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Detailed News On Page-08

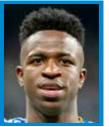
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Detailed News On Page-07



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Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Standing with Khan like a wall

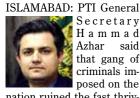
STAFF REPORT



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



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



ed 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

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"fourth time" in last 10 days.

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> Beginning of new type of international relations

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PM vows to create ample opportunities

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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 protestors 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 Account-

Continued on Page 06

NA resolution backs rioters' trial in military courts

A sister publication of CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency

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 MUZAFFARABAD: Foreign Minister place from Monday to Wednesday, required Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday a large show of security at Srinagar interna- said holding a G- 20 countries' tourtional airport. China has said it will not at- ism group meeting in Srinagar was a tend, citing its firm opposition "to holding sheer violation of the UN resolutions any kind of G20 meetings in disputed territo- on Kashmir. Addressing a special sesry". In April, Pakistan, which also lays claim sion of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir to Kashmir but is not a G20 member, de- (AJK) Legislative Assembly, he said scribed the meeting as irresponsible. Turkey, the people of Kashmir had been de-Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Indonesia were also nied of their basic right of self-deterexpected to stay away. Turkey has consist- mination for decades. He expressed

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

DNA

ently shown inclination towards Pakistan on that holding such meeting in the most

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'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



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).

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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 Iamshoro 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 Amna Memon, Shams ul Haq Jafrani, 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

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, Saindad 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 Ashiq Ali villagers thanked to World Bank to provide them potable water.



Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed distributing compensation cheques among affectees of

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 reaffirmed the firm stance of the founding chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Zulfiqar 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 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: NAB Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed attended a ceremony organized for distribution of compensation cheques among affectees of various scams of cheating public atlarge. 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 Rawalpin-

di 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

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-illegally 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, Bhimbher, Bagh, Palandri, Haveili 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

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 scape.-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: 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

tary 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 socalled '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 des-

perately 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-

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.



IGP visits 1787 Complaint Center

LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has resolved the problem of a citizen of Bhakkar, who complained about the delay in payment of the bill for the construction work done in Darya Khan police station. The IGP immediately took RPO Sargodha Shariq Kamal Siddiqui on a conference call and gave telephonic instructions. He heard the complaints of the citizens on the occasion of a surprise visit to the 1787 Complaint Center at the Central Police Office. Dr. Usman Anwar ordered RPO Sargodha to resolve the issue of contractor under personal supervision. On the orders of Dr. Usman Anwar, RPO Sargodha took immediate action and paid the remaining amount to contractor Nayyar. The IG Punjab also apologized to the contractor for the delay in bill payment. He while talking to RPO Sargodha Shariq Kamal Siddiqui said that the renovation of the police station was a good initiative but the timely payment of the expenses was the responsibility of the concerned supervisory officer. Dr. Usman Anwar directed that the show cause notice should be given to the SHO to answer for this delay in payment. During the visit to 1787 Complaint Center, the IGP also reviewed the working of the staff and heard the complaints of the citizens himself. He directed the staff to leave no stone unturned to resolve the problems of the citizens and provide them with all possible relief.-APP











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Offices

National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

MAY

May 03/Poland

National Day May 06/Bulgaria

Armed Forces Day May 06/UAE

Armed Forces Day May 07/Kazakhstan

Armed Forces Day May 08/Czech Republic

National Day

May 09/European Union **National Day**

May 17/Norway **Constitution Day**

May 21/Hungary **Armed Forced Day**

May 22/Yemen Re-unification Day

(National Day) May 24/Eritrea **National Day**

May 25/Argentina **National Day** May 25/Lebanon

Liberation and Resistance Day May 28 /Azerbaijan Republic Day May 28/Ethiopia **National Day**



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott......051-2826121



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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Departments

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Cantonment B	oard 9270151-3	

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
PotoharTown	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Rain-thunderstorm forecast

NDMA alerts departments to ensure preparedness level

ISLAMABAD :The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued an advisory alert to all the federal and provincial departments concerned to ensure disaster preparedness measures after the met office issued a rain-thunderstorm forecast from May 22 to 26.

The NDMA advisory report said that the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast that a westerly wave was likely to enter the western and upper parts of the country on May 22, which was likely to persist throughout the week i.e. till May 26, resulting in precipitation with occasional gaps. Under the influence of this weather system, from May 22 (evening/night) to May 26, wind-dust/thunderstorm and rain with likely hailstorms (and isolated heavy falls) is expected in the regions of Azad Jammu

and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Punjab.In addition, from May 23 (evening/night) to May 26, the aforementioned weather to prevail in Sargodha, Mianwali, Layyah, Khushab, Bhakkar, Faisalabad, Jhang, T.T. Singh, Sheikhupura, Nankana, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Narowal, Sialkot, Kasur, Pakpattan, Okara, Sahiwal, Lahore, R.Y. Khan, Bahawalnagar, Multan, D.G. Khan and Rajanpur and also in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). From May 22 (evening/ night) to May 24, wind-dust or thunderstorm and rainfall is expected in Balochistan and Sindh. In light of the forecast shared by PMD, the following specific impacts are expected namely heavy hailstorms or thunderstorms that could endanger lives (human & livestock) and property, dust storm or windstorm to cause damage to loose structures such as under-construction buildings.

hoardings and tall trees etc, strong winds may cause damage to standing crops in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and AJ&K between May 23 to 25. High temperatures are likely to subside during the wet spell. Tourists are advised to plan their activities accordingly, as heavy rainfall may induce/ cause landslides/avalanches and disrupt traffic flow and the general public is advised to remain in safe places during the dust, wind and thunderstorm.

As per the advisory, all provincial, GB, and state disaster management authorities (PDMAs/GBD-MA/SDMA respectively) and ICT Administration, alongwith federal departments, Ministries and Federal Agencies are required to undertake measures as per respective mandates. However, the following is to be ensured by all concerned in addition to measures deemed appropriate as per on-ground situation/ requirements: Local administrations to assess and plan deployment of additional resources and exercise control over traffic leading to and in the vicinity of vulnerable/choke points/tourist spots/attractions.

local administrations, DDMAs and Rescue officials to identify and secure loose infrastructure such as buildings under construction and advertisement hoardings etc. to prevent losses or damages and save precious lives. The authorities concerned should engage local communities at traditionally and historically dangerous or hazard-prone sites to enable round-the-clock monitoring and establish feedback mechanisms for early warnings and alerts for at-risk populations.

It also demanded to coordinate with relevant district and municipal administrations to ensure mitigation and preparedness measures against landslides, flash flooding, and hill torrents and to secure or remove billboards/hoardings in view of thunderstorms, high winds and hailstorms. The NDMA also directed to ensure adequate awareness for farmers and cattle/sheep herders regarding adverse impacts on standing crops and livestock. The farmers are to be advised to take all necessary mitigative and precautionary measures to safeguard their crops, i.e. timely harvesting, safe storage or any other precaution from adverse effects of thunderstorms or hailstorms. Moreover, cattle or sheep herders are to be advised to undertake necessary mitigative and precautionary measures to protect their livestock from adverse effects of thunderstorms or hailstorms. The travellers on Provincial & National Highways in at-risk or affected areas be forewarned of adverse conditions and be guided towards or detoured to safe waiting areas under the guidance of respective PDMAs. Local Authorities, etc., it said.

Pilgrims laud

Pakistani govt for hajj

arrangements

ISLAMABAD: A number of Pakistani pilgrims departing

to Saudi Arabia for Hajj this year on Monday have expressed their complete satisfaction and lauded the "best

possible comprehensive arrangements" provided by the Pakistani government in Saudi Arabia. All the airlines

concerned have been providing the best possible fa-

cilities to Hajjaj, said a report aired by PTV news

channel. A female pilgrim thanked the Ministry of

Religious Affairs in Saudi Arabia for its dedicated

staff at airports and exemplary facilities in Makkah,

adding, staff of each wing has been performing their

duties with dedication in shifts to provide 24-hour

facilities to the pilgrims. Pilgrims have very easy

access to the Masjid Nabavi and Makkah due to close

residence to Haram, said another pilgrim. Pilgrim

who were traveling to perform Hajj for the first time,

was also impressed by huge facilities and services

and praised the government for providing quality health

and accommodation facilities. Another elderly aged pilgrim thanked the Saudi and Pakistani government for the

facilities and services provided to pilgrims in Makkah,

Madinah and the holy places as movement of pilgrims in

holy places is smooth and fast. "We are not facing any dif-

ficulty in movement to Haram and back to their residenc-

es as accommodation is far near to holy sites in Makkah

and Madina as well", said a women.-APP

Govt to take strict action against May 9 attackers

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Faisal Karim Kundi Monday warned that the government would have a zero-tolerance policy for those who attacked the state institutions and strict action would be taken against the violators.

"Khan should show respect for the state institutions instead of playing politics of hate", he said while talking to a private news channel. Niazi had built an anti-Pakistan narrative, he said, adding, the provoked PTI workers have attacked the historic buildings in the country including Jinnah House and others which was being strongly condemned on national and international forums.

However, the civil and military leadership have taken a timely and wise decision to deal with the miscreants of these violent incidents with iron hands and they will be punished according to the law, he added. PTI must realize that its dirty politics were not in the interests of Pakistan and was also alarming for its future as well, he highlighted.—APP

Minister urges youth to focus on education

Federal

DNA

ISLAMABAD:

Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday urged the youth to avoid confrontation and hate-based politics of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan and adopt new technologies to make good decisions for achieving progress in life. 'There is a dire need to develop skills in the young generation, build their fresh minds and excel their expertise in various fields like information technology where the possibilities are limitless", he said while talking to the PTV news channel. He said character building of youth was the way forward for the progress of the nation, adding, the students to stay away from hatebased politics, speak the truth and earn their living through honest means. Replying to a question, he said we all should understand the difference between construction and destruction, simultaneously the difference between protest and terrorism, adding, the May 9 incidents were a well-planned propaganda to create rifts between the young generation and the national institutions, adding, Niazi only sowed the seeds of hatred in the minds of the young generation by telling them

To another question, he replied that promoting skills, technical and vocational education for youth is a top priority for the current government.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.-DNA

May 25th to be observed as "Martyrs' Reverence Day"

ISLAMABAD: The unprecedented sacrifices made for the peace and security of the dear motherland and the eradication of terrorism can never be forgotten, in this regard, the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC, Police, and other law enforcement agencies and martyrs of Pakistan

could not be forgotten. It has been decided to celebrate "Pakistan Martyrs' Reverence Day" on May 25th to pay tribute to the selfless sacrifices of the martyrs of Pakistan. While its purpose is to remind the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs, it is also to send a message to the nation that honouring and respecting the martyrs, their families and memorials is the pride

of every Pakistani. On Pakistan Martyrs' Reverence Day, events across the country will be prominently displayed to pay tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan. Special programs and events included recitation of the Quran and prayers for martyrs across the country. A salute to the Martyrs' Memorial of Pakistan Army, Police and other law enforcement agencies across the country. However, the main ceremony would be held at GHQ Martyrs' Memorial along with commemorations to

be marked at the martyrs' monument of the Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Naval Headquarters and Police. In the provincial capitals including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, cer-Martvrs'

emonies will also be held to commemorate Martyrs' Day. Apart from this, Fatiha will be recited on the graves of martyrs across the country. Day of Pakistan is a day of pledge renewal, which will forget hatred and bitterness and give a message of love, peace, hope, tolerance and love to our martyrs.—APP

AIOU announces

schedule for

submissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the assignment schedule for Matric and F.A.

According to the AIOU, May 31 is the submission deadline

for the first complete course assignment, June 23 for the second assignment whereas July 17 and August 18 is the

last submission date for the third and fourth assignments respectively. The submission deadline for 1st and 2nd half

course assignments of matric and F.A programs is June 23, 2023, and August 18, 2023, respectively. Students can get names, addresses, and other information of their respective tutors on CMS portal at http://enrollment.aiou.edu.pk

or from any nearest regional campus. Students will be re-

sponsible for late assignment submission, and assignments reaching after the due dates will not be accepted. Moreo-

ver, the university has also uploaded the assignments and instructions for writing and submitting assignments for the

Associate Degree, BS, B.Ed., MA, MSc, M.Ed, and ATTC programs on the website www.aiou.edu.pk. The schedule for submission of assignments for these programs will be

announced soon. Students enrolled in these programs will

submit their assignments online while students enrolled in

Matriculation, FA and BA (associate degree) programs will

submit (dispatch) their assignments to the respective tutors manually. University has also uploaded instructions on its of-

ficial website for the convenience of students.-APP

programs offered in the spring semester 2023.

Over \$13 bin textile products exported in 10 months

ISLAMABAD: Textile exports reached \$13,709.287 million during the first ten months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Textile exports showed a decline of 14.22 percent from \$15,981.736 million during the same period of last year (July-April 2021-22). The export of raw cotton witnessed positive growth during July-April (2022-23) of 103.09 percent from \$6.577 million (last fiscal year) to \$13.357 million, and that of tents, canvas and tarpaulin went up by 28.09 percent from \$91.308 million to \$116.959 million. -APP

ANF seizes over 424 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug smugglers conducted raids across the country and recovered over 424 kg drugs besides netting 10 accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport, ANF arrested a passenger, resident of Khyber, going on flight no PK-287 for possessing 29 heroin-filled and 11 charras-filled capsules. In another operation near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza, ANF recovered 9.6 kg charras, 7.2 kg opium and two kg Ice drug from the possession of two drug smugglers residents of Peshawar and Nowshera, rounded up during the operation. In third operation conducted at a private courier office in Lahore Johar Town, over 2.5 kg heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for London. The spokesman informed that in a raid conducted near Sohrab Goth Karachi, 26.4 kg charras was recovered from the possession of two accused including a woman, residents of Karachi. In fifth operation conducted at a private courier office on Karachi Shahrah-e-Faisal, heroin concealed in a carpet was recovered. The parcel was being sent to Australia. ANF in an operation foiled a bid to smuggle drugs from Dera Ismail Khan to Punjab and recovered 166.8 kg charras and 7.2 kg opium from a pick-up vehicle intercepted near Yark Toll Plaza on Indus Highway. ANF also arrested an accused resident of Dattakhel, Waziristan. In seventh operation conducted by ANF and FC in Khyber, 11 kg charras was recovered. The spokesman further informed that ANF in an operation near Quetta-Kuchlak by-pass, managed to recover 100 kg charras and arrested an accused resident of Quetta. After preliminary investigation, two more drug smugglers, residents of Kalat and Quetta were nabbed from Quetta-Karachi road while a vehicle was also impounded. In another operation near Quetta-Kuchlak bypass, ANF seized 90 kg charras and arrested an accused resident of Qilla Abdullah.

Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.-APP

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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 financia year as compared the exports of \$4.457 billion of corresponding period of last year. During the period from Ju-

ly-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 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 regis tered 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

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

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-

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

operation 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

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 davs.

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

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 Iean Fournier to Pakistan in November 2019, recognizing it as a highly valued gesture that showcased the warmth and

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

achal 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

endra 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.

goodwill between the countries. PAF pays tribute to 1965

hile paying trib-Pakistan Air Force on 1965 War hero Ahmed Rafiqui (Shaheed). Ahmed Rafiqi, along with his the four intruder aircraft of tude of 20,000 feet on the eve Sector. Later, he was ordered wara while defending Lahore mission, Sarfraz Ahmad Rafiqi PAF fighter jets. After shootmachine gun of his plane got the battlefield, he ordered his



ute to its Ghazis and Martyrs, has released a special promo Squadron Leader Leader Sarfraz fellow pilots shot down three of Indian Air Force, flying at an altiof 01 September, 1965 at Chamb to attack the Indian Air Base, Halon 06 September, 1965. In this Shaheed led a formation of four ing down an Indian plane, the jammed. Instead of fleeing from 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-Juraat' and 'Sitara-i-Jurrat' by the Government of Pakistan.—DNA

war hero Sarfraz Rafiqui

Chinese Univ. promotes TCM, acupuncture in Pakistan workers and acupuncture

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

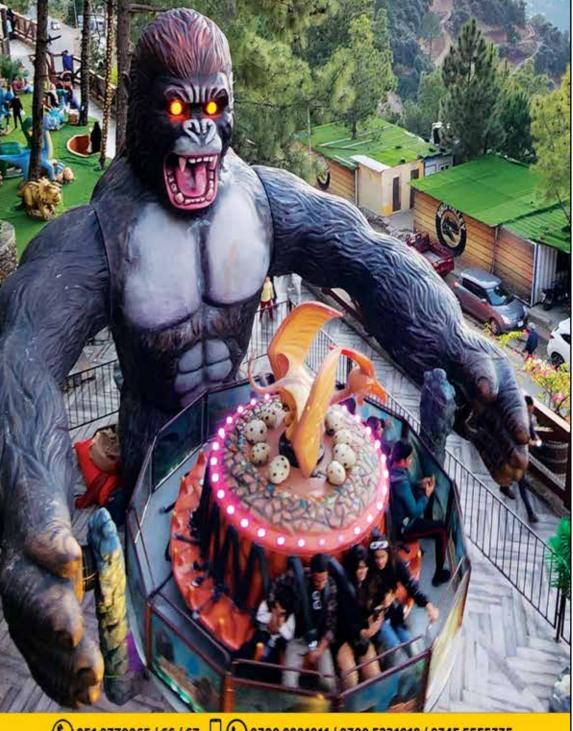
ditional treatment methods. This will serve as a positive step towards effectively promoting the development of TCM in Pakistan, according to the participant. GUCM President Zhao Jirong gave a comprehensive introduction about TCM and said that with the

enthusiasts in mastering ad-

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



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Quad offers desta bilizing agenda

Ithough the Quad summit scheduled to open in Sydney on May 24 was canceled as US President Joe Biden had to return home for debt-ceiling negotiations with the speaker of the House of Representatives, the leaders of the four countries — Japan, Australia and India being the other three — still managed to hold a de facto summit in the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Saturday.

As the long joint statement they issued on Sunday indicates, despite the meeting being arranged in a hurry and downsized to a brief roundtable talk, the third in-person meeting of the leaders still had a busy anti-China agenda to discuss. An agenda complicated by the fact that the onus is on Washington to prevent Sino-US relations from taking any misstep that might lead to a conflict. It is for this reason that the Quad has stopped trying to coerce countries in the region to cut their ties with China. Instead, as the joint statement made clear, the Quad is trying to pull regional countries to its side.

To achieve this aim, the Quad has become more specific in its proposed cooperation with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Indian Ocean Rim Association, offering support for their green and digital development, and to strengthen their responses to climate change and terrorism.

The joint statement shows the Quad has apparently done more homework than before as it has mentioned almost all the major initiatives, strategies, programs and plans these countries have put forward or have already implemented, collectively and individually, including the ASEAN Outlook on the "Indo-Pacific", the Pacific Island Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Indian Ocean Rim Association Outlook on the "Indo-Pacific"

Rim Association Outlook on the "Indo-Pacific". However, knowing these countries' concerns is far from enough to help them address them. Judging from the US' poor track record in matching its words with deeds in providing technology and funding when it comes to its assistance programs for the region, it remains to be seen to what extent the Quad will fulfill its grand promises this time.

That all countries in the region are mentioned in the joint statement, except China, the biggest economy, the largest trading country, the most important logistics hub and the biggest supporter of regional development, fully exposes the divisive nature of the Quad's proposed cooperation. The countries the Quad intends to support should also be aware that while most of the assistance will only exist on paper, that which is provided will come with strings attached.

According to their joint statement, as "Indo-Pacific" countries, the Quad partners are deeply invested in the region's success. If that is the case they should be working together with China not against it.

Islamabad POST

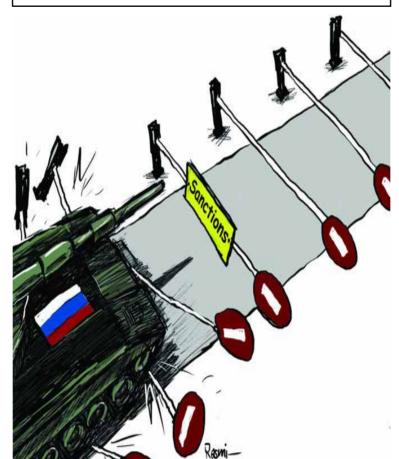
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G7 an 'anti-China workshop'

he Group of Seven (G7) Hiroshima summit concluded on May 21, and unlike the usual practice, the G7 communiqué was released a day before the closing. Some Japanese media said that it was due to the fear that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to Hiroshima on the same day would steal the attention from the communiqué. However, even so, this G7 communiqué of dozens of pages still seems to draw little interest from the outside world, except for the part that targets China.

As a "rich countries' club" that once accounted for up to 70% of the global economy, the G7 has been facing a serious existential crisis in recent years as its economic weight has been declining, coupled with a decline in global population share and perceived attractiveness. In previous years, the G7 summits were always out of the loop because of internal differences and disagreements among the member countries. But since 2021, the G7 communiqué began to target China, which gradually became its "traffic code." Unlike the past "focus" on specific issues with China, this G7 communiqué simply includes "China" as a whole, which is consistent with the recent move of NATO, highlighting that the US is pushing hard to weave an anti-China net in the Western world. The communiqué mentions China 20 times by name alone, the most in recent years. It almost hyped all the topics it could find, such as Taiwan, the East China Sea, the South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Xizang, and China's nuclear power, in addition to insinuating China's "economic coercion."

Many have noticed that the G7 communiqué used some "conciliatory statements," such as claiming that their policy direction is "not to harm China" and is "not to decouple," expressing the hope to "establish constructive and stable relations with China," and mentioning that the one-China principle has not changed. These statements are largely considered to be a corresponding "compromise" that Washington had to make due to the "differences in how the US and Europe deal with China issues." The louder the anti-China rhetoric from the G7, the smaller its actual impact will be, as this is a natural law. This is because it would mean that G7 serves the strategic interests of the US rather than the welfare of the international community, making it difficult to receive any "assistance" but more difficult to make progress. In sharp contrast to the vigorous development of emerging economies, old industrialized Western countries are mired in various troubles. Some US media have pointed this out, believing that this year's G7 summit in Hiroshima is to some extent a "lonely hearts club" because the internal governance of these countries is mostly difficult to gain voter approval, and there is a wave of dissatisfaction sweeping Western societies. The Hiroshima summit seems to have given the G7 a sense of "shaping history," but this illusion will soon be blown away by the winds of reality, since without internal prosperity and development, external displays of strength are only superficial. We advise G7 leaders to spend more time on their internal affairs and less time pointing fingers at others, which may be able to save the G7's severely declining reputation.

Indonesia's digital transformation

Dr M Ali Hamza



Thirdly, Indonesian policy makers identified the focus points.
Like Mobile Internet,
Cloud Technology,
Internet of Things,
& Big Data Advanced
Analysis are four disruptive technologies that are intertwined and complementary.
Indonesia focuses to develop these technologies parallel, therefore policies were

rtificial Intelligence, automation, remote sensing, hybrid cloud, data driven intelligent workflow, mobile internet, software applications, Internet of Things (IOT), computerization, technology and many words of such nature present a concept of Digitalization. It is now an accepted reality that analog-to-digital conversion has changed the world in recent past. This digital transformation has accompanied us to a new age of existence. Every business, regardless of size, must undergo digital transformation to remain competitive and relevant in an increasingly digital world. In terms of acceptance and execution of digital transformation process, the countries around the world can be categorized under three lists, i) one that planned, designed and led the digital transformation process, ii) countries that got sensitized earlier, reviewed/ realigned their national policies, and followed the path quickly with intense commitment, iii) a list that includes all those who took long to get sensitized and still unable to execute transformational process due to their shortsightedness, ambiguous national goals, indifferent leadership and political uncertainty. Unfortunately, Pakistan belongs to list three, but it was not the case always. A country that produced vehicle; cars, busses, trucks, in 1952 with the collaboration of General Motors, launched its Airline (PIA) in 1955, launched its first weather rocket in 1962, inaugurated Television center nuclear plant in 1972, had its first Nobel laureate in physics in 1979. How such a progressive nation could not cope with digital transformation? The answer lies in the bad decisions of the leadership, decision that were taken under negative international influences and by self-centered local decision makers. Though done can never be undone, but done can be redone. Setting and pursuing a model can help in this regard. Considering the similarities and multiple common ground between two brotherly nations Indonesia & Pakistan, Indonesia's exponential economic growth and journey of digital transformation can be a suitable case study to re-do policies for digital transformation in Pakistan. Before the adventurous question "How did they do it?", we need to have a bird's eye view of Indonesia's digital footprint.

A study done by McKinsey & Company reveals that in 2016, revenue of e-commerce in Indonesia amounted to USD 6 billion. The industry is expected to grow by approximately 18 percent in the next five years. The World

Bank reports that adult internet access in Indonesia has increased dramatically, rising from 13% in 2011 to approximately 62% in 2021. This growth has made the country one of the fastest-growing digital economies in Southeast Asia. Moreover, Indonesians prioritize mobile devices; you can call it mobile-first country with 75% of online purchases made through them. This is more than in digitally advanced countries like the United States, where such media have been present for longer periods. Indonesia has planned 35,000-kilometer Palapa ring project; an undersea and terrestrial cable network spread from Sumatra to West Papua. The country offers affordable mobile data, costing just 50 percent of what consumers in some ASEAN neighbouring countries pay. According to Airlangga Hartarto, the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, digital acceleration has significantly increased Indonesia's competitiveness. The country's digital economy is expected to reach a value of \$146 billion by 2025, double its current value. Today, with the confirmation of a long-awaited consumer data protection law and an agreement between G20 businesses, the Indonesian government has stepped further to promote digital transformation.

How did this all happen? Firstly, we need to recognize that Indonesia has faced the worst times and witnessed security threats, territorial disputes, political upheavals, regional rebellions, terrorist attacks, conflicts with west, military currency, financial crises, natural catastrophes and what not. Still, they are on path of progress and digital flight. Do they have any magic wand or enchanting spell? Big NO indeed. One of the reasons is their long sightedness, intime recognition and prompt response to a changing world has basis for their digital transformation. Indonesia mutated into industrial country, realizing the fact that agrarian economy alone cannot take up the financial burdens. Not only within country but outside, Indonesians established manufacturing units like MODENA; a home appliances manufacturing company that was established in 1960 in Italy and owned by Indonesians. Today MODENA diversified and deal in technologies like IoT, Energy and beyond, operating in Asia, Gulf, CIS Region, and Europe; also planning to establish a unit in Pakistan soon.

Secondly, President Joko Widodo's commitment to national success. President Widodo has shown his skill in tent politics; inclusive politics, by bringing together allies and

former adversaries to accomplish tasks and potentially facilitate the implementation of his reforms. One such example is his appointment of Prabowo Subianto, a former army general who previously ran against Widodo, and today is the Minister of Defence in President Widodo Cabinet. It means that divided legislature is well handled. Initially President Widodo focused on improving infrastructure and attracting foreign investment. Since 2014, his government constructed 2,000 toll roads. To have a sense of comparison, around 700 toll roads were built in the prior 40 years. There are 16 new airports, 18 ports, 38 new dams. Later he started an intensive effort towards implementing changes and reforms in the country's state-owned enterprise. Additionally, he aimed to establish a domestic nickel processing unit, electric vehicle industry, digital and energy sector. Indeed, leadership with integrity, vision, motivation and team mentality helps: Jokowi factor has significant impact. Overall "country first" is the learnt lesson. Another important aspect which is generally ignored that President Widodo is the first president of Indonesia who did not come from the political or military elite; true

representative of the Republic. Thirdly, Indonesian policy makers identified the focus points. Like Mobile Internet, Cloud Technology, Internet of Things, & Big Data Advanced Analysis four disruptive technologies that are inte and complementary. Indonesia focuses to develop these technologies parallel, therefore policies were designed and institutions were upgraded accordingly. Yes, there must be plenty of other things that were retuned, and it needs a thorough study and retrospection. It is a fact that Indonesia is attracting global attention in a way it has never before. While there were concerns in the past about instability, radicalization, cronyism, and corruption, but now the country is experiencing a period of stability. Recently, Indonesia has gained prominence on the global stage, hosting the G20 summit successfully.

Though Pakistan crafted its first ever digitization policy in 2013, sparking discussions about technological changes are happening, and importance of digitization is also reflected in the manifestos of most political parties, but still laidback approach won't suffice the need. Instead of reinventing the wheel let's learn from the wisdom of south eastern giant; Indonesia.

Transgenders have no feelings?

Qamar Bashir

he United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) is an agency responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally and as a member Pakistan is expected to uphold and promote the principles and values of human rights as outlined by the OHCHR and the United Nations. The OHCHR defines "transgender people as those whose gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. Transgender people may choose to transition, which may involve medical, social, or legal changes. Transgender people should be respected for their gender identity and treated with dignity and respect." The guidelines emphasize that transgender people are treated fairly and with respect, using the person's preferred name and pronouns, avoiding asking about a person's sex assigned at birth, respecting a person's privacy and confidentiality, not making assumptions about a person's gender identity based on their appearance, not making jokes or comments about transgender people and reporting any incidents of discrimination or violence against transgender people to the appropriate authorities. These are indeed important steps in ensuring that transgender people are treated fairly and with respect.

Contrary to these guidelines, the Federal Sharia Court recently decided that a person cannot change their gender based on "innermost feeling" or "self-perceived identity" and must conform to the biological sex allocated to them at birth. This is an incredible interpretation as humans must deal with sentiments, ideas, values, conventions, motivations, inner impulses, choices, and preferences rather than their physical looks. All religions, without exception, preach the importance of both the body and the sentiments and inner motivations for human well-being. The physical components are significant, yet they may have little to do with the purpose of human creations which anchores on their beliefs, conceptions, and practices, their interactions with the Almighty and within communities and across nations. As a result, according to various references, Islam emphasizes the importance of one's intentions, feelings, and motivations, sincerity of faith and good character, and acts of worship, inner devotion, and righteousness as far more important to lead a purposeful, productive, and useful life against bodily outlook only.

A true Muslim is someone who believes in Allah's oneness, Muhammad's finality as the final messenger, and the Quran's fundamental principles and who upholds His commandments, treats others with kindness, justice, honesty, and compassion; upholds high moral values such as honesty, humility, forgiveness, and respect for others; and seeks knowledge and understanding of the Quran, Hadith, and Islamic teachings. In Christianity, which values both the body and the soul, the body is solely the Holy Spirit's tem-

ple, while faith, repentance, and love are emphasized. In Hinduism, the body is an impermanent vessel for the soul, and its health is essential for spiritual development. However, a person's thoughts, intentions, and goals are emphasized. As the body is impermanent and subject to suffering, Buddhism prioritizes the mind over the body. Despite the fact that every religion is founded on beliefs and faith, the impugned judgment based the determination of a transgender person's gender solely on his physical appearance and not on his inner feelings or sexual orientation, which manifest as the baby grows into adulthood and not at birth. Sadly, in Pakistan, the sex of a baby is typically determined at birth based on physical examination and observation of primary sexual characteristics, typically by illiterate midwives or, if the baby is born in a hospital, by a nurse or a doctor without undergoing a more thorough medical evaluation. This archaic method of determining a baby's gender is contrary to the standard operating procedure observed in the majority of countries, which necessitates the use of various administrative, medical, and social tools. And even if determined, the individual is permitted, upon reaching adulthood, to have his sex reassigned based on his deeply felt sense of his own gender, which may not always correspond with the sex assigned at birth, as gender identity is a deeply personal and subjective experience that may not be apparent at birth. Argentina's 2012 Gender Identity Law recognises the right to self-determination of gender identity and permits individuals to alter their legal gender identity without medical intervention or judicial approval. In 2014, Denmark enacted a law emphasizing self-determination that permits individuals to alter their legal gender without surgery or hormone therapy. Germany has permitted legal gender recognition since 1980, and a 2018 amendment removed previous requirements of medical interventions, sterilization, or other medical procedures and now permits individuals to alter their legal gender through a process of self-determination. Canada has taken measures to recognise and safeguard the rights of transgender people by enacting legislation to simplify the process of legal gender recognition, emphasizing self-identification without the need for medical interventions. In 2004, the United Kingdom enacted the Gender Recognition Act, which allows individuals to petition for legal recognition of their acquired gender with the assistance of medical documentation and panel approval.

There are clearly two choices; a person who has assigned an sexual characteristics by illiterate midwife which are not at par with the general differentiation of sex assignment according to his inner feelings would be forced to live an unhappy, conflicting and tortuous life or, when he reached to adulthood and capable of taking conscious decisions may be allowed to determine his sexual orientation or sexual identification and carry it forward happily. After all, the distinction between adults and minors in terms of legal responsibility is based on the concept of maturity and the ability to understand the consequences of one's actions

due to its cognitive abilities, including reasoning, judgment, and decision-making skills and legally the individuals is considered capable of entering into contracts, making decisions about medical treatments, and assuming other legal responsibilities compared to when he is minor and under care and guidance or parents and legal having restrictions on certain activities, and age-specific laws. Why not trust a individual when he desires sex reassigned based on his deeply felt sense of his own gender.

Multiple studies have demonstrated that transgender people born with conflicting spirits and bodies may experience a disconnection between their gender identity and their physical body. They may have an inner perception or feeling of femininity despite being born as men or vice versa. If not handled carefully, they can face gender dysphoria, which is distress or discomfort caused by the mismatch between a person's gender identity and assigned sex. Occasionally, their overwhelming emotions are so intense that, if not treated, they may end up hurting themselves or becoming violent towards family members. When dealing with such circumstances and contending for recognition of their gender based on their innermost feelings, the concept of inheritance may not even be in the farthest reaches of their minds and therefore should not become the basis to deny them their inalienable right of self determination of their gender title. The impugned judgment struck down important sections of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act,2018 which were in fact the soul and spirit of the Act and without them the law has been reduced to nothingness. The struck down section 3 declared that transgender persons shall have a right to be recognized as per his or her self-perceived gender identity. The struck down section 7 pertained to Right to Inheritance which ordained that there shall be no discrimination against Transgender persons in acquiring the rightful share of property under the law of inheritance. It declared that the share of inheritance for transgender male, will be that of man; For transgender Female, the share of inheritance will be that of woman; the share of transgender who has both male and female or ambiguous characteristics, such as their state is difficult to determine upon birth, upon reaching the age of 18 years, if the person's self-perceived gender identity is Transgender male, the share of inheritance will be that of man; upon reaching the age of 18 years, if the person's self perceived gender identity is Transgender Female, the share of inheritance will be that of woman; upon reaching the age of 18 years, if the person's self-perceived gender identity is neither Transgender men nor Transgender Women, the share of inheritance will be an average of the two separate distributions for a man and a woman; and below the age of eighteen years, the gender as determined by a medical officer on the basis of predominant male or female features. The striking down of these provisions in fact have refused the very existence of transgenders who are either born perfect male or female but their gender identity does

not match the sex they were assigned at birth. It is also

interesting to observe that the vast majority of applicants asked NADRA to change their gender identity from male to female, while very few requested the opposite. Therefore, men sacrificed a substantial portion of their inheritance by choosing to be female; in such instances, they received no monetary benefit and neither their parents nor their siblings suffered any loss; rather, they benefited from them. There were very few females who chose male identity; consequently, there was no net loss to the parents or siblings and, most importantly, there was no burden on the state; all the more reason not to strangle a law that has gained much more positive traction for the country in terms of protecting the rights of the marginalized community.

The NADRA report, which was used as the basis for a petition and the repeal of an excellent law, may have been accepted at face value without an in-depth analysis and without realizing how 30,000 applications out of 250 million people could pose a threat to our security and the sanctity of our religious and moral values when it represents an infinitesimally small portion of the population. Is it the most significant problem facing the nation? Why are we and our faith so fragile that heaven will collapse if certain rights are granted to the transgender community? After all they are Allah's creations just as we are, but we have reduced them to subhuman status and have pushed them to the lowest rung of the society.

Transgender individuals have the same rights and responsibilities as all other citizens. If a person has dysphagia, he should be alleviated of the predicament he faces. If our medical system and courts were efficient and dispensing justice fairly and for free to everyone, and if there was an automated system that any transgender experiencing dysphoria could use to complete all administrative and legal requirements within two days, then this type of stringent requirement might have made sense. Putting transgender people, who are typically uneducated, discriminated against, and tormented, into a system that is both sluggish and unforgiving is tantamount to denying them their unalienable right to determine their own sexual orientation. The physical appearance of transgender individuals is irrelevant. The transgender male when born is a perfect male but has the personality and spirit of a woman, while the transgender female has a perfect female body but the personality and spirit of a man. Therefore, since this is a case of pure inner feeling and not a physical outlook or condition and appearance of his or her gentiles, therefore it may be left on them to self-determination their gender upon reaching adulthood without requiring medical tests, forming a medical board, or other such burdensome re-

strictions that will further marginalized this already mar-

ginalized segment of the population.

-The writer is the Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

World / Sports



Tuesday, May 23, 2023

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 high lighted 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 for mer DG ISI was transferred ... it was because he confronted the then-PM that his family members were

Imran challenges judicial...

involved in corruption."

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 cricketer-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 Tehreek-e-Insaf Pakistan (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

Controversial G20 moot face boycotts

25 would be marked as "Pa-

kistan Martyrs' Day".

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 Bharativa 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.

Briefs



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

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

"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 be-

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 na-

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

Majid Khan, the former captain of Pakistan cricket team was the chief guest of the final while former PCB chief operating officer Shafaqat Naghmi, Islamabad Club Cricket Committee senior member Zubair Nasir. Test cricketer Vasir Hameed and others dignities were also attended the concluding cer-

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 openpartnership 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. Umar 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 crick-

et. 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

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 Oui E Zahoor. Oui 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 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

PTI moves SC against trials in...

a few elderly women."

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 v Article 17 or not and if the deployment is a "threat to the system of parliamenta-

ry 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 was 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 IIOJK, 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 Meanwhile, weakness. many member countries of G20 including China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia and Mexico stayed away from the huddle.

Speakers addressing a sitin 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," Vinícius 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 shorthanded 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 Giovan-

ni 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 Monday when second-placed Juventus face a second Italian Football Federation ruling on illicit transfer activity. An original 15-point de-

duction 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

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

Ham in the Conference 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, Sudtirol from Bolzano, Reggina and Venice. – Agencies

Briefs

Death toll from Sudan violence rises to 863

KHARTOUM: The death toll from clashes between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group has risen to 863 civilians, according to local medics on Monday. In a statement, the Sudan Doctors Syndicate said that 3,531 people have also been injured in the violence since April 15. The NGO said that 28 ci vilians had been killed in clashes between the two military rivals in Nyala city, the provincial capital of South Darfur province, in recent days. Last week, the syndicate had put the death toll from the violence at 850 and 3,394 others injured.

A 7-day cease-fire is set to come into force between the army and the RSF on Monday following talks between the two conflicting parties in Saudi Arabia.

A disagreement had been fomenting in recent months between the army and the RSF over the paramilitary group's integration into the armed forces, a key condition of Sudan's transition agreement with political groups. Sudan has been without a functioning government since October 2021, when the military dismissed Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok's transitional government and declared a state of emergency in a move decried by political forces as a "coup." Sudan's transitional period, which started in August 2019 after the ouster of President Omar al-Bashir, had been scheduled to end with elections in early 2024. - APP

Erdogan hits out at opposition

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who reduced the number of campaign rallies ahead of the runoff vote set for May 28. is in form on social media. Erdogan, active on Twitter after securing the majority of votes in the first round on May 14, lashed out at the opposition again on

Expressing his hope for a "record" rate of votes in the runoff, the president asked the public to answer some questions about the opposition's record in his tweet. "Can you trust those who pledge free housing for earthquake victims before the elections, only to attempt to evict the victims from the places they were hosted?" was his first question. Erdogan's main rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu, nominated by the six-party opposition bloc, pledged free houses for survivors of the Feb. 6 earthquakes that hit Turkiye's south. Yet, the municipality of Tekirda, run by Kilicdaroglu's Republican People's Party (CHP), removed earthquake victims from the hotel they were hosted in the aftermath of the election where Kilicdaroglu trailed behind Erdogan. The incident sparked an outcry, especially amid a flurry of social media posts by Kilicdaroglu supporters who derided people in the earthquake zone where Erdogan garnered high support in the first round of the "Do you believe that this

person who did nothing good for this country in his bureaucratic and political career would benefit this nation?" Erdogan said in his second question about Kilicdaroglu, the former director of Turkiye's social security agency. The president often criticizes Kilicdaroglu for his bureaucratic tenure and accuses him of mismanagement of the agency. After ending bureaucratic career. Kilicdaroglu took to politics, where he was elected as head of CHP after his predecessor, the late Deniz Baykal, stepped down amid a sex tape scandal. Yet, the CHP failed to defeat Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party (AK Party) in multiple elections after Kilicdaroglu took office, save for winning some municipality seats in unprecedented success in the 2019 elections. Erdogan also said the public could not trust "someone cooperating with members of the Gulenist Terrorist Group (FETÖ) during the Dec. 17-25 coup attempt," referring to the 2013 coup attempts disguised as an anti-graft probe that targeted Erdogan and his ministers.—APP

75 years of diplomatic ties

Experts laud current positive trajectory of Pak-Russia ties

DNA

MOSCOW: Speakers including Pakistani Senators, former Pakistani Ambassador, Think Tanks representatives, current Russian Ambassador to Pakistan and Russian Scholars at a conference held at Moscow tracing the 75 years history of relations between Pakistan and Russia lauded the current positive trajectory of bilateral relations and emphasised their importance for regional stability.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of establishment of Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia, the Institute of Oriental Studies in collaboration with Pakistan Embassy organized a two day international conference (May 22-23) in Moscow. Pakistan's Senators Mr. Waleed Igbal and Mr. Anwar ul Haq Kakar cochaired first day of the conference.

The participants of the conference noted growth of bilateral relations in



diplomatic and economic domains . Various ideas for further strengthening this important relationship were also discussed. Senator Mushahid Hus-

sain Syed, Former Paki-Ambassador Qazi Khalilullah and representatives of a number of Pakistan based think tanks participated online. Russian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Danila V. Ganich, delivered his statement online.

Director of the Institute Prof. Alikber K. Alikberov,

lokrenitsky and

Dr., Deputy Director Vasily A. Kuznetsov also presented their analysis of the relations between the

Prof Dr. Vyacheslav Y. Be-

two countries.

Russian experts on Pakistan also presented thier views on the growing Pakistan-Rus-

Iran's Raisi appoints new security chief

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Monday appointed Ali Akbar Ahmadian as Secretary of the country's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), according to the state news agency IRNA.

Ahmadian, the former head of the Strategic Center of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), replaces Ali Shamkhani, who was removed from his post on Sunday after 10 years in the position. Raisi hailed Shamkhani's efforts during his tenure. Iranian authorities provided no explanation for the change. The SNSC is a powerful government body that is tasked with formulating national security policies under guidelines set by the supreme leader's office.—APP

US, Papua New Guinea sign defense pact

WASHINGTON: The US and Papua New Guinea have signed a bilateral defense pact, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday. After meeting Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape, Blinken said the two sides "covered many topics, including the successful conclusion of the new defense cooperation agreement." The agreement also includes a bilateral pact on maritime affairs. According to the US State Department, the defense pact "will serve as a foundational framework upon which our two countries can enhance security cooperation and further strengthen our bilateral relationship, improve the capacity of the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF), and increase stability and security in the region."

The signing of the pact comes on the heels of China signing a security pact with the Solomon Islands last vear, triggering concern from the US and its allies in the region.—APP

Saudi astronauts successfully launched toward ISS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on

Monday announced the successful launch of the kingdom's astronauts toward the International Space Station. Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher, became the kingdom's first woman in space on Sunday when she boarded a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched from Kennedy Space Center. Ali al-Qarni, a Royal Saudi Air Force jet pilot, joined her. The official Saudi Al-Ekhbariya channel broadcast the launch event live on Twitter, "Saudi Arabia launched a scientific voyage to space carrying the first Saudi astronauts, Rayana Bernawi, and Ali Al-Qarni, from the International Space Station (ISS) in Cape Canaveral. Florida, the United States on Sunday evening," the Saudi Press Agency reported. It is the second private flight to the space station organized by Houston-based Axiom Space.-APP

Shaheed and fighter jets have

grown up with me since the

early years of childhood. First-

ly, I always say a deep grati-

tude to my late father who had

bought me a poster of Rashid

Minhas Shaheed when I was

in fourth or fifth grade. I stuck

that poster on the right door

of my closet and from there,

those sparkling eyes always

kept me fascinated. Secondly,

Armenia can recognize Karabakh as Azerbaijan part

Nikol Pashinyan's declaration comes after a round of talks brokered by Moscow

YEREVAN: Armenia is prepared to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as part of neighboring Azerbaijan if the authorities in Baku guarantee the safety and rights of the local population, which predominantly consists of ethnic Armenians, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Monday. Speaking at a press conference, Pashinyan noted that the territory of Azerbaijan encompasses 86,600 sq km, a figure significant because it includes the region in question. The president added, however, that "at the same time, we say that the issue of the rights and safety of the people of Na-

gorno-Karabakh should be

discussed" in future negoti-

ations, "If we and Azerbai-

correctly, Armenia will recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within the named limits, while Baku will recognize the territorial integrity of Armenia within the area of 29,800 sq km," he added.

jan understand each other

The prime minister also called for international safety guarantees, expressing concern that the lack of any mechanism could result in Azerbaijan carrying out "ethnic cleansing" in the region. Pashinyan went on to say that Azerbaijan and Armenia are engaged in active peace talks, expressing hope that the sides will be able to quickly hash out any differences.

Echoing these remarks, Azerbaijan's president, Ilham Alivev, said he hopes the negotiations will "bring about solid peace in the South Caucasus," despite Nagorno-Karabakh "having been under Armenian occupation for about 30 years, with a million of Azeris having been driven out of their homes." The two leaders are scheduled to hold talks in Moscow on Thursday, and Russian President Vladimir Putin will act as mediator. The two former Soviet republics have been locked in a conflict over the disputed region with a total population of around 150,000 for several decades. As the Soviet Union was collapsing, in 1988, Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan, unilaterally establishing its own republic three years later.

This triggered a major war, which claimed the lives of thousands of people and ended in an internationallv mediated truce in 1994. Since then, however, Armenia and Azerbaijan have engaged in sporadic fighting over the area. One of the latest clashes took place in 2020; the tensions were diffused by Moscow's efforts to mediate.

Pashinyan's comes after he said in April that Yerevan and Baku could sign a peace treaty if they both recognize one another's territorial integrity "without any ambiguity and pitfalls," while agreeing not to have any territorial disputes in the future.-Agencies

US will default if debt deal falls through

WASHINGTON: America's chances of paying its bills after

June 1 are "quite low," US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned on Sunday in an interview with NBC's 'Meet the Press'. According to Yellen, if Congress fails to reach an agreement on raising the country's \$31.4 trillion borrowing limit by that time, it will be forced to default on "some bills" shortly after. "There's always uncertainty about tax receipts and spending. And so it's hard to be absolutely certain about this, but my assessment is that the odds of reaching June 15, while being able to pay all of our bills, is quite low... My assumption is that if the debt ceiling isn't raised, there will be hard choices to make about what bills go unpaid," Yellen said. The treasury secretary did not say which 'bills' she had in mind, but noted that the government's most immediate obligations range from paying interest on outstanding debt to "obligations to seniors who count on social security, military, contractors who've provided services to the government." She added that "there can be no acceptable outcomes if the debt ceiling isn't raised." The administration of US President Joe Biden and Republicans led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy have been at an impasse over raising the debt ceiling for several months, despite warnings that the US could face its first-ever default unless it is raised by June 1. Republicans are refusing to agree to the move unless Biden agrees to government spending cuts.—Agencies

Greek PM calls for another vote as he seeks majority ATHENS: The ruling party secured a clear win in Greece's

elections and are hoping a second election at the end of June would secure a majority. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, whose conservative party scored a landslide election victory but without the seats in Parliament to win outright, called for new elections on Monday "perhaps June 25" to try to secure an absolute majority.

Mitsotakis' New Democracy party was a full 20 percentage points ahead of its main rival, the left-wing Syriza party, nearly complete results showed. But a new electoral system of proportional representation meant his 40% vote share still was not enough to secure a majority of the 300 seats in Parliament. To form a government, he would either have to seek a coalition partner from a smaller party, or head to a second election. "We are going towards new elections (...) as soon as possible", indicated Mr Mitsotakis during a meeting with the President of the Republic, Katerina Sakellaropoulou."-Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan meets with the Ambassador of Qatar, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed.-DNA

PAF: The one and only Minhas!

ASMA ISHAQ

"Rashid, have you seen our uncle's Air Force cap? The elder sister asked it to Rashid Minhas while entering into the room. But the moment, she saw her brother. It was a sheer moment of joy because what she had seen was a true depiction of dream wrapped in the fold of innocence. Minhas was wearing that Air Force cap. He was all happy! And looking himself in the mirror proudly! Upon seeing his sister. He asked gladly, "Sister! Do I look like an air force pilot? She replied lovingly to his little-cute brother. "Yes! Of course, Rashid you do look like an air force pilot.

Born on 17th February 1951 in Karachi, Rashid Minhas: PAF Pilot Officer has proven an extremely passionate for flying. He grew up loving the air force, flying, fighter jets' photos and models. Likewise, the desire for martyrdom was raised with him. This desire reflected beautifully via the sparkles of his eyes. He exhibited intelligence, maturity and responsibility ahead of his age.

the distinguished spontaneity in him during conversations with them and siblings. Nevertheless, he was a young boy with purity and goodness. He loved listening music and enjoyed famous contemporary songs played on high volumes. He maintained writing diary entries almost religiously. Simultaneously, he continued to excel in his academics and co-curricular activities at St. Patrick's High School Karachi. The family of Minhas shared an interesting event from his childhood when he was 7 or 8 years old. The incident was about meeting of Minhas with the Air Chief Marshal Asghar Khan in the hospital. He was ill and had got hospitalized in the CMH. It was the same time when the President of Pakistan: Major General Iskander Mirza had also got hospitalized in the same CMH. Therefore, all of the Chiefs had come to meet the President. The Air Chief came too. As soon as he knew that the Air Chief was in the hospital. He requested his elder cousin for taking him to see the ACM. His cousin carried him in arms and he met there was then no sign of any illness. He said to his cousin, "One day, I will be the ACM." Minhas was definitely an extra ordinary soul. He followed his passion with a true heart. The academic record from school, high school as well the training years at PAF Academies testify his intelligence, dedication and professionalism. He possessed an unbelievable quality of consistency, leadership and determination. He was a highly goal-oriented young boy, if once he had decided to achieve any goal, it was already his! Surprise to many, his father wanted him to be an engineer but Minhas wanted to join the Pakistan Air Force. It caused skirmish for few days between the father and son. Consequently, Minhas took permission from his mother and joined the PAF School in Lower Topa in 1968. Later on, the PAF instructors sent him with remarks like 'highly recommended' to the PAF Academy Risalpur. (Now PAF Academy Asghar Khan) The martyrs live even after

their death and Minhas also

had lived a short life of just 20 years but it was all enough to have him won an eternal fame. He got commissioned in 51st GD pilot course. On 20th August 1971, it was his second solo flight. Minhas was in T-33 jet trainer. He was about to take off but his aircraft was highjacked by the instructor pilot Fl Lt Matir Rehman.

The resistance of Minhas during the aircraft highjack from 20 August 1971 left the inerasable marks of bravery. To date, there has not been such instance of resistance like his. He was all aware of death in the result of crash yet he willingly chose it. The Government of Pakistan awarded him with the highest military medal, Nishan e Haider. It had been acknowledged in the citation for medal, "Minhas forced the aircraft to crash in order to prevent Rehman from taking the jet to India.'

The veteran PAF fighter pilot, Gp. Capt. Cecil Chaudry spearheaded the immediate task for investigating about the August 20th 1971 aircraft

the report, "It was clearly evident that Minhas had nose-dived his

aircraft in the ground with all the thundering might of his jet as well of himself. Ofcourse, it had instantly killed Minhas sitting on the front pilot seat. The most amazing feat from this martyr was, he still managed to jettison his enemy sitting in the rear cockpit while bringing down the aircraft in a thrilling high speed because the canopy was found missing. Now imagine his incredible strong nerves, when he was calculating everything in that challenging situation with such correctness. All this clearly shows: how impeccable Minhas proved himself! Only Minhas could do it!"

Minhas was the one and only of his own kind to have shown such resistance all alone in the air. A bright young pilot, truthfully self-motivated for the flying with a promising future yet he selected to lay down his life for saving the name and honour of country. That little-cute Minhas who stood wearing the air force

innocently went showing an unbelievable feat of courage in an epic-act of consciousness. Definitely, he had thoroughly lived and served with his life for the country.

Embracing martyrdom, Minhas personified the Iqbal's concept of 'Shaheen: Eagle' that represents the courage, grace, dignity and bravery unlike the Kargas: vulture that symbolizes cowardice, cunning and ignobility. The decision of Minhas throwing out Rehman while crashing the aircraft characterizes the same exalted and decorous mind-set presented by Igbal. It was almost derogatory for him to be accompanied with his envious enemy in those last minutes. He was all prepared, fully aware and had got driven with the Divine Force for leaving an unmatchable martyrdom-legacv. He left for the final abode in the manner that is granted only for the chosen ones. He left way earlier but still thrives in the hundreds-thousands of hearts. True to say, his soul still travels in the clouds. My love for Rashid Minhas

living in an area that comes in the direction of PAF Base Faisal-Karachi for its training sorties, has been a reason to hear the thunders of fighter jets frequently. In my school days, these thundering jets held me in a spell bound state. However, with the passage of time, this love continued to getting multiplied. Now, when these fighter jets come tearing through the clouds, these thunders resonate the same thunder of T-33. It feels that the insurmountable spirit of Minhas has got immortaliszed in these thunders for always!

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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" 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 China, including 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 Communique of 1972. A joint communique 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 aption 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 Emiratisation. 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. Howev-

Elahi's ally Ch Wajahat exits PTI

er, this requirement can be

waived if the employer agrees

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 Hussain 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 Zaytoun, 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 Bin-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-ramming 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).

Sudan ceasefire raises hopes for relief in Khartoum

KHARTOUM: Air strikes and clashes between Sudan's warring factions could be heard in the capital Khartoum on Sunday, residents said, after a Saudi and US-brokered deal for a week-long cease-fire raised hopes of a pause in the five-week conflict. The deal, signed on Saturday by the army and the rival paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) after talks in the Saudi city of Jeddah, is due to come into effect on Monday evening with an internationally-supported monitoring mechanism. It also allows for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Repeated cease-fire announcements since the conflict started on April 15 have failed to stop the fighting, but the Jeddah deal marks the first time the sides have signed a truce agreement after negotiations.

Analysts say it is unclear whether army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan or RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, are able to enforce a cease-fire on the ground. Both have previously indicated they are seeking victory in the war, and neither of them traveled to Jeddah. The army and RSF reaffirmed their commitment to the ceasefire in statements on Sunday, even as fighting continued. Witnesses reported sporadic clashes in central and southern Khartoum on Sunday morning, followed by air strikes and anti-aircraft fire later in the day in eastern Khartoum and Omdurman, one of three cities that make up the greater capital. Since the war began, 1.1 million people have fled their homes, moving either within Sudan or to neighboring countries, creating a humanitarian crisis that threatens to destabilize the region. Those still in Khartoum are struggling to survive amid mass looting, a collapse in health services, and dwindling supplies of food, fuel, power and water. Safaa Ibrahim, a 35-year-old Khartoum resident, told Reuters by phone that she hoped the deal could bring an end to the conflict.

"We're tired of this war. We've been chased away from our homes, and the family has scattered between towns in Sudan and Egypt," she said. "We want to return to normal life and safety. Al-Burhan and Hemedti have to respect people's desire for life." According to the text of the Jeddah deal, a committee including three representatives from each of the warring parties, three from Saudi Arabia and three from the US would monitor the cease-fire. - DNA

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 paisas against the Pakistani in interbank market on Monday. According to information obtained from forex dealers, the greenback lost its value by 22 paisas and was currently being traded at Rs285.60. On Friday last, the US dollar had closed at Rs285.82

up by 20 paisas 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 threeday 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

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 discussing 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 runup 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 main-

tained 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".

