



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Turkey's 3rd-place candidate endorses Erdogan in runoff

Detailed News On Page-08

US will default if debt deal falls through

Detailed News On Page-07



Vinicius Jr. accuses La Liga of racism

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Standing with Khan like a wall

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: PTI President Chaudhry Pervez Elahi has reaffirmed his commitment to stand with former prime minister Imran Khan and his party "like a wall". "We will continue to stand with him," he asserted. "Moonis and I are standing with Imran Khan together, but that doesn't mean we support his narrative." But, Elahi contended that the army was his own institution. "I have always tried to keep good ties with the establishment and the judiciary. There are no two thoughts on it."

PTI for bringing Dar into account

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI General Secretary Hammad Azhar said that gang of criminals imposed on the nation ruined the fast thriving economy of the country, demanding strict accountability of the economic team including the finance minister Ishaq Dar in this regard. In a statement on Monday, Hammad Azhar lashed out at the cable of crooks for depreciation of the rupee and destruction of the economy. He said that Darnomics made the rupee practically useless, adding that even though rupee devalued at a record level, reaching at Rs. 308 against dollar, there was no sign of shame in the government ranks.

Shireen Mazari re-arrested

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former Human Rights minister and PTI leader Shireen Mazari has been arrested again, moments after she was released from Adiala Jail, media reported. Sources told media that the Punjab police arrested the PTI leader from outside Adiala Jail - the fourth time in the last 10 days. Taking to Twitter, Barrister Ahsan J. Pirzada - the lawyer of Shireen Mazari - said that the former human rights minister has been arrested for the "fourth time" in last 10 days.

May 9 rioters 'Anti-Pakistan'

PM vows to root out extremism

The Premier says rioting is the work of terrorists, no new laws being introduced

DNA

QUETTA: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday declared all protesters and rioters of May 9, the day Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was arrested, as 'enemies of Pakistan', media reported. The prime minister made these remarks while addressing an inaugural ceremony of the 34th National Games in Quetta. "The way Jinnah house [Corps Commander House] was set on fire in Lahore, this can't be the doing of a Pakistani person. This is the work of terrorists and anti-state elements," the premier said at the inauguration ceremony. Later, addressing the National Assembly, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that there was no vendetta in his heart but contended that those involved in the May 9 riots would be taken to the court of law and held accountable. "If leniency is done in this, this country won't last," the premier said. "This is an incident which is out of our control and is the mandate of the public." "Day and night lies on lies were said and the fallacy of a conspiracy by the US was sown in the minds of people. "But today, phone calls are being made to the same country. But, our foreign relations were destroyed," PM Shehbaz decried, referring to PTI chief Imran Khan's "baseless accusations against the US". Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that he was not aware of the arrest warrants issued by the National Accountability Bureau for PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

Continued on Page 06

NA resolution backs rioters' trial in military courts

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed a resolution to condemn "shameless incidents" on May 9 and expressed solidarity with armed forces in the wake of attacks on martyrs' monuments and defence installations almost across the country following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's arrest in a corruption case earlier this month. The resolution tabled by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif backed the civil-military leadership's decision to try rioters under relevant laws of the country including the Pakistan Army Act. It said the lower house of parliament "vehemently condemned the shocking, brazen, heart-wrenching and shameless incidents which took place in certain parts of the country on the 9th May 2023". The house also expressed its full faith in and complete solidarity and support for the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The resolution reiterated to observe May 9 as 'Black Day' - a reference to the unprecedented nearly three days-long violent protests by the PTI supporters following their leader Imran Khan's arrest.

Controversial G20 moot face boycotts

After China; Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Egypt also remain asaide

CENTRELINE REPORT

SRINAGAR: India's presidency of the G20 group of leading nations has become mired in controversy after China, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia and Egypt boycotted a meeting staged in Kashmir, the first such gathering since India unilaterally brought Kashmir under direct control in August 2019. The meeting, a tourism working group attended by about 60 delegates from most G20 countries taking place from Monday to Wednesday, required a large show of security at Srinagar international airport. China has said it will not attend, citing its firm opposition "to holding any kind of G20 meetings in disputed territory". In April, Pakistan, which also lays claim to Kashmir but is not a G20 member, described the meeting as irresponsible. Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Indonesia were also expected to stay away. Turkey has consistently shown inclination towards Pakistan on

Continued on Page 06

G-20 moot violation of Int'l law: FM

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said holding a G-20 countries' tourism group meeting in Srinagar was a sheer violation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir. Addressing a special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly, he said the people of Kashmir had been denied their basic right of self-determination for decades. He expressed that holding such meeting in the most

Continued on Page 06

'Duty first': COAS vows Pak army stands united

Gen. Munir terms recent attacks on military installations 'intolerable'



RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Asim Munir interacting with families of martyrs. - DNA

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir emphasised Monday that "every soldier and officer of the armed forces put his duty and responsibilities first

regardless of regional, linguistic, and political prejudices and distinctions". A strong army is the guarantor of a country's security and unity, he underscored while addressing an award ceremony for martyrs and officials at the General Headquarters (GHQ) Rawalpindi. In a statement, the military's media affairs wing said that 51 officials were awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz (military), 22 were awarded the Tamgha-i-Basalat and two officials were awarded special United Nations medals. They were awarded for their "acts of gallantry during operations and meritorious services rendered to the nation". A large number of senior army officials and families of martyrs attended the event. "Undoubtedly, we are living in a free atmosphere due to the martyrs' sense of duty and their great sacrifices," Gen Munir said. He termed the martyrs' sacrifices and officials' services a "valuable asset" and "source of pride" for the country. "The Pakistan Army, as an institution, always remembers every

Continued on Page 06



QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the opening ceremony of 34th National Games. - DNA

Audio leaks Commission proceedings to be made public



Everybody to be treated with respect: Justice Faez

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A three-member judicial commission, formed last week to probe audio clips leaked on social media over the last few months, announced on Monday that its proceedings would be made public as PTI Chairman Imran Khan filed a plea in

Continued on Page 06

Imran challenges judicial commission probing audio leaks

Khan states the commission requires the CJP's permission

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: After questioning the government for the "deliberate omission" of the Terms of Reference (TORs), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has challenged the formation of the three-member judicial commission probing the audio leaks pertaining to the judiciary in the Supreme Court. Babar Awan, the PTI chief's lawyer and party leader, filed the plea on his behalf requesting the court to declare the notification for constituting the commission null and void. The government, on Saturday, established a three-member judicial commission to probe into audio leaks involving the retired and sitting members of the judiciary as well as lawyers casting doubts on the institution's credibility. The judicial body was tasked to complete the job within 30 days. In the petition, Khan maintained that no judge can be nominated for the commission without the chief justice of Pakistan's permission.

Continued on Page 06

PTI moves SC against trials in military courts

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday challenged the deployment of the armed forces under Article 245 alleging that it was being used to "political[ly] victimise" the Imran Khan-led party and trial of the civilians accused of May 9 arson under military courts a "clear violation of due process" and Pakistan's commitment to international laws. The petition has been moved by PTI's Additional Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan on behalf of the party and seeks the top court's intervention under Article 184(3).

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

Small dams plays vital role in recharging ground water - Page 02

NDMA alerts departments to ensure preparedness level - Page 03

Beginning of new type of international relations - Page 04

Indonesia's digital transformation - Page 05

PM vows to create ample opportunities for athletes - Page 06

Experts laud current positive trajectory of Pak-Russia ties - Page 07

Three Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in Nablus - Page 08

Small dams plays vital role in recharging ground water

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The World Bank Task Team has expressed that small dams playing a vital role in recharging the ground water in the Kohistan belt of Sindh province. The world Bank further said that the positive impact playing on the lives and livelihood of the local community, besides, positive impact on ecology of the area Task Team said.

On the occasion, The World Bank support mission visited the small dam sites at Mole-I and mole- II, in Kohistan of Jamshoro district on Monday. The World Bank support mission led by Task Team leader Ahsan Tehsin for Sindh Resilience Project and Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project and the members including Ali Tauqeer Shaikh, Ms. Yoko Okura, Mishka Zaman, Sana Ahmed, Farha Yaminn Khan, Ms Nihan Rafiq, Ms Anna Memon, Shams ul Haq Jafriani, Ijazul Shaikh and Shahid Suhail. While, on inauguration of water supply scheme at village Tero Khan Khaskheli, which was completed near Kamal Shoro small dam.

On the occasion, the climate change expert of World Bank, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh said that Sindh province faced heavy

rain fall and flash floods 2022, after long span of drought of nine years. "Though the construction of small dams, result in the impact flash floods will be reduced, ground water level will be recharged significantly and it will provide ample drinking water to local people, where people will utilize ground water subsistence agriculture and live stock, which are the major sources of the livelihood in the area. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, the climate change expert of the World Bank" said that due to construction of Small dams, the salinity of the ground water is decreasing and over all ground water has become sweet ", while the water borne diseases or potable water needs be fulfilled. Mr. Sheikh Climate Change WB further told that before construction of small dams, the people had faced hardships for drinking water for humans and livestock as well agriculture purposes due to frequently drought situation at Kohistan of Sindh, but after construction of small dams, people have become prosperous said Ali Tauqeer Sheikh". "Water was being saved and it was used properly after construction of small dams at Kohistan he said. Earlier, Ahsan Tehsin task team leader inaugurated the water supply scheme at village Tero Khaskheli in Kohistan

area of Thana Bula Khan of district Jamshoro. On that occasion, Nasir Ali Panhwar Social Safe Guard specialist of Sindh Resilience Project said that drinking sweet water was one of the crucial problems of the Kohistan area, people faced since. He said that women have to travel long distances to fetch the drinking water, that's why after the request of community, the SRP Sindh Resilience Project provided the water supply schemes under the community support initiative. He said that the total 8160 gallons of water will be supplied to the three villages population Tero Khan Khaskheli, Saindand Khaskheli and Musa Khaskheli by this water supply scheme on solar system electricity. He said that this water supply will supply water to more than 1500 households of the area. He said that these mole- I & II small dams were repaired under Sindh Emergency Project. These small dams were damaged in heavy rains and due to hill torrent floods in 2022. Local residents of village Tero Khaskheli included Khamiso Khan, Pir Bux Khaskheli, Mohammad Urs, Mohammad Bux, Mohammad Anwar and Ahsiq Ali villagers thanked to World Bank to provide them potable water.



Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed distributing compensation cheques among affectees of public fraud cases at NAB Rawalpindi Office. —DNA

No compromise on Kashmir issue

KARACHI: Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, emphasised that there can be no compromise on the issue of Kashmir. Speaking at the press conference at the Sindh Archives Complex, he re-affirmed the firm stance of the founding chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who stated that no mistakes can be tolerated when it comes to the matter of Kashmir. Memon highlighted that several significant countries have decided not to participate in the Kashmir conference. He attributed this outcome to the successful diplomacy of the government and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Memon criticised the former prime minister Imran Khan for his mistakes and incompetence regarding the Kashmir issue. Memon emphasised that the treatment of Kashmiris of Modi's government towards Kashmiris is unprecedented and condemnable. He expressed his concerns about Khan's interviews with foreign media, stating that no former prime minister of Pakistan has made such hateful remarks about their own country as Khan does in his interviews. The minister stated that a true leader is someone who guides their nation along the right path. In contrast, Khan's consistent changes in stance and U-turns on various matters show a lack of leadership and integrity in his personality. He strongly condemned the act of defaming one's own country and institutions for the sake of personal interests and power. He criticised Khan for creating conspiracy theories and blaming external forces for his government's downfall, while giving contradictory statements in interviews.

Courtesy, civility and fairness to be hallmarks of NAB

RAWALPINDI: Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed attended a ceremony organized for distribution of compensation cheques among affectees of various scams of cheating public at large. The ceremony was held in NAB Rawalpindi office. During his address to the participants, Chairman NAB reiterated that NAB will remain completely apolitical and will work as per law. He stated that in the past the organization found itself involved in undue controversies which made it lose its focus and damaged its reputation. He said his foremost effort will be to restore the image of NAB as a fair, just and unbiased organization. Chairman NAB expressed concern at the country's slide on the Global Corruption Perception Index and said that the entire society had to work together

for eradicating the menace of corruption. He also appreciated the affectees for their patience while waiting for the looted amount to be recovered and assured that henceforth every effort would be made to conclude such cases in the shortest possible time frame. Earlier, DG NAB Rawalpindi Mirza Irfan Baig, in his welcome remarks, said that NAB Rawalpindi had made a recovery of Rs. 3.5 billion in 5 major cases of cheating public at-large, in which Rs. 27 million were being disbursed today among the affectees. The recoveries include Rs. 130 million in fake accounts in Sind Tractors Scheme handed over to Government of Sind, Rs. 500 million in Askaria Housing scam, Rs. 1.9 billion in National House Building Development Corporation scam and others. He also apprised

that SAARC, PILDAT and international organizations including UN has acknowledged NAB's performance. An MoU has also been signed with China for transparent execution of CPEC projects, he informed. Later, in his address to the employees of NAB Rawalpindi, Chairman NAB appreciated their diligent work in recovery of the looted amount. Chairman NAB advised that NAB does not have any favorites and the organization works strictly on the principle of fairness and impartiality. All accused deserve courtesy and civility. "Treat them as you would like to be treated", he remarked. While answering the questions of employees, Chairman NAB said that measures are being taken to make the working environment for employees, particularly female staff, as much comfortable.—APP



Kashmiris observe protests against G-20

MIRPUR: Kashmiri people on Monday, took to the massive street agitation against India at both sides of the Line of Control and the rest of the world to register protest followed by their anguish and resentment over New Delhi's forced holding of G-20 congregation in internationally-recognized disputed Kashmir territory. The Protest Day call was given by All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Jammu Kashmir, known as people's true representative forum and supported fully by Azad govt. of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

There was a complete shutter down and wheel jam strike at both sides of the line of control - most particularly in the Indian-occupied part of the disputed Jammu Kashmir state to register a protest against the forced holding of the congregation in a disputed territory against the aspirations of the main stakeholder - the Jammu Kashmir State population. In Azad Jammu Kashmir, mammoth anti-India protest rallies and demonstrations were staged in all small and major towns including the State capital city of Muzaffarabad, Mirpur, Rawalakot, Kotli, Bhimber, Bagh, Palandri, Havelil Neelam and Jhelum Valley districts - which emerged as a hallmark of the day to express resentment against India's repeated unlawful.—APP

Mobilink Bank, HF sing MoU to enhance financial inclusion

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank and Hashoo Foundation (HF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly enhance financial inclusion for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This collaboration strives to empower MSMEs supported and trained by Hashoo Foundation, fostering their entrepreneurial journey. Mobilink Bank, through this partnership, is committed to enabling the growth and success of small businesses amidst a rapidly evolving economic landscape. Ms. Ayesha Khan shared how Hashoo Foundation has positively impacted the lives of three million people through its signature programs like Entrepreneurship Training Hub and Incubation Center

(ETHIC) and received multiple awards including the International Forum (IF) Social Impact Prize, BBC Global Challenge Award, and the Clinton Global Initiatives Award, for empowering women through various value chain approaches. An innovative action research initiative was training women entrepreneurs for waste-to-money conversion in the Sustainable Methods and Resilient Technologies (SMaRT) village project. In the past year, HF empowered over 12,000 women and men through such collaborations in various partnerships. Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO of Mobilink Bank, and Ms. Ayesha Khan, CEO of HF and Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) at Hashoo Group signed the agreement in the presence of senior officials from both organizations.

With a specific focus on fostering an inclusive banking ecosystem, this partnership harnesses the potential of digital onboarding processes and grants entrepreneurs' access to a diverse range of essential financial products and solutions. As part of the agreement, female beneficiaries of HF will also gain access to the Bank's Binte-Hawwa product. Sharing his thoughts at the signing ceremony, Ghazanfar Azzam, President and CEO Mobilink Bank said, "Mobilink Bank's partnership with HF is a powerful catalyst for change, as it fuels the growth of women-led SMEs and micro enterprises, creating a ripple effect of empowerment, prosperity and a more equitable financial landscape.—APP

Ashrafi admire China, KSA, Turkiye, and Egypt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Monday expressed his appreciation to China, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Egypt for their decision to refrain from attending the G20 meeting in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Addressing a press conference, he said IIOJK was an internationally recognized disputed territory between Pakistan and India and it was on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for over seven decades. Ashrafi said India was responsible for widespread atrocities and egregious human rights violations in the IIOJK adding that contemplating the holding of any G20-related meeting or event there, in utter disregard of the globally acknowledged disputed status of the territory, was a travesty that the international community could not accept under any circumstances. He said today, a complete strike took place in occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir to condemn this illegal move of the fascist Modi regime giving a clear-cut expression of that India had nothing to do with the people and the territory of occupied Kashmir. He urged other G20 countries to boycott such an event if held in the future in any internationally disputed territory.—APP

ISSI holds seminar to remember Alastair Lamb

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: "We are gathered here to celebrate and honour Alastair Lamb, an eminent researcher and historian, whose name has become synonymous with intellectual vigour and unwavering commitment to the pursuit of truth." This was stated by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan at an event "Remembering Alastair Lamb: A Tribute to an Eminent Scholar" organised by India Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad today. Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, who was the chief guest at the commemorative event, praised the life and unmatched scholarship of Alastair Lamb. He said Alastair Lamb's writings have helped raise awareness about the historical context, legal complexities and human rights implications of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and encouraged a more informed discourse on the

subject. The Foreign Secretary emphasized that it was the right time to recognise the scholarly contributions by Alastair Lamb as India was using its position as a G20 Chair and convening a meeting in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He added that, clearly, India was trying to mislead the international community by peddling the fake narrative of 'normalcy' in IIOJK in complete disregard of the UNSC resolutions and in violation of the principles of UN Charter and international law. While delivering his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that Alastair Lamb was the first academic who examined British archives on Kashmir and, through his meticulous research on the genesis of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, had definitively demolished the Indian case about the legitimacy of the State's "accession" to India. Alastair established beyond any doubt that the Maharaja

could not have signed the so-called 'Instrument of Accession' on 26 October 1947, as he was on road to Jammu and that there was no evidence of any contact between him and Indian emissaries on that day. Today, by holding a G20 working group meeting in Srinagar, India was desperately seeking legitimacy for its illegal occupation, which Pakistan and the people of Kashmir had rejected from the outset. DG Sohail Mahmood put forth several recommendations that included conferment of high civil award (posthumously) upon Alastair Lamb; estab-

lishing an 'Alastair Lamb Chair for Kashmir Studies' in one of the leading Universities of Pakistan or AJK; and establishment of a Library/Resource Centre in the name of Alastair Lamb where his work and other related materials should be kept.




The Smooth Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING







Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Karachi
Room No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Kalkhain Mall,
Main Tariq Road, 17-1 Block-2, P.E.C.S.
Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3452174
Fax: (+92 21) 3452174
E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

Lahore
F-4, Gulberg Centre,
Main Boulevard, Lahore.
Tel: (+92 42) 3579888, 3579765
Fax: (+92 42) 3571423
E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

Peshawar
Office No. C4, 3rd Floor, Zahir Plaza,
Laf Azeem Ring Road, Peshawar.
Tel: (+92 91) 2522778
Fax: (+92 91) 2522558
E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

Kabul
House # 4, Street # 4,
Chahar Azeem Road, Shahr-e-Naw,
Kabul - Afghanistan.
Tel: +93 79821 773, 83 79788 808, 83 77948 283.
E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

Briefs

Project of establishing Pakistan's new gen geodetic datum launched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The project launching ceremony for establishing Pakistan's new generation geodetic datum was held here, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

Maj Gen Saeed Akhtar, Surveyor General of Pakistan's State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, and Mr. Zeng Huacheng, Deputy Director General of Agency for International Economic Cooperation of MOFCOM attended the event and delivered speeches respectively. In 2011, the Pakistani government requested assistance from the Chinese government to establish a Next-Generation Geodetic Datum of Pakistan. This Geographic Information System mapping and surveying project is expected to encourage research and innovation in the areas of economy and society. Its linkages would promote cooperation between science and technology, public institutions and government agencies. In May 2017, the Chinese and Pakistani governments signed letters of exchange and the Chinese government pledged financial support for the project. The Chinese Academy of Survey and Mapping is one of the organizations supporting the implementation of this project. Cooperation between China and Pakistan is an important part of the Belt and Road Initiative. —DNA

Food commodities valuing \$4.277 bln exported in 10 months

ISLAMABAD: Food commodities valuing over \$4.277 billion exported during 10 months of current financial year as compared the exports of \$4.457 billion of corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-April, 2022-23, the exports of food group from the country decreased by 4.04 percent as compared the same period of last year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. In last 10 months, the exports of commodities which observed negative growth in their respective exports included rice 11.17 percent as it recorded at \$1.822 billion compared the \$2.051 billion, fruits and vegetables 43.46 percent and 2.49 percent and registered at \$232.700 million and \$261.980 million against the exports of \$411.558 million and 268.666 million of same period last year.

The export of food commodities, which witnessed increase during the period under review included fish and fish preparations 16.22 percent as fish and fish products valuing \$406.090 million exported as compared the exports of \$349.429 million. Meanwhile, tobacco worth \$55.970 million also exported during the period under review as compared the exports of \$44.295 million of same period last year. The exports of tobacco posted about 26.36 percent increase as compared the exports of the same period of last year. —APP

China-Central Asia Summit

Beginning of new type of international relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Central Asia is striving to transform to realize the dream of sustainable development. It is putting efforts to achieve the lost glory, which Central Asia enjoyed during the days of the ancient Silk Road, according to an article carried by Gwadar Pro on Monday. However, connectivity, lower industrial development, poverty and lack of financial resources are hindering the transformation and realization of dreams of sustainable development. Thus, Central Asia is looking for friends and partners, which can help Central Asia overcome these problems and put the region on the path of development. In this context, the China-Central Asia Summit held on May 18 and 19 was dubbed as a game changing opportunity for Central Asia. The summit has all the elements that can help Central Asia move on the path of prosperity. First, the cooperation to help Central Asia overcome the challenge of connectivity was proposed. There is no second opinion that China through Belt and Road Initiative can help Central Asia solve the problem of connectivity. Two corridors of BRI - CCAWAC and CPEC - are the best options available for this purpose. Besides, China is working to enhance the traffic

capacity of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan and China-Tajikistan-Uzbekistan highways. China also supported the trans-Caspian international transport corridor, which is considered a new beginning to develop BRI's linkages with other initiatives. Lastly, China emphasized the importance of expediting the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project. Thus, it is hoped that Central Asia will transit from landlocked country to land linked country. It will help Central Asia play the role of connecting nod between the East and the West, as it was playing during the times of the ancient Silk Road. Second, China has shown keen interest in helping Central Asia tackle issues of development and poverty. China announced that China will formulate the China-Central Asia special cooperation program for poverty reduction in the region. China also kicked start the implementation of the "China-Central Asia technology and skills improvement scheme". It is an innovative approach, which will not only help eradicate poverty but also prepare future generations for the fourth industrial revolution. Also China will provide Central Asian countries with a total of 26 billion yuan (about 3.7 billion U.S. dollars) in financing support and grants. Third, China will be working with Central Asia to implement a green development agenda, high-quality de-

velopment vision and tackle environmental and climate change issues. China will help develop and modernize industrial and agricultural sectors in Central Asia. For that purpose, special efforts will be made to recover saline-alkali land and make them productive. Cooperation will also be extended in the field of water management and better utilization of available resources. China will build a specialized agriculture laboratory by keeping in mind the needs of Central Asia. On environmental dimensions, special efforts will be made to tackle the ecological crisis of the Aral Sea. It would be a landmark step, as Aral Sea improvement will bring a new era of development for regional countries. For future oriented development, China will support the establishment of high-tech parks and more cooperation in the field of IT. Fourth, energy cooperation will be enhanced, and China has proposed establishing a China-Central Asia energy development partnership. It focuses on traditional sources of energy like gas, oil and new sources of energy like wind, solar, etc. China is willing to expedite work on the China-Central Asia Gas pipeline and improve the industrial chain of energy. Besides, China is extending cooperation on renewable and nuclear energy, which will help Central Asia fulfill its agenda of sustainable development and

commitments of SDGs 2030. Thus, cooperation in energy will not be a one-way traffic. Rather, it will be a two-way traffic and would be equally beneficial for China and Central Asia. Fifth, China has shown a strong commitment to ensuring peace and development in the region. China has offered comprehensive cooperation to fight terrorism, separatism and extremism. It is direly needed, as some Central Asian States are facing problems from western interference. China has also offered to build capacity for law enforcement, security and defense of Central Asian States and work in new areas of security like cyber security. Besides, it was identified that Afghanistan peace is direly needed, and it has direct relevance for Central Asia. Sixth, the best part of the proposal is that China has proposed to build institutional mechanisms to strengthen cooperation. It is a common fact that without a permanent institutional framework cooperation can neither prosper nor be sustainable. From the discussion, we can draw three conclusions. First, China has proposed and adopted a win-win formula for cooperation. China did not try to exploit the situation and extract maximum benefits for itself. China tries to be fairer and just. Second, proposed areas of cooperation indicate that the proposal for cooperation is comprehensive.

CTP raising awareness about use of safety helmets

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on the directives of the Deputy Inspector General of Traffic, Punjab are raising awareness about the use of safety helmets among motorcyclists. According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Tamoor Khan, CTP was running a special campaign aimed at raising awareness about traffic rules, road safety and the use of safety helmets. A large number of road users were also briefed about traffic rules, road safety and the use of helmets during the last seven days. Mobile Education Unit of CTP arranged special briefing sessions on road safety and the use of safety helmets at different educational institutions and other public places in the city, he added. To make the campaign more effective and meaningful, traffic wardens and officers had also been issued special instructions, he said adding, the Education Wing of Traffic police was making efforts to spread awareness so that the road journey could be made safe and sound. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Georg Steiner calling on senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chief Whip Senate on Monday. —DNA

Swiss envoy meets Senator Mandviwalla

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Swiss Ambassador, George Steiner held a productive meeting with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla here in Islamabad on Monday to explore avenues for enhancing the already robust ties between Pakistan and Switzerland. The discussion encompassed a range of vital topics, including reopening the Swiss consulate in Karachi to the general public and fostering greater cooperation on global and regional developments of mutual interest. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral ties between Switzerland and Pakistan

and explore areas of mutual interest for collaboration in the financial sector. While touching upon various subjects, both sides emphasized the significance of enhancing economic cooperation, trade, and investment between the two nations. Senator Mandviwalla expressed his keen desire to forge stronger bonds between Pakistan and Switzerland, emphasizing the significance of parliamentary relations and the need to invigorate friendship groups between the two nations. He lauded the visit of Council of State President Jean Fournier to Pakistan in November 2019, recognizing it as a highly valued gesture that showcased the warmth and goodwill between the countries.

PAF pays tribute to 1965 war hero Sarfraz Rafiqi

While paying tribute to its Ghazis and Martyrs, Pakistan Air Force on 1965 War hero Ahmed Rafiqi (Shaheed), Ahmed Rafiqi, along with his four intruder aircraft of 20,000 feet on the eve Sector. Later, he was ordered wara while defending Lahore mission, Sarfraz Ahmad Rafiqi PAF fighter jets. After shoot-machine gun of his plane got the battlefield, he ordered his



comrades to continue the attack and despite being defenceless, embraced martyrdom while protecting the formation from the rear. In recognition of his outstanding performance and courage, he was conferred with prestigious 'Hilal-i-Jurraat' and 'Sitara-i-Jurraat' by the Government of Pakistan. —DNA

Chinese Univ. promotes TCM, acupuncture in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Gansu University of Chinese Medicine (GUCM) has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with two Pakistani institutes to introduce a certificate course in acupuncture. The aim of this initiative is to promote Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practices in Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro on Monday. In collaboration with Pakistan's Health Services Academy (HSA) and Chinese Acupuncture Center (CAC) in Islamabad, the three parties will work together to promote short-term training in acupuncture and TCM. In the future, degree courses promoting the practice of TCM will be established in Pakistan. "TCM aims to restore the balance and harmony of the body. As a degree-grant-



ing institution recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, HSA is eager to establish a comprehensive partnership with our two counterparts in the areas of teacher and student exchange and collaborative research. This will pave the way for practical cooperation on TCM," stated Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor

of HSA, during the online ceremony. This is the first official TCM education training course being held in Pakistan. The aim is to accumulate experience in TCM degree education, foster cooperation in running schools, and promote TCM practice in Pakistan in the future. Furthermore, the course will assist local medical

workers and acupuncture enthusiasts in mastering additional treatment methods. This will serve as a positive step towards effectively promoting the development of TCM in Pakistan, according to the participant. GUCM President Zhao Jirong gave a comprehensive introduction about TCM and said that with the deepening of health cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, TCM had been increasingly integrated into mainstream international medicine. "China and Pakistan enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges. The trilateral cooperation will promote traditional Chinese method of treatment, establish lawful TCM practices and help TCM take root in Pakistan," added Zhao. —DNA


Early to predict 2024 LS election

MAHNOOR ANSAR


ISLAMABAD: "It is too early to suggest that Congress's win in the Karnataka Assembly elections will have a serious impact on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in India," said Mr Aarish U. Khan, the editor of publications at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). He was speaking at a roundtable organized by IRS here on Monday. Mr Khan added that there was a still a long way to go to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the success of opposition against the Bharatiya Janata depended not only on its unity but also the political credibility of the Congress to lead the opposition. He added that the political credibility of Congress was enhanced

with electoral victories in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka but it could receive a blow if Congress would lose the upcoming Assembly elections in the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Mr Khan maintained that while some observers were terming the Congress's victory in Karnataka as a turning point in the fortunes of the BJP and Congress, others maintained that it was a product of peculiar political circumstances of the state. He said that while the Congress ran a better election campaign than the BJP which was also admitted by the latter, the allegations of corruption against the outgoing BJP government also played an important role in its loss in the state. Mr Khan shared that even the

charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi could not save its government in Karnataka with his 19 rallies and 6 roadshows in the state in the run-up to the election. He further stated that the BJP's divisive politics for wooing the Hindu vote bank did not work in its favour either. Referring to the post-election tension within the Congress over who occupies the post of the Chief Minister, Mr Khan said that it would be a test for Congress as well up to 2024 whether it is able to deliver on its promises and does not fall prey to internal squabbling among its MLAs in the state and other party functionaries, which had happened to it in other states in the past.



10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



☎ 051 8770065 / 66 / 67 📞 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 555335

UAN: 051 111 777 778 📱 @dinovalleypk 🌐 dinovalley.pk

Briefs

PM vows to root out extremism

FROM PAGE 01
"But as the result of it, the destruction that ensued in the country, we have never seen such incidents before." "But is Rs60 billion a normal thing? Here, the entire opposition was pushed against the wall because of fake cases but not even a single pot was broken," the premier said. "This Rs60 billion didn't come to the national exchequer but went to some account in the Supreme Court [...] this is straight corruption and the cabinet of at the time approved a sealed envelope." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has claimed that incumbent army chief General Asim Munir was transferred from the post of DG ISI in 2019 because he had highlighted the corruption of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's wife. "I say this with full responsibility that incumbent army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir when he was DG ISI, he told PM Imran that his wife was involved in corruption. He said this on the basis of facts. "But obviously Imran got furious over it and did not like it. And the rest is history," the premier said. "Today I would like to say that Imran Khan has betrayed the nation by sprouting a lie. This is the reason why the former DG ISI was transferred ... it was because he confronted the then-PM that his family members were involved in corruption."

Imran challenges judicial...

FROM PAGE 01
"The Supreme Judicial Council is the only forum for investigation or action against any judge of the Supreme Court," the petition read. In his plea, the PTI chief insisted that the commission's TORs "suffer from a deliberate omission" with no accountability of who is "behind the unlawful and unconstitutional surveillance." Taking to his Twitter, the cricket-turned-politician also shared a strongly-worded tweet in this regard. "They fail to take into account the issue that who is behind unlawful and unconstitutional surveillance of PM office and sitting judges of the Supreme Court. The Commission should be empowered to investigate who are these powerful and unknown elements who tap and record telephone conversations of citizens including high public functionaries," he tweeted.

'Duty first': COAS vows Pak army...

FROM PAGE 01
individual associated with the army and his family, and our relationship as a family is a proud and exemplary one," the COAS said. He condemned the attacks on military installations and martyrs' monuments — that were carried out by enraged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters in days-long riots following the arrest of chairman Imran Khan — and termed them "extremely saddening and intolerable". He also announced that May 25 would be marked as "Pakistan Martyrs' Day".

Controversial G20 moot face boycotts

FROM PAGE 01
the Kashmir dispute and has raised the matter at various international forums. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti claimed India had turned the region into the equivalent of the Guantánamo Bay prison simply to hold a meeting on tourism. She also accused the Bharatiya Janata party, the party of the prime minister, Narendra Modi, of hijacking the G20 for its promotional purposes. Last week Fernand de Varennes, the UN's special rapporteur on minority issues, issued a statement saying the G20 was "unwittingly providing a veneer of support to a facade of normalcy" when human rights violations, political persecution and illegal arrests were escalating in Kashmir.



QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inspecting the March Past during the opening ceremony of 34th National Games.—DNA

PM vows to create ample opportunities for athletes

The prime minister further observed that the young people of Pakistan possessed huge potential which could be utilized in different categories of games, so that they could further bring successes to the country

DNA

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured that the federal government was committed to provide all possible resources for the promotion of sports and to create conducive opportunities for the youth of the country to excel in all genres

of games. Addressing an inaugural ceremony of the 34th National Games, the prime minister said that the nation was proud of its players and athletes who had not only earned fame in the country, but also brought laurels from abroad. The prime minister said that the national games were being held in the province after a lapse of 19

years. "Holding of the national games in this historic city, manifests the national unity and strength and patriotism for the motherland," he added. The prime minister further observed that the young people of Pakistan possessed huge potential which could be utilized in different categories of games, so that they could further bring

successes to the country. Assuring government's complete support, he said in the past, they had distributed laptops, established Danish schools and promoted games, besides, awarding the high achievers. He said in the field of sports, they were committed to provide all available resources to the youth because a nation became healthy if its youth was

healthy and could achieve progress if its young segment was properly educated. The prime minister reiterated that with the support of nation, they would rebuild Pakistan in all sectors and fields. He also congratulated the governor, the chief minister and the management committee for making excellent arrangements to host the national games.

Islamabad Club Reds wins Islamabad Club Cricket League Title

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Club Reds clinched the title of Islamabad Club Cricket League by defeating Islamabad Club Blues by 10 wickets here at Oval cricket ground Islamabad. Majid Khan, the former captain of Pakistan cricket team was the chief guest of the final while former PCB chief operating officer Shafaqat Nagmi, Islamabad Club Cricket Committee senior member Zubair Nasir, Test cricketer Yasir Hameed and others dignities were also attended the concluding ceremony. In the final, Islamabad Club Blues scored 175 runs for 6 wickets in the allotted 20 overs thanks to Ashas Gill's 89 and Raza Akram's 25 runs, while Ahmed Taj dismissed 3 players by scoring 36 runs. In response, Islamabad Reds achieved the required target in 13th over with unbeatable opening partnership between



Umer Kiyani and Salman Chaudhry of 176 runs. Thanks to Umer Kayani's who scored unbeatable century with 10 massive sixes and 6 fours in just 40 balls while Salman Chaudhry

played innings of 72 runs. Umer Kayani was declared the player of the tournament along with the match of the match of the final. Meanwhile speaking on the occasion Majid Khan has expressed concern over

the decline in Test cricket matches and said that ICC's first priority is Test cricket, but here the work is going backwards as T20 cricket is being played here as first priority and then ODI cricket.

He said that the ICC had made a policy of playing three Test matches, but now the Test Championship matches are being reduced and there is going to be a series of one Test match series from next year.

National Games Basketball competitions due from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army will compete against Punjab in the first match of the 34th edition of National Games Basketball event starting from today (Tuesday) at PSB Hall, Ayub Sports Complex Quetta. "Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has finalised all the arrangements to conduct successful five-days Mens and women event under the umbrella of Pakistan Olympic Association (POA)," said PBBF Associate Secretary Ouj E Zahoor. Ouj E Zahoor said that eight teams including Pakistan Army, Navy, Sindh Punjab, Pakistan Air Force, Wapda, Balochistan and KPK are divided in two groups. He said that the first match of the national games basketball event will be played between Pakistan Army and Punjab while Navy and Sindh, PAF and Balochistan, WAPDA and KPK teams will compete in the first round of the games.

Commission proceedings to be made public

FROM PAGE 01

the top court against the body. The commission, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa, was formed on May 20 under Section 3 of the Pakistan Commission of Inquiry Act 2017 and is required to conclude the task within a month. Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq are also included in the commission which will have "all the power to fix responsibility against the delinquents for their alleged role behind phone tapping and could exercise authority to constitute special teams consisting of experts, or form an international team and seek international cooperation or exercise powers" under the Criminal Code of Procedure. Earlier today, the commission held its inaugural meeting at the Supreme Court's courtroom no.7. Justice Isa sought the complete names and addresses of all those involved in the audio leaks. He emphasised that the commission's sole objective was to gather factual information and not to take punitive action against anyone. He contended that the commission should not be mistaken for the Supreme Judicial Council, adding that all proceedings would take place within the top court's premises in Islamabad. Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan apprised the commission that it had been established under the Inquiry Commission Act. "Should any witness or party request in-camera proceedings, appropriate orders will be issued," Justice Isa said. "There is a possibility that we may need to visit Lahore to record the statements of a few elderly women."

PTI moves SC against trials in...

FROM PAGE 01

The petition has put 22 questions before the court asking for its input on the scope of the law, whether the requisition violates Article 17 or not and if the deployment is a "threat to the system of parliamentary democracy". The petition also asks the court to examine if the requisition of the armed forces is "malafide and in excess of jurisdiction" as the federal government had claimed that they could not be deployed due to the security situation during elections. "Whether the trial of civilians through military courts is a clear violation of the Constitutional guarantees of due process and fair trial and violation of Pakistan's existing obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as the jurisprudence developed by this Honourable Court?" asked the plea.

G-20 moot violation of Int'l law: FM

FROM PAGE 01

militarized zone of the world to prove that normalcy had returned. Bilawal stated that history cannot be changed and emphasised that his purpose for attending the session was to engage in communication with the people of Kashmir. He highlighted that the Kashmir issue remains the incomplete agenda of partition of India. Referring to 1947, he expressed that the blood of Kashmiri Muslims was tragically shed during that period. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari asked India to end its gross human rights violations in IOJK, reverse its unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019, repeal draconian laws, and allow international observers to visit the region and see the ground reality therein with their own eyes. He said we want good relations with our neighbors including India but our quest for peaceful relations must not be construed of weakness. Meanwhile, many member countries of G20 including China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia and Mexico stayed away from the huddle. Speakers addressing a sit-in protest organized by APHC-AJK chapter outside the United Nations office in Islamabad on Monday called for settlement of the Kashmir dispute through exercise of the right to self-determination.

Haller toasts Dortmund's 'beautiful' title chance

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund striker Sebastien Haller said his side were achieving "something beautiful" after a 3-0 victory at Augsburg on Sunday sent them within one win of the Bundesliga title. "It's just unbelievable. If someone told me I would be in this situation six months ago, I wouldn't have believed them," an emotional Haller told DAZN. Haller was diagnosed with testicular cancer shortly after signing with Dortmund and underwent four rounds of chemotherapy and two operations, missing six months before returning in January. Dortmund sat in sixth place in January, but have lost just one of their 18 matches in the league since Haller returned. Dortmund are now two points clear with one match remaining, a rare occurrence after a decade of Bayern Munich dominance. The final round of games kick off at the same time next Saturday. To lift the Bundesliga shield for the first time since 2011-12, Dortmund will need a victory at home against Mainz only if Bayern win at Cologne. —APP

Vinicius Jr accuses Spain's La Liga of racism

MADRID: Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr says he has been subjected to racist abuse and the Spanish league "now belongs to racists". The latest incident against the Brazilian star came in Real Madrid's 1-0 loss at Valencia on Sunday, a match that had to be temporarily stopped after the forward said he was insulted by a fan behind one of the goals at Mestalla Stadium. "It wasn't the first time or the second or the third," Vinicius said on Instagram and Twitter. "Racism is normal in La Liga. The competition thinks it's normal, as does the federation, and the opponents encourage it." "The championship that once belonged to Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano [Ronaldo] and [Lionel] Messi today belongs to the racists," he posted. "A beautiful nation, which welcomed me and which I love but which accepted to export to the world the image of a racist country. I am sorry for those Spaniards who disagree, but today, in Brazil, Spain is known as a country of racists." "I am strong and I will go all the way against the racists," he said. "Even if it is far away from here." The 22-year-old, who is Black, has been subjected to racist abuse since moving to Spain five years ago. Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti considered replacing the star forward after Vinicius said fans at Mestalla chanted "monkey" at him. He said Vinicius initially didn't want to continue playing. "What happened today shouldn't happen," Ancelotti said. "When a stadium yells 'monkey' to a player, and the coach considers taking him out of the field because of that, it means that there is something bad in this league." The veteran coach refused to talk about the game after what happened, saying his team's loss meant nothing. "The game should have been stopped," Ancelotti said. "This shouldn't happen. It wasn't only one person as it has happened in several stadiums. Here, it was a stadium racially insulting a player.—Agencies

Lazio beat Udinese to leapfrog Inter Milan

ROME: Lazio climbed to third in Serie A as they won 1-0 at Udinese on Sunday after Inter Milan, with eyes on two cup finals, fielded a weakened side, suffered a first-half red card and lost 3-1 at champions Napoli. Lazio's veteran striker Ciro Immobile won a 61st-minute penalty for the only goal as Lazio jumped to 68 points two points ahead of Inter and one behind second-placed Juventus, who play Monday. After that, all the contenders have two matches left. Inter hold the last Cham-

pions League spot with a two-point edge over AC Milan. Napoli continued their Serie A title party with late goals against a short-handed Inter Milan. With two finals looming — against Fiorentina in the Italian Cup on Wednesday and Manchester City in the Champions League on June 10 — Inter coach Simone Inzaghi made eight changes from the team that beat AC Milan in the second leg of their European semi-final last Tuesday. Inter's task became even tougher when veteran centre back Roberto

Gagliardini picked up a second yellow card in the 41st minute. Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa put Napoli ahead after 67 minutes, spinning and volleying a shot into the corner of the net. Inzaghi threw on some regular starters and one of them, Denzel Dumfries, set up Romelu Lukaku for a close-range equaliser after 82 minutes. Napoli skipper Giovanni Di Lorenzo curled a 20-metre shot into the top corner to restore the lead three minutes later. As Inter pressed desperately, Gianluca Gaetano finished

off a Napoli counter-attack with his first league goal for the club deep into added time. Inter's European chances could be enhanced on Monday when second-placed Juventus face a second Italian Football Federation ruling on illicit transfer activity. An original 15-point deduction was later revoked by the country's highest sports court. Juventus then visit Empoli in the last game in the round. Fiorentina, who also have two cup finals coming up, against West

Ham in the Conference League as well as the Italian Cup, drew 1-1 at Torino in the afternoon. Luka Jovic, who started on the bench, gave Fiorentina the lead but Antonio Sanabria levelled for the hosts. Cremonese's brief stay in Serie A came to an end when Spezia and Lecce played out a goalless draw. Lecce on 33 points and Spezia, on 31, are still not safe. Both can be caught by Hellas Verona, currently in the third relegation position, with 30 points and two matches remaining. Spezia pulled seven clear

of Cremonese who return to Serie B after one season in the top flight. Bottom side Sampdoria were already doomed. Cremonese's fate was effectively sealed on Saturday when they were thrashed 5-1 at home by Bologna. The first two promotion places to Serie A have been locked up by Frosinone, the Serie B champions, and Genoa. The third will be the winner of the playoffs, for which six clubs are in the running: Bari, Parma, Cagliari, Sudtirolo from Bolzano, Reggina and Venice. —Agencies

Briefs

China summons Japanese envoy over 'anti-China' summit

DNA

BEIJING: China's Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong has summoned the Japanese ambassador to register protests over "hype around China-related issues" at the Group of Seven (G7) summit over the weekend, the foreign ministry said in a statement. The heads of the world's richest countries who met in the Japanese city of Hiroshima expressed serious concerns about rising tensions in the East China Sea and the South China Sea as well as voicing concerns about the human rights situations in Tibet and Xinjiang. Sun said Japan collaborated with the other countries at the G7 summit "in activities and joint declarations ... to smear and attack China, grossly interfering in China's internal affairs, violating the basic principles of international law and the spirit of the four political documents between China and Japan", referring to the China-Japan Joint Communiqué of 1972. A joint communiqué issued by the G7 nations on Saturday singled out China on issues ranging from Taiwan and maritime claims to economic coercion and human rights, underscoring the tensions between Beijing and the group of rich countries which includes the United States.

Work permit in UAE extended to 3 years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates has approved extending the duration of work permits from two years to three. According to international media, the UAE's parliamentary body, Federal National Council (FNC) has awarded its consent in connection with the extension of the work permits duration. This came after an FNC committee recommended the move to reduce the financial costs associated with obtaining work permits. Currently, work permits in the UAE are issued for two years. The document is issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization. It is illegal for a person to work in the country without a valid permit. A report submitted by the FNC Committee on Financial, Economic, and Industrial Affairs suggested that the duration be increased to three years. It also proposed other recommendations, including a waiver of work permit fees for a job change. Another recommendation that the FNC approved was that workers must spend at least a year with an employer after the probation period. However, this requirement can be waived if the employer agrees.

Elahi's ally Ch Wajahat exits PTI

DNA

LAHORE: Withdrawing his support for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi, Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain - younger brother of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain - on Monday hoped that his elder brother would welcome the returnees. Addressing a press conference after meeting with his older brother at Muslim League House, Wajahat said that he and his son - Chaudhry Husain Elahi - have returned. "Perhaps, those who created cracks [within the family] are filling it," said the ex-PTI leader without naming anyone. It is pertinent to mention that Wajahat had thrown his weight behind then-Punjab chief minister Elahi when the latter left the PML-Q and joined the PTI last year. Speaking on the occasion, Wajahat claimed that he had never been associated with or a member of the PTI.

Three Palestinians killed by Israeli forces in Nablus

The three were killed in the early hours of Monday amid a blockade of the Balata refugee camp in occupied West Bank

NEWS DESK

RAMALLAH: The Israeli army has killed three Palestinian men during a large-scale raid on the Balata refugee camp in the city of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank. The Palestinian health ministry identified the three, killed on Monday morning, as Muhammad Abu Zaytoon, 32, Fathi Abu Rizk, 30, and Abdullah Abu Hamdan, 24. At least seven other Palestinians were injured, including four with live ammunition, and dozens of others suffered tear gas inhalation, according to the ministry. Hundreds of Palestinians turned out for the funeral procession on Monday afternoon for the three men killed. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for the Palestinian Authority (PA) presidency, described Monday's raid as a "massacre". "The continuous aggression on the city of Nablus, its villages and refugee camps by the occupation forces and extremist settlers, is a major war crime and collective punishment that must end immediately," he said in a statement.

Israeli minister's Al-Aqsa visit condemned

RAMALLAH: Israel's ultra right-wing national security minister has been condemned as "provocative" and "dangerous" after visiting Al-Aqsa mosque in occupied Jerusalem on Sunday. The visit by Itamar Ben-Gvir - his second since becoming a member of Israel's government - was denounced as a flagrant challenge to the feelings of Muslims and Palestinians and Islamic and Arab sovereignty over the Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The Saudi Foreign Ministry strongly condemned Ben-Gvir's visit as a flagrant violation of all international norms and covenants and a provocation to the feelings of Muslims around the world. It held the Israeli forces fully responsible for the repercussions of the continuation of such abuses. Jordan criticized Ben-Gvir's actions as "provocative" and a "dangerous and unacceptable escalation" that represented "a flagrant and unacceptable violation of international law, and of the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and its holy sites." The Islamic Waqf echoed both government's comments, adding that it was delusional to think such action would achieve his dreams and goals of Judaizing Al-Aqsa Mosque. It said that the Cabinet meeting was equally a clear and systematic provocation against the city's Arab-Islamic history and heritage, he said. - DNA

"The US administration's silence on the occupation's crimes encourages it to persist in its aggression," continued Abu Rudeineh, warning that such attacks "will drag the region towards explosion." Hundreds of Israeli soldiers and special forces participated

in the raid that began at about 1am (22:00 GMT on Sunday) and continued until 5am (02:00 GMT). Israeli forces blockaded the camp's entrances with bulldozers and demolished some homes. They also damaged some units, according to residents, who also alleged the use of anti-tank grenades. The Palestinian Minister of Health Mai al-Kaila, said "Israeli occupation forces obstructed the work of paramedics and ambulances...while they were carrying out their humanitarian duty to transport the injured and provide them with treatment." The Israeli army said in a statement it arrested three Palestinian men "suspected of involvement" in armed activity and confiscated weapons, but did not comment on the killings. It also said it found an "explosives laboratory" in one of the apartments in the camp. Monday's raid took place after a car-ramping attack near Nablus on Sunday in which an Israeli soldier was injured. The Balata refugee camp is the largest in terms of population in the occupied West Bank, where some 30,000 Palestinians live in a high population density area of about 60 acres (24 hectares).

PM salutes China to refuse to join G20 meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday saluted China as it refused to go to the G20 meeting in Indian-Occupied Kashmir. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressed the National Assembly's Monday session and said former premier Imran Khan disturbed Pak-China relations in his last tenure. Shehbaz Sharif said propaganda was done against China during PTI Chairman Imran Khan's era. He strongly criticized the PTI chairman for his corrupt practices and bad policies in the last regime and said by waving a fake letter, Imran Khan damaged the Pak-US relationship. Shehbaz Sharif said Imran Khan Niazi again lied to the nation in his yesterday tweet. He said Army Chief General Asim Munir as Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General told him [Imran Khan] about the corruption of his wife [Bushra Bibi] and in response to it, Imran Niazi had exchanged him [ISI chief] for the same reason.

US dollar goes jittery against rupee

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar started the week on wrong foot as it was depreciated by 22 paises against the Pakistani interbank market on Monday. According to information obtained from forex dealers, the greenback lost its value by 22 paises and was currently being traded at Rs285.60. On Friday last, the US dollar had closed at Rs285.82 up by 20 paises against the local currency. According to experts, the dull money market was due to lack of news about Pakistan's efforts to get revived the IMF loan programme. In another key development, the State Bank of Pakistan while refuting the claims of a think tank, has confirmed a Rs239 billion net credit to the government but clarified that this was not fresh credit. In a statement the other day, the bank said the Prime Institute think tank, had relied on the data titled "Credit/Loans Classified by Borrowers", on the SBP website.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Ishaq Dar called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House. - DNA

PTI's Yasmin Rashid handed over to police

LAHORE: An ATC court in Lahore on Monday granted three-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Yasmin Rashid in a case related to the attack on Lahore's Jinnah House during May 9 vandalism. She was arrested by the Lahore police on May 17, despite LHC order to suspend the detention of PTI workers including Yasmin under Section 3 of Maintenance of Public Order (MPO). Earlier today, the ATC judge announced the reserved verdict on the PTI's leader petition seeking bail and remanded her in police custody on physical remand. She is accused of delivering a speech against institutions during the May 9 violent protests triggered by the arrest of party chief Imran Khan in the Al-Qadir Trust case. The ATC judge has also directed the police to present the PTI leader before the court on May 25. Rashid was taken into custody at Services Hospital, as she was wanted by the police in connection with three cases, as per police sources. The cases against her were registered at Sarwar Road, Gulberg, and Shadman police stations, and they include sections related to terrorism and other serious charges. - DNA

Court vows to 'spare no one' if Imran Riaz harmed

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) chief justice on Monday warned authorities that the court would not "spare anyone" should any harm be caused to missing anchor person Imran Riaz Khan. The remarks came as the judge expressed his dismay over Punjab Inspector General Dr Usman Anwar's admission before CJ Muhammad Ameer Bhatti's court that he was "clueless" of the whereabouts of the anchorperson. The IG appeared before the LHC today after the 48-hour deadline granted by the court to present Khan expired. The journalist, who is a staunch and vocal supporter of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and his policies, was arrested by the police on May 11 from Sialkot Airport. The government had swung into action and initiated a crackdown against PTI supporters after the former premier's arrest from the premises of the Islamabad High Court on May 9 sparked widespread protests and rioting. The anchor was reportedly arrested for allegedly inciting violence during clashes between security forces and PTI supporters. - APP

Turkey's third-place finisher endorses Erdogan in runoff

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday secured the endorsement of an ultra-nationalist whose third-place finish helped force Turkey's first election runoff. Sinan Ogan's 5.2 percent of vote in the May 14 general election helped deprived Erdogan of an outright victory for the first time in his 20-year rule. He met the Turkish leader on Friday and held separate negotiations with allies of opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu. "We will support the People's Alliance candidate, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in the second round of the elections on May 28," he told reporters in nationally televised remarks. Ogan portrays himself as an ardent supporter of a brand of Turkish nationalism espoused by the post-Ottoman republic's creator Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. He has demanded the immediate expulsion of millions of migrants and sought a firm stance against "terrorists" - a code word for Kurdish groups fighting for broader autonomy in Turkey's southeast. The 54-year-old also tried to stop the opposition from dis-

cussing constitutional changes that could dilute language stressing the importance of Turkishness at the expense of other ethnicities. Analysts question how much weight Ogan's endorsement carries with his voters. His tiny party has only been around for a few months and most of his support appears to be disaffected with both Erdogan and his 74-year-old rival. But it undermines Kilicdaroglu's urgent efforts to expand his appeal among more nationalist voters in the runoff to the second round. Kilicdaroglu struck a decidedly more nationalist tone in his first post-election appearance last week. The former civil servant pledged to send "all the refugees home" when he comes to power and accused Erdogan of failing to "protect the borders and honour of our country". Erdogan had signalled that he did not intend to make any concession to Ogan to secure his support. The Turkish leader would be able to extend his rule for one last time until 2028 by picking up just a sliver of Ogan's voters. - Agencies

Centre, Punjab oppose early polls, say SC has 'no authority'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government and the caretaker Punjab government on Monday filed replies in the Supreme Court opposing early elections in the province and stated that the court did not hold the authority to give electoral dates. According to media, the chief secretary of Punjab submitted a written reply to the top court on behalf of the Punjab caretaker government regarding the issue of SC giving a date for the election. In its response, the Punjab government maintained that the apex court did not possess the authority to provide electoral dates, as that authority belonged to other institutions of the state, adding that

under Article 218 of the Constitution, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) held the power to conduct fair and transparent elections. It continued that "in view of the division of powers, the Supreme Court did not give the date for the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa election", and that the ECP had the authority to change the election programme. Read Punjab CM writes to ECP over security situation in Punjab The Punjab government further said that after the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan, the civil and military property was damaged and 126 police personnel were injured, and 97 police vehicles were burnt in the violent protests. It maintained that after May 9 riots, the security situation in the province

had changed. It added that 554,000 security personnel were required for the provincial election, however, only 77,000 personnel were available at present. In the same context, the federal government also requested a review of the verdict in the Punjab elections case. It submitted its reply to the Supreme Court at the request of the ECP. The electoral watchdog had filed a petition in the SC, seeking a review of its order to conduct polls in Punjab on May 14. In the plea, the commission maintained that changing the election programme was the solitary domain of the ECP under Section 58 of the Elections Act, 2017. It added that the order was "per incuriam (lacking regard to the law or the facts) to the Constitution, law and previous judgments".

NOW IN PAKISTAN

Invisible Braces
Dental Implants

Dr. Abrar & Associates
DENTAL SURGEONS

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.
e-mail: abrar_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 | +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693