afghan women activists said on Sunday. The clerics pledged allegiance to the Taliban and its reclusive leader Saturday following a three-day meeting that failed to address thorny issues such as the right of teenage girls to go to school. The Taliban - who seized power last August - have since tried to present the meeting as a vote of confidence in their vision of a pure Islamic state totally subservient to sharia law. They insisted last week that women would be represented at the meet-

ing - attended by over 3,500 men - but only by their sons and husbands. "Statements released or pledging allegiance to the Taliban in any gathering or event without the presence of half of the nation's population, the women, are not acceptable," Hoda Khamosh, a rights activist currently in exile in Norway, told AFP. "This summit... does not have legitimacy, validity, or the approval of the people." Since returning to power in August, the Taliban's harsh interpretation of Sharia law has imposed severe restrictions on Afghans - particularly women. Secondary school girls have been barred from education and women prevented from working in government jobs, forbidden from travelling alone, and ordered to dress in clothing that covers everything but their faces. The Taliban have also outlawed playing non-religious music, ordered TV channels to stop showing movies and soaps featuring uncovered women, and told men they should dress in traditional garb and grow their beards. - DNA

PM, mily leadership to decide on next COAS

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the military leadership will mutually decide on the next Chief of Army Staff (COAS) but for now, the extension of the COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa or the appointment of new army chief is not on the table, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said. In an exclusive interview with a private television channel Sunday, the minister also criticized the Imran Khan government for destroying China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects especially the Gwadar deep-sea port, which he revealed could no longer dock larger ships after failing to neglect under the PTI government. Ahsan Iqbal said the Imran Khan government did not spend a single dollar on Gwadar although China allocated \$123 million

for the cleaning of the silt. For four years, the maritime affairs authorities kept requesting for funds to carry out maintenance dredging but in vain, he said. The depth of Gwadar port had dropped from 14 meters to 11 meters, he said. He added that the current government has now tasked the Pakistan Navy with dredging the port, but until the operation is completed no big ship could dock at Gwadar port. Talking about the appointment of new COAS due in November, he said Imran Khan was making institutions controversial to save his politics. For now, the extension of the COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa or an appointment of new army chief is not under consideration, he said. "This is something that the prime minister decides by working together with the military leadership in the interest of the country. - DNA

Govt suspends markets closure until Eid-ul-Azha

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has announced the suspension of the market closure policy keeping the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha in mind. According to details, the market closure policy has been suspended in the capital territory until July 10, 2022. The decision has been made keeping Eid shopping and festivities in mind. According to a notification issued by the federal government, the market closure policy to shut at 10 pm will be restored from July 10, 2022. The decision has been made keeping public benefit in mind, it added. Action will be taken against people violating the closure policy after July 10, 2022, the notification added. Earlier on July 2, Punjab chief minister (CM) Hamza Shehbaz lifted timing restrictions in the province on businesses ahead of Eid-ul-Adha. In a statement, Punjab CM Hamza Shehbaz Sharif said markets across the province can now remain open even after 9 pm. There would be no time restriction on the businesses until Chand Raat. He said that decision has been taken to facilitate the masses and business community ahead of Eidul Adha.

'PTI deal with IMF created problems'

FAISALABAD, Jul 03 (AP-P): Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah said on Sunday that agreements inked by the PTI government had become a major problem for the government as it had to honor these agreements to revive the IMF program and save Pakistan from default. He was addressing the ceremony of distribution cheques of welfare grant, talent scholarship and marriage grant among workers in the auditorium of Faisalabad Medical University. Rana Sana Ullah put the onus of inflation on the bad governance of previous government and said that it failed to take appropriate measures to facilitate the masses. However, he was optimistic that present government was committed to control the inflation and people would witness a visible positive change in their life just within next six months. - APP

French diplomat visits Allama Iqbal's house

Head of Mission of the French Embassy Yves Manville signs golden book; writes about Iqbal's visit to France



DNA

SIALKOT: The Deputy Head of the Mission of the French Embassy Yves Manville visited Sialkot as part of his official assignment. Yves Manville during his visit also visited the house of great Pakistani poet

and thinker Sir Allama Muhammad Iqbal and signed the visitors' book as well. The French diplomat also attended a Police training session at the Sialkot airport with the French police liaison officer Vincent Groux. He then had a detailed meeting with the management of the Sialkot airport. In his social media message he talked

about cultural and people to people relations between the two counties adding his visit to the birth place of Allama Iqbal and signature of the golden book of the place was indeed a memorable moment for him. He said he wrote about Iqbal as poet, philosopher, and about his visit to France where he met

our great philosopher Henri Bergson. Mr. Manville also visited a few factories, which have been exporting various goods to France. Prominent among them were the factories producing sportswear. He interacted with the management of the respective factories and discussed future business prospects.