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**Tuesday, June 06, 2023** 

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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NZ rewards Ex-PM Jacinda Ardern with title of dame

**Detailed News On Page-08** 

US to blame for trouble in Taiwan strait

**Detailed News On Page-07** 



Luka Modric among top Saudi targets

**Detailed News On Page-06** 



### Briefs

### **Chest pain:** Sanaullah visits hospital

DNA

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was admitted to Faisalabad Institute of

Cardiology (FIC) for a checkup after his BP shoot-up last night. Rana Sanaullah underwent heart surgery in 2004. According to FIC sources, Sanaullah was brought to the hospital with 120/160 blood pressure and complained of 'heart pain.' The interior minister underwent the test to know the nature of the heart attack, the sources said. Hospital sources said the minister was discharged after he deemed healthy.

### Umar says no contact with Tareen

STAFF REPORT



mer General Secretary Asad Umar has said that Jahangir Tareen did not contact him. In an infor-

mal chat with journalists in the district courts here on Monday, Asad denies any contact with Tareen when a iournalist asked him whether he would join Tareen's party. Asad said 'no' when another reporter asked him whether Tareen contacted him. "Jahangir Tareen has not contacted me," he added. Asad said that that he has been visiting courts since his release from prison around a week ago.

### PPP okays Murtaza for mayor

**DNA** 



KARACHI: Pakistan Peo-(PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Monday nom-

spokesperson Murtaza Wahab for the Karachi mayor slot and Salman Murad for deputy mayor. Taking to Twitter, he congratulated all the nominees for Sindh local government and expressed faith in the chosen candidates for "serving the people". Meanwhile, PPP Sindh president Nisar Khuhro announced names of slots of chairmen, deputy chairmen, mayors, and deputy mayors.

Inside.

Administrative

hurdles in beating plastic pollution

Bangladesh HC celebrates Pohela

Boishakh festival

HEC announces Helmut-

Schmidt- scholarships

for Pak students

Gulf support for Turkey's

Erdogan is about more than economics

CDA trying to make sports the identity

of Islamabad

Poland's justice

reform infringes law:

EU top court

Crowded Republican

race helps clear

way for Trump

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PM slams Imran's politics

## Govt poised to tackle all challenges

PM says very hopeful of finalizing a deal with the IMF this month

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that his government has been able to navigate the challenges faced by Pakistan in the best possible fashion with the help of its people and brotherly and friendly countries. In an interview with a Turkish Agency posted on its website on Monday, the prime minister said Pakistan had been facing a plethora of problems since April 2022, when the current government took over after former prime minister Imran Khan was ousted in a no-trust vote. "The issues are the result of the previous government's policies,"he said.

"Pakistan, in April 2022, was on the verge of default because the government of the day had violated the IMF agreement and the economy was in tatters," he maintained.

"Then we had devastating floods in August 2022. Combined with that we are facing galloping inflation, because of the international situation," he added To a question, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan was very hopeful of finalizing a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month. "We are still very hopeful that the IMF programme will materialize. Our ninth review by the IMF will match all terms and conditions and, hopefully, we'll have some good news this month, he told Anadolu in Ankara. The prime minister was in Ankara for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration ceremony.

Continued on Page 06

### PM for public friendly budget

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says public welfare, development and business friendly policies will be the pivot of budget for next fiscal year. He was chairing a high-level meeting in Islamabad on Monday, to consult with the coalition parties for the Public Sector Development Program. The Prime Minister said volume of Public Sector Development Program is being increased from 700 billion to 950 billion rupees to accelerate the growth rate and employment opportunities in the next financial year. He said next financial year will be the year of economic development for Pakistan. He said the government is adopting the policy of utilizing the available resources in the best way despite the difficult economic situation. Shehbaz Sharif said a significant amount is also being kept for the development and reconstruction of the flood affected areas. Shehbaz

Continued on Page 06

### 'No respect for those who disrespect martyrs'

Maryam Nawaz boasts PML-N's 'steadfastness' despite difficulties

izer Maryam Nawaz Monday declared that no respect for those who disrespected

BAGH: PML-N Senior Vice President and Chief Organmartyrs on May 9. Addressing a rally in Bagh LAHORE: Pakistan Democratic Move-

district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir during her ment (PDM) President and Jamiat Ul mass-contact campaign in constituency of par- ema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI) Chief Maulana ty candidate Mushtaq Minhas today, Maryam Fazlur Rehman has said that there Nawaz said that those who burn our fighter can be no talk of any kind with PTI jets and martyrs memorials are not among us Chairman Imran Khan now, assertbecause no matter how much angry someone ing that the Army Act will come into is, they cannot cause damage to their country. force when someone attacks the Army She held the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf chair House and General Headquarters man Imran Khan responsible for the May 9 (GHQ). Maulana Fazl was talking to the attacks and vowed that he would be made a media when he visited former speaker 'nishan-e-ibrat' for others. "Your people are re- National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq's house vealing that the chairman is the mastermind of on Monday to convey his condolences May 9." The PML-N senior vice president re- on the demise of Ayaz's elder brother iterated that people would not respect anyone Sardar Mehmood Sadiq. Fazl said that

Continued on Page 06

Fazl rules out talks with Khan

BUREAU REPORT

Continued on Page 06

### **Pakistan-Iraq resolve to take** bilateral ties 'to new heights'



BAGHDAD: FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on PM of Iraq Mohammed Shia Al Sudani and conveyed best wishes to the leadership and people of Iraq. They agreed to further strengthen multidimensional cooperation and to further cement brotherly ties between Pakistan and Iraq. - DNA

BAGHDAD: Pakistan and Iraq have resolved to take bilateral ties "to new heights and expand cooperation in diverse areas", said Foreign Minister Bilawal-Bhutto Zardari after his meeting with Iraqi President

Abdul Latif Rashid on Monday. "Today, I called on HE Dr Abdul Latif Jamal, president of Iraq. Resolved to take Pakistan and Iraq relations to new heights and expand cooperation in diverse areas,

including sharing expertise on water, agriculture and reinforcing defence cooperation and bilateral trade", tweeted Bilawal, who arrived in Baghdad earlier today on a three-day visit. Separately, Radio Pakistan reported both dignitaries "appreciated the trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed to expand mutually beneficial cooperation".

Continued on Page 06



### Soldier embraces martyrdom

Funeral prayers of two Shaheed soldiers offered



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Ladha, South Waziristan District. According to ISPR, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. However, during intense exchange of fire, Lance Naik Muhammad Sabir (age 30 years, resident of District Mansehra) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Armed Forces of Pakistan are

Continued on Page 06

### Iran embassy reopens in KSA today

News Desk

TEHRAN: Iran is set to reopen its embassy in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday following a seven-year closure, Tehran and a diplomatic source said, sealing a Chinese-brokered rapprochement deal announced in March. Saudi Arabia severed relations with Iran in 2016 after its embassy in Tehran and consulate in the northwestern city of Mashhad were attacked during protests over Riyadh's execution of Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Iran's diplomatic mission, which was

**Continued on Page 06** 

'Living in dark ages'

### 'Nazi era law of kin punishment being practiced'

Imran asks how long will SC allow violation of basic rights Asad Qaiser says

MONITORING REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that we are now living in the dark ages, as Nazi Germany era law of kin punishment is being practiced against PTI; however, he asked that how long the Supreme Court (SC) will allow complete violation of fundamental rights. In a statement on Monday, PTI Chairman said: "How long will the SC allow complete violation of fundamental rights of anyone linked to Pakistan's biggest political party?

"We are now living in the dark ages. Nazi Germany era law of kin punishment is being practiced against PTI," he added. PTI Chairman said that in other countries where this barbaric law was imposed, was in totalitarian states like Stalin's Russia, North Korea and China during the Cultural Revolution. Meanwhile, PTI Chairman Imran Khan strongly condemned 'abduction' of 82 years old Mian Azhar from his residence in Lahore, who was struggling with he stands by PTI STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: At a time when many of the PTI leaders and former lawmakers

are dissociating themselves from the party, Asad Qaiser - the former National Assembly speaker - on Monday made it clear that he had not switched sides. He was standing by the party and in contact with the PTI chief, Qaiser told reporters outside a local court where he attended the hearing of a case pertaining to the vandalism outside the federal capital's judicial complex. "I am with [Pakistan] Tehreek-e-Insaf and in touch with the PTI chairman." The latest assertion is in complete contrast with what the people had seen last week when Pervez Khattak,

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

### Russia says it thwarts big attack in Ukraine

Ukrainian sources say a series of small-scale operations are under way

News Desk

KYIV: Moscow said on Monday it had thwarted a major offensive against its forces in eastern Ukraine, but Ukrainian officials dismissed the report and both sides said the Ukrainian military had advanced elsewhere along the front line. It was unclear whether the attacks represented the start of Ukraine's long-heralded counter-offensive against Russia's invasion. Ukrainian officials sidestepped questions about it. Russia's defence ministry said Ukraine had attacked on Sunday morning with six mech-

Donetsk, where Moscow has long suspected Ukraine would seek to drive a wedge through Russian-controlled territory.

"On the morning of June 4, the enemy launched a large-scale offensive in five sectors of the front in the South Donetsk direction," the defence ministry said in a statement posted on Telegram at 1:30 a.m. Moscow time (2230 GMT).

"The enemy's goal was to break through our defences in the most vulnerable, in its opinion, sector of the front," it said. "The enemy did not achieve its tasks, it had no success." Asked to comment, a Ukrainian military spokesperson said: "We do not have such information and we do not comment on any kind of fake.'

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### World Environment Day

# Administrative hurdles in beating plastic pollution

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at seminar on Monday said that the environmental hazards of plastic are multifar-

ious but often glossed over. Policies are ineffective and lack implementation whereas plastic has detrimental effects on human health that take their toll on millions of lives every year. The impact of plastic on aquatic life in oceans is an example of this. Pakistan is no exception to plastic pollution. Pakistan produced 3.9 million tonnes of plastic waste in 2020, over 65 per cent of which was mismanaged. 18 per cent of municipal solid waste produced in Pakistan is plastics. Only 3 per cent of plastic used by the manufacturing industry in Pakistan is recycled material. The presence of plastic bags is now ubiquitous. Starting from shops, plastic bags are seen flying in streets, floating on water bodies, tangled in trees, blocking sewerage networks and choking trachea of aquatic life in sea. Mass production, low cost and easy access have turned plastics into a major hazard. The seminar titled "Beat Plastic Pollution" was organized by the Bahria University Environment and Earth Sciences Department and APGA on Monday. The guest speakers included well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Dr. Said Ak-

KP ministers

visits

industrial

zones

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pa-

Minister for Industries,

Commerce and Technical

Education, Mohammad Ad-

nan Jalil visited Nowshera

on Monday and inaugurated

various projects in the in-

Caretaker

khtunkhwa

dustrial zones.

bar Khan, Dr. Abrar Shinwari, UNIDO technical expert Hammad Bashir, former Member CDA Sanaullah Aman, environmentalists Sana Tahir and Rehan Tahir. Speaking as a guest of honour, well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said Pakistan's single-use plastic consumption is rising by over 15 per cent a year despite all the legislation by the federal and provincial governments. Pakistan is producing about four million tons of plastic waste a year while the already-produced plastic waste can make a mountain double of the height of K2, the second-highest mountain in the world. According to a survey report, Pakistan currently uses 55 billion plastic bags a year. Munir Ahmed said the gap between the policies and their implementation is huge. We have everything on papers that dusting shelves sans practices accordingly. Government institutions lack will and resources to implement the policies in letter and spirit. First of all, our policies don't address the single-use plastics that have increased immensely after the Covid-19. Secondly, we don't realize the carcinogenic role of plastics that has increased health vulnerabilities. Civil society organizations and academia shall play their role in creating awareness among masses on the use of plastics, and also raise voice to the governments to take every possible measure for drastic cut

on supply-side. He said the federal legislation to ban the manufacturing, supply, sale and use of plastic bags has completely failed despite the civil society has raised concerns repeatedly. Meanwhile, plastics have sneaked into our everyday lives without much realisation of the environmental ramifications of the change.

Sana Tahir urged the students to take lead in using the environment-friendly products, and help in reaching out to the common people with a message of conservation. The university shall engage students in public awareness initiatives. Sanaullah Aman said charity begins at home. We need to focus on our habits and change the perceptions to conservation by individual efforts. The single-use plastic is easily available and commonly used because it's a free commodity. The government shall focus on curtailing the manufacturing and supply of the products. Hammad Bashir said according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), plastic production and use have grown exponentially since the 1950s, with around nine million people employed globally in polymer production and plastic processing industries. Presently, the world produces 430 million metric tonnes of plastics every year. Of these, two-thirds are shortlived products which become waste after single use. Plastic production is set to triple by 2060 if business continues



certificate distribution ceremony organized at a girls college, on Monday.—DNA

### Drug addiction

PESHAWAR: KP caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi on Monday said that drug addiction is the most heinous social evil which has rapidly infiltrated in our youth and is eating away all their talents. Talking to a delegation from Shiro Jhangi locality of Peshawar here on Monday, the provincial minister said that the time has come to pay full attention to the spread and treatment of drug addiction and to protect the new generation from the menace of narcotics.

The delegation lauded the people-friendly steps of the provincial government, especially the minister of Excise in respect of waging war against narcotics. They while appreciating the sincere efforts on anti-narcotics, assured of full cooperation at the public level to make this important initiative a success story in all respects. Haji Manzoor Afridi said that his Excise and Narcotics Control Department has launched a comprehensive campaign against drugs with three major goals, including blocking the sources of supply and demand of all kinds of narcotics, the effective prevention of the use of drugs among zthe youth as well as treatment and rehabil-

the youth suffering from the curse of drugs consider themselves to be healthy, but in reality, they are terminally ill and their abilities fade with time and eventually they die in very miserable conditions. The provincial minister said that his department is working diligently to achieve the above three crucial goals.-APP

### For 'war-affected' traders SCCI urges special relief package in budget masses. He furthermore

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Monday urged the government to announce a special economic relief package for the 'terrorism-affected' business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the budget. In the media talk with different private news channels regarding the upcoming fiscal budget here on Monday, the chamber's acting president Ejaz Khan Afridi urged the government to present a business-friendly budget for the next financial year.

Ejaz sought a reduction in the ratio of taxes and opposed imposing the additional burden of taxes on existing taxpayers and poor asked to reduce electricity, gas tariffs and prices of petroleum commodities. The SCCI acting chief said it was the dire need of the hour to provide relief to the business community in the budget in order to revive the ailing economy of the country. Businessmen are faced with difficulties owing to high prices of electricity, gas and petroleum commodities, Ejaz said. The chamber's acting chief furthermore asked for taking economic, industries and business growth-oriented initiatives. He asked the government to incorporate the SCCI proposals in the upcoming fiscal budget so that relief should be given

hit traders' community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. If the industries and businesses would be functional and working positions that will bring stability in the national economy, Ejaz remarked. He added that a prosperous business community is a guarantee for a better economy, so the government should give them relief and special incentives at every level. In response to reporters' various queries, Ejaz Afridi urged the government to take pragmatic steps through the upcoming budget for the removal of hurdles in the way of the country's export and

recommendations to ter-

rorism and natural calamity

### KMC takes steps to combat environmental challenges

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman on Monday said that sea and air pollution and increased temperature are the indicators of climate change all over the world. We need to change our way of thinking and behavior to bring this pol-Chairman lution on a lower level and KMC is taking steps to plant trees in all open places in Karachi to combat environmental challenges and climate change. He

He also inaugurated the newly established centre of Rescue 1122 and a new tube well for supplying drinking water to the Export Processing Zone (EPZ). said this while addressing a During the visit, he also laid function organized by Fedthe foundation stone of two eration of Pakistan Chamnew industrial units includbers of Commerce and ing a flour mill (MS Mibron Industry (FPCCI) sub-com-Flour Mills) and a Waste mittee on environment and Management Plant (MS climate change and Karachi Green Private Limited). Be-Metropolitan Corporation sides, Secretary Industry, at Bagh Ibn Qasim on the Commerce and Technical occasion of World Environ-Education, Mutiullah Khan, ment Day. He said that the purpose of observing World Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkh-Environment Day is to raise wa Economic Zones Develawareness and intensify efforts at the international opment and Management

Plantation of 50 thousand saplings was also done on this occasion. Chairman of FPCCI Sub-Committee for Environment and Climate Change Muhammad Rabbani, Dr. Khalid, Dr. Kanwal, Al-Khair Trust Muhammad Tahir Ansari and others also spoke while Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan and prominent religious leader Qari Usman were also present on the occasion. Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution- Restore Ecosystem". In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Environment Day to be celebrated for the first time to raise awareness of environmental challenges and encourage action in this regard. He said that environmental experts have undertaken this time to find a solution to save

the world from plastic

pollution. Plastic is one of the best inventions in the world, the main thing is its use, until today in Bangladesh, jute bags are used. The world produces 400 million tons of plastic every year, half of which is disposable and only 10 percent is recycled, 19 to 23 million tons of plastic produced in the world ends up in rivers, oceans, Micro plastics are added to our food, water and air. According to an estimate, every person on the planet consumes 50 thousand plastic particles every year. Waste plastic seriously harms human health and ecological balance and it contaminates the entire ecosystem from top of the mountains to the bottom of the ocean. The Administrator Karachi said that to deal with this problem, the stakeholders have to accelerate their actions based on modern scientific research to protect the world from increasing environmental pollution. -APP

#### PESHAWAR: Director NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mian Muhammad Waqar on Monand unnecessary use of national resources, abuse of authority, violation of merit, deviation from rules and regulations are also itation of the addicts. types of corruption. Young He said that unfortunately people, especially students,

He expressed these views while addressing an awareness seminar on the anti-corruption week at Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar, while on this occasion apart from

can play a key role in eradi-

cating corruption.

Director KMU-IBMS Dr Inayat Shah, a large number of faculty and students were day said that corruption is also present. Mian Muhamnot just the name of finan- mad Waqar said that NAB is cial irregularity, but wrong an autonomous institution that is playing an active role in eradicating corruption from society. He said that corruption weakens the country's foundations and its prevention is the main mandate of NAB. He said that there are many types of corruption and in developing countries like Pakistan; corruption is a big challenge for the concerned institutions. He said that obtaining halal sustenance is not only a religious obliga-

tion, but it is also a source

KMU hosts anti-corruption

awareness seminar

life. He emphasized to the youth that they can play an important role in the eradication of corruption and we want the youth to play the role of NAB ambassadors in the national campaign against the eradication of corruption. In response to a question, he said that NAB works under the laws approved by the Parliament and in this regard whatever laws the Parliament enact is its authority and these laws bind NAB. Addressing the event, Dr. Inayat Shah stressed to the students that they should play the role of the front line in the eradication of corruption.-APP

of blessing in wealth and

#### Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and other officers.-APP

Correction of name

Correction of father's name spellings I want to change my father's name spellings appearing in my degree from Bahria university Islamabad campus registration no. 49282, S.NO. 17823 and my transcript S.NO 0117394 "SHAHID spellings MAHMOOD" To "SHAHEID ME-HMUD" the spellings have been corrected in my previous academic record. Name: Danish Mahmood, CNIC: 61101-3454474-1

### BoK expands its footprint in Federal Capital

ISLAMABAD: Bank Khyber, one of the leading financial institutions in Pakistan, is proud to announce the grand inauguration of two state-of-the-art branches in DHA Islamabad and Top City. With these latest additions, the bank has expanded its presence in the federal capital, now boasting a total of 12 branches. This strategic expansion aims to offer customers in the capital region enhanced accessibility to a wide range of convenient banking services. Mr. Hafiz

level to protect the planet

from the dangers posed by

plastics and other hazard-

Mohsin Director Accounts and Finance Bahria Town, Maj ® Kazim Ali Khan, MD Al-Nazim 999 Builders & Developers and Mr. Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, MD /CEO, Bank of Khyber inauguratedtheDHA Islamabad branch. Mr. Sher Muhammad - Group Head of Conventional Banking, Mr. Asim Bashir Group Head Digital Banking, Ms Natasha Adil Regional Head Retail Banking along with other senior executives also attended the branch

inauguration. Col® Riaz ul Haq Chaudhary, Project Director, Al-Nazim 999 Builders & Developers, Mr.Hafiz Mohsin, Director Accounts, Bahria town Islamabad also graced the occasion with their presence.

Simultaneously, the Top City Islamabad Branch was inaugurated by Brig ® Hamid, Chief Administrator of Top City Islamabad, Mr. Shafiq Afridi, CEO of Toyota Khyber Motors, and Mr. Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, MD/CEO of Bank of Khyber along with other senior executives of the bank. The newly inaugurated branches, located in DHA and Top city of Islamabad, bring the Bank of Khyber's comprehensive range of financial solutions closer to the residents, businesses, and organizations in these vibrant communities. The opening of these branches is a testament to the Bank's commitment to enhancing accessibility and fostering economic growth in the re-

underscored the impor-

tance Poland accorded to

its 'friendly and solid' rela-

tionship with Pakistan. He

stated in the changing and

uncertain times, Poland

was reaching out to its part-

ners, and as such "Pakistan

gion.-APP











### **Round table discussion with Polish Under secretary**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Round-Table Discussion with H.E. Mr. Wojciech Gerwel, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of For-

eign Affairs, Poland. discussion was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Poland; Ambassador Nadeem Rivaz, President IRS; Former Ambassador Shah Jamal; Mr Muhammad Saleem, Additional Secretary Europe, MOFA; Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Director, School of Politics and International Relations. QAU; Mr. Hassan Abbas, Policy Expert, National

Security Division; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI; and Senior Research Faculty members.

Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, and CSP research team were also present. In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that warm and cordial relations existed between Pakistan

brated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, both countries were keen on further deepening their multifaceted relationship in all dimensions.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood also thanked the Polish authorities for their assistance in safe evacuation of Panationals

Ukraine conflict. Furthermore, he highlighted Poland's significance as an important partner, being an EU and NATO member, and Pakistan-Poland collaboration in multilateral fora and on key regional issues. He also apprised of ISSI's outreach to counterpart think-tanks for closer collaboration.

is a valuable partner." He highlighted the vast potential in economic relations between the two countries in a number of key sectors including trade, investment and energy. Undersecretary wel also apprised of the evolving regional situation including in Ukraine as well as Poland's perspective on the range of issues of peace and security confronting Europe. His talk was followed by a dynamic interactive session. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI made the con-

cluding remarks.

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#### **National** Days and Armed **Forces Days**

#### JUNE

June 02/Itlay

National/ **Independence Day** 

June 04/Finland

**Armed Forces** 

Day May 06/UAE

June 06/Sweden

**National Day** 

June 10/Portugal Portugal Day

(National Day)

June 10/Jordan **Arab Revolution&** 

Army Day June 11/United kingdom

Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth

June 12/Philippines **Independence Day** 

June 12/Russian Federation

Day of Sovereignty of the Russian

June 13/Zambia

Armed Forces day June 17/Iceland

**National Day** 

June 18/Seychells **National Day** 

June 25/Croatia **National Day** 

June 25/Mozambique **National Day** 

> June 26/Azerbaijan **Army Day**

#### **Hotels &** Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



#### **Emergency** Rescue (Police)......15

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



#### **Enquiry** Edhi Ambulance......115

PIA Flight Info.	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquir	y117
Railway Exchar	ge9270831-5
WASA Rawalpi	ndi5555489
CAA	9281092



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

- cparaments	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Roard 0270151 2	

### **Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ISLAMABAD: Diplomats and guests are enjoying Bangladeshi traditional Cuisine during "Bangladesh Festival 2023" as the event was held at Bangla-

# Bangladesh HC celebrates Pohela Boishakh festival

It is again unique that the birthdays of heads of four major religions namely Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) of Islam, Lord Krishna of Hinduism, Lord Budha of Budhism and Jesus Christ of Christianity are celebrated in Bangladesh as public holidays'

#### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan has said they are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the conferment of 'Joliot Curie peace medal' to Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheihk Mujibur Rahman. In addition, we celebrate Pohela Boishakh the Bangla New year, the birth anniversary of the Nobel laureate Poet Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore and birth anniversary of national poet of Bangladesh revel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. He said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was dedicated to the cause of peace in his lifelong struggle. In his student life, he fearlessly

rushed to rescue the helpless people facing danger, risking his own life during the horrific riots in Kolkata; while a young politicians, he participated as a delegate in the first-ever Asia-Pacific Regional Peace Conference held in Beijing; in 1956, he participated in the World Peace Conference held in Stockholm.

'He was imprisoned for more than a decade during his quest for economic and political freedom for the people of Bangladesh. And after being released from a Pakistani prison in January 1972, he declared at his first press conferall and malice towards none' as the core principle of peace, which was later adopted as the guiding Mujib' on the same list as that

principle of the foreign policy of of other globally renowned newly independent Bangladesh. He always supported the freedom-seeking people of Asia, Africa and Latin America and expressed unequivocal support for the oppressed', the high commissioner added.

He further said, his uncompromising stand in favor of global peace earned him the profound admiration of the masses around the world. The World Peace Council awarded Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman their highest prize- the Joliot-Curie Peace Medal for his commendathe name 'Bangabandhu Sheikh

recipients of this award like Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro Jawaharlal Nehru, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Pablo Neruda, Martin Luther King, Yasser Arafat, Leonid Brezhnev once again demonstrated the high esteem with which the global community honored and respected our Father of the Nation. 'A land of rivers, sufism and tolerance, Bangladesh is also special in respect of religious harmony. It is again unique that the birthdays of heads of four major religions namely Prophet Muhammad Lord Krishna of Hinduism, Lord Budha of Budhism and Jesus Christ of Christianity are celebrated in Bangladesh as public holidays', the high commissioner Ruhul added. He said, celebration of the Pohela Boishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar traces its roots back to the traditions of Old Dhaka during Mughal era. Mughal Emperor Akbar introduced this calendar for collection of tax. Mangal shovajatra meaning procession for wellbeing, halkhata or beginning of new accounts of shops, mela, carnivals and special foods are some of the festivities of Bangla New Year celebration. The colourful Mangal Shobhaby UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage of the world in 2016, he concluded.

### Youth urged to come forward for ending plastic pollution

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) of the Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) Farzana Altaf Shah on Monday urged the youth to take the lead and responsibility to overcome plastic pollution in the country which was polluting its rivers, oceans, natural ecosystems and damaging human and wildlife health through disastrous impacts. She was addressing a public rally convened by the Pak-EPA in collaboration with all its partners and media on the occasion of 'World Environment Day' under the theme of solutions to plastic pollution. She also exclusively paid tribute to the environmental journalist Shabbir Hussain, climate activists Helga Ahmed and Attiya Ayub Qutab who breathed their last in their line of duties while upholding the cause of environment and nature conservation and public good. Farzana Altaf Shah said, "The students, media and partners have come up with a strong commitment before the parliament to highlight solutions to plastic pollution." She said, "It is high time for the nation to say no to plastic pollution at all levels and switch towards eco-friendly and biodegradable solutions. "We will have to end plastic pollution as the single-use polythene bag and bottles have created pollution in our drains and freshwater reserves. Children should use reusable water bottles to end plastics," she added.-APP

### Economic crimes of the past crippled the economy

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the serious and economic crimes of the past have left the economy half dead.

Now this patient will not get better with the help of medicine, but he needs emergency surgery, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said

that people have been suffering from inflation, unemployment and economic decline for many years. But now their patience is

improve should be started without delay.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that due to inflation and unemployment, millions of people have gone below the poverty line, lawlessness has become a problem and the problem of food security is becoming serious.

There is growing public anxiety which calls for immediate action, he said, adding that benefits should not be given to some of the influential groups in the name of reforms like in the past, but decisions should be made on merit.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that taxes should be levied

infection

related features

DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in collaboration with Karolin-

ska Institutet, Sweden, organized one-day international

seminar on infection related features of microorganisms

on June 5, at COMSTECH. Prof. Dr. Ute Rumling, depart-

ment of microbiology, tumor and cell biology, Karolinska

Institutet, said that infectious diseases are a major cause

of morbidity and/or mortality in developing as well as in-

dustrialized countries. She said that sub-clinical infections

lead to gradual impairment of functionality. She mentioned

that susceptibility for infectious diseases is increasing. She

informed that up to 80% of the human microbial infections

are caused by biofilm-forming bacteria and microbes in bio-

films are tolerant against antibiotics and immune response.

New pathogens are emerging due to change in life style,

industrial processes, altered microbiome, and immune sta-

tus. Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum, Dean, Faculty of Chemical and

Biological Sciences, Islamia University Bahawalpur said

that this field of study is very important, as microbes are

the enemies of the human being. She emphasized that we

all need to collaborate and work together to fight infectious

diseases. She appreciated the health capacity building initi-

atives of COMSTECH and the seminar where people from

the field will be able to learn and network to collaborate to

combat diseases. The Coordinator General COMSTECH,

Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed and thanked the

participants of the seminar. He said the infectious diseases

are the major threat to the human well-being. He lamented

that we spend a lot on other areas of research like technol-

ogy but we are unconscious of the major killer of human

being since its inception.

waning, therefore steps to on sectors that do not pay taxes, government should get rid of failed companies, improve the system of subsidies and refunds, increase exports and decrease imports, and forgive existing

taxpavers. The business leader observed that new departments are being created with a rapid pace, which is a joke with the country's resources and the poor people. He noted that there are dozens of departments that have no work, while many different departments have been given the same responsibilities, which is like playing with the country's resources, so central and governments provincial

should reduce their size. **World Food** Int'l seminar on **Safety Day to** be marked

on Jun 7

ISLAMABAD: World Food Safety Day will be marked on June 7 (Wednesday) across the globe including Pakistan to impart awareness on the importance of food standards. Foodborne diseases affect one in 10 people worldwide each year, and food standards help us to ensure what we eat is safe. World Food Safety Day (WFSD) celebrates its fifth edition in 2023. Every year, 600 million people fall ill due to the 200 different types of illnesses that can be transmitted by food. Young people and populations with limited resources are among the most affected. Food-borne illnesses cause 420,000 preventable deaths every year. This celebration is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of prevention, detection, and management of risks through food safety practices, promoting debates, solutions, and ways to improve human health, trade. agriculture, and sustainable development.-APP

that if the drama continued

instead of real reforms.

the country will become

bankrupt, the value of

the rupee will fall fur-

ther, inflation will hit

the country, the banking

system will collapse, the

demand for dollars will

increase and the share

of undocumented econ-

omy will increase. Many

countries have achieved

the goal of self-reliance

in a few years, with less

resources than Pakistan,

because in these coun-

tries, distribution of re-

sources and awarding

of influential people in

the name of reforms was

stopped for the sake of

national development.

**DNA** COMSATS had cancelled than required.

# student to complete degree

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed COMSATS University to provide its student with a chance to complete their education as his future was at stake after the institution cancelled their admission. The university cancelled the admission after the student had already completed 7 out of 8 semesters of his degree, a President House press release said on Monday.

Hammad bin Zain's admission after 3.5 years on the ground that he was not eligible for admission to the university in 2017 as he had obtained fewer marks

The president said that it was surprising that the administration of the university could make such a huge error by granting him admission and then informng him, after a lapse of 3.5 years, that he was not eligible for admission.

President directs

COMSATS varsity to allow

He noted that the student paid his requisite fees for 8 semesters and diligently completed the semester course. He added that justice demanded that COMSATS should rectify the situation by allowing the student to complete his degree program. President Alvi gave these orders while accepting a representation filed by Hammad bin Zain (the complainant) against the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM). The complainant had filed

a complaint against COM-SATS before Mohtasib, stating that it was the responsibility of the University to check the eligibility criteria and that he should have been denied admission in 2017, if he did not meet the requirements. The Mohtasib, in its decision, did not provide any relief to the complainant and only ordered

COMSATS to conduct an inquiry into the whole situation and hold the guilty officers/officials responsible for their negligence. The president rejected Wafaqi Mohtasib's decision by observing that the student was studying in the BS (Business Administration) program and had already completed 3.5 years of his degree program. He said that since there was no allegation of misrepresentation against him, the student should not be made to suffer for the negligence committed by the university's administration. He noted that the stu-

dent's time, money and efforts would be wasted due to the cancellation of his admission. The president accepted the student's representation and directed COMSATS to restore Hammad bin Zain's admission and report compliance to the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

#### **Govt plans** to upgrade major airports

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that the PML-N-led government had planned to upgrade the country's major airports with the addition of modern facilities for passengers to bring the airports at par with international standards.

Talking to a private news channel on Monday, the minister said, "We will provide maximum basic facilities to passengers in airports and railway stations and generate more revenue for the department aiming to drive it to self-sufficiency." Apart from this, the government was also planning to upgrade security checks at railway stations, he added. Rafique said the government was taking several steps to improve the performance of airport authority and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) services and would provide maximum facilities to the passengers.-APP

### IRSA releases 160,000

cusecs water ISLAMABAD: The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 160,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 181,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1426.15 feet and was 28.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 58,700 cusecs and 57,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla was 1132.90 feet, 82.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 55,500 cusecs and 35,400 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 74,800, 80,900, 62,300 and 21,600 cusecs respectively. –APP

### 4,242 officers, officials of SEPCO penalized

ISLAMABAD: A total of 4,242 officers and employees of Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) were fined for their poor performance in the last five years. Official sources told APP here that out of the total, 299 were officers while 3,943 were officials from (PBS 1-16). Some 331 maior and 3.911 penalties were imposed on these officers and officials of the company during the said period, they said. They said losses of the company also remained above 30 percent during the last five years. Given the breakup, they said the company losses were recorded as 32.3 per cent in 2022-23, 35.6 per cent in 2021-22, 35.3 per cent in 2020-21, 36.3 in 2019-20 and 37 per cent in 2018-19. **–APP** 

#### Call to include climate change as subject in curriculum

ISLAMABAD, Jun 5 (APP):-Expert on Monday stressed environmental laws on a provincial level and demanded relevant authority to introduce the subject of climate change in the educational curriculum, with an aim to aware the younger generation about the harmful effects of plastic use and to protect the environment in future. Senior Researcher at NIMA Dr Kanwar Muhammad Javed Igbal on 'World Environment Day talking to a Private news channel said that the ministry should take the provinces into confidence and convince them to introduce climate change as a subject from the school to university level. He said, "The best way to equip the young generation to combat the looming danger is to educate and aware them of the negative impacts of climate change." He further explained, "Education is an important element to reduce the usage of plastic bags.—APP

Tuesday, June 06 , 2023

### **Briefs**

### Inflation pushing millions below the poverty line

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday that merciless inflation has broken the backs of the people and pushed millions of people below the poverty line. People in rural areas are more affected by the inflation than people in urban areas, which is unfortunate, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that now that inflation is fully embedded in the system, it will continue to damage the masses with full force in the next financial year to increase public anxiety. In a statement issued here today, he said that according to the data released by the government, inflation has reached 38 percent in the month of May, which is the highest level in the history of the country and in South Asia. Inflation is increasing, but there has been no increase in the wages of the workers. nor has there been a significant increase in the salaries of public and private employees, he added. The business leader said that people are being affected by inflation and that it has become difficult for them to make ends meet. While the politicians, aristocrats, industrialists, landlords, and bureaucracy do not care about it. To reduce inflation, it is necessary to improve the price mechanism, deal with hoarders and profiteers according to the law, and import cheap food items from neighbouring countries, he demanded.

#### Drop in political temperature beneficial to economy

ISLAMABA: Dr. Hanif Mughal, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Mon day that the political temperature is decreasing in the country, which is a good sign for the struggling economy. Masses are getting satisfied as inflation is receding, economic indicators are slowly improving, and things are coming back to normal, he said. Dr. Hanif Mughal said in a statement issued here today that economic development will accelerate if appropriate measures are taken in the budget which will give relief to the people. He said that the previous government not only took record loans in the history of the country, but also set new records of mismanagement. Pakistan's economy which was 22nd in the world was pushed down to 47th number and now their frustrated leaders are claiming that the country will be bankrupted any time soon. The former government destroyed the economy, leading to closure of thousands of businesses and millions losing their jobs.-DNA

#### Railways earn Rs. over 5 million from saloons

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs. 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years (2020-22).

"At present Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details of the saloons, he said that two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways and another senior official in the Ministry.

The official said only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one saloon each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and the provincial governments.-APP



ISLAMABAD: Students of the international Islamic University Schools, I-8 Campus, Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.—DNA

### **HEC** announces Helmut-Schmidtscholarships for Pak students

DAAD scholarship holders are exempt from paying tuition fees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Helmut-Schmidt-Programme Master's Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance 2024, to contribute to promoting good governance and civil society structures in developing and emerging countries. According to HEC, the Programme offers future leaders

master's courses in disciplines that are of special relevance for social, political, and economic development, prepares them in a practice-oriented course for re-

sponsible positions in or for their home regions and contributes to establishing economic and social institutions that are democratically oriented and designed to overcome social inequalities.

The graduates from developing and emerging countries (bachelor or equivalent) with a well-qualified first university degree and above-average grades (upper third) in Social and Political Sciences, Law, Economics, Public Policy and Administration, willing to actively contribute to the social, political and economic development of their home countries/ regions, who have already gained practical experience relevant for the programme (professional experience, internships, political/ social commitment). Academic education in one of the

master's courses, listed below and selected by the DAAD, will take place from September/October 2024.

DAAD scholarship holders are exempt from paying tuition fees. The scholarship holders will receive scholarships (of currently 934 per month) for master's courses at German higher education institutions, health insurance coverage in Germany, appropriate travel allowances for travel between

Germany and the respective developing and emerging countries, a study and research grant, rent subsidies and family supplements, as applicable, preceding German language course in Germany, lasting up to 6 months; participation is mandatory. The application period for all seven higher education institutions is from 1 June until 31 July 2023. The DAAD Helmut-Schmidt-Programme (known as Public Policy and Good Governance) supports future leaders from developing countries (see list of countries), who want to promote democracy

and social justice in their home

countries. The programme, which is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, offers the chance to acquire a Master's degree in Master programmes of particular relevance for the social, political and economic development in the students' countries of origin. In the light of the principles of Good Governance, highly qualified graduates with a first academic degree are being educated in political science, law, economics and administration and prepared for future leading positions

# ANF seizes over 135 kg drugs in eight operations RAWALPIND: ANF while In another operation near were recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near Lahore while in another operation recovered from a parcel lage near lage ne

conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 135 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in an operation conducted near Bahria Town Phase-4, over intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Rawalpindi.

Hangu Bypass, Kohat, 14.4 kg charras was recovered. In the third operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, 1256 grams of Ice drug and 6.5 kg of suspected material were recovered from the possession of a Saudia-bound passenger, resident of Mardan, going on flight no GF-751. In the fourth operation conducted by ANF and Customs Department, 270 grams of charras

booked for Bangkok at the GPO office, in Karachi.

He informed that in the fifth operation at Faisalabad International Airport, 390 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of a Dubai-bound passenger, a resident of Pakpattan, going on flight no FZ-392. ANF recovered 1020 grams of Ice drug from the possession of an accused resident of Lahore, arrested from 'Padhana' vil-

other operation 922 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for London at a private courier office in Lahore. In the eighth operation conducted near the 'Kuchlak' Bypass, Quetta, 90 kg charras and 20 kg heroin was recovered from a deserted area. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.-APP

#### China helps Pak to develop dairy industry

ISLAMABAD, Jun. 5 (): China is extending cooperation to Pakistan to develop its dairy industry through production of high milk-yielding cows, the Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR) said. The goal of the cooperation is to improve genetic variations of cows being used in Pakistan for dairy farming. This can be achieved by breeding elite animals with high yields and long lives, and with better embryos, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

### Imran Abbas sings praises for female co-stars

ISLAMABAD: Imran Abbas, a name that resonates with talent and charm, has been making waves in showbiz and needless to say, the heartthrob has managed to garner ample praise for himself. Recently, the 'Amanat' sensation has ap-

plauded Lollywood's top-notch actresses via a heartwarming Insta note. While sharing the captivating photos with showbiz beauties, the heartthrob penned "Be it Mahnoor Baloch in 'Noor Bano' and 'Pal mein Ishq', Sanam Jung in 'Dil-e-Muzter'" and 'Alvida' or Neelum Muneer in 'Ehram-e-Junoon', I am blessed to work with these immensely talented, extremely gorgeous and amazing leading ladies and each one of them possesses a very special place in my heart."

"Most profound love to each one these girls for adding so much to my memories and life," Abbas wrote while showering the starlets with immense love and adoration. Furthermore, Abbas shared an enchanting photo with Jung along with the caption, "An unconditional friendship, truly best friends forever in every true sense of the world."

To which, Jung responded with immense gratitude. Taking a trip down memory lane, the 'Pyari Mona' starlet wrote: "Imran, known you for 10 years now but we connected the day we met on the sets on Dil-e-Muzter. A pure heart, respectful and a generous soul, can't thank you enough for always being a call away.'

"You're a gem. Keep shining, lots of love," Jung concluded the lengthy comment followed by a heart emoticon. On the professional front, Abbas gears

up for the highly-anticipated drama serial 'Tumharey Husn Kay Naam' alongside the epitome of talent, Saba Qamar.—APP

**DNA** 

### Pak to bring more products to Chinese market

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese governments are making joint efforts to bring more Pakistani seafood and agro products through the Karakoram Highway (KKH) to the Chinese market. This was stated by Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque in a statement issued here while commenting on Pakistan's first-ever land containerised seafood cargo, which has successfully arrived in Xinjiang through Karakoram Highway, according to Gwadar Pro on Monday.

'We are working together to bring more Pakistani



seafood and agro products through this land route to the Chinese market," he said. As the world's second-largest consumer market, China is keen on importing more quality Pakistani products, Ambassador Haque added. Ambassador stressed that facilitating

trade and exports of Pakistan's quality products through the Khunjerab border is Pakistan and China's shared objective. Last week, a truck carrying cold chain containers from Pakistan reached Kashgar in Northeast China's Xinjiang **Uygur Autonomous Region** via a cross-border land

from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to a representative from the Pakistani transport company, it was the first attempt at a bilateral cross-border road transport business in partnership with a Chinese firm. "The cost and price of cold chain transport of the route is under assessment. Our Chinese partners are also exploring more opportunities to import more commodities from Pakistan," he added.

route. This is the first time

that seafood containers

### Policy of withholding refunds should be abolished

in their home countries.

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Monday that a fifty percent increase in gas prices will affect the masses, production, and exports.

The decision will increase poverty in the country, which is already facing unprecedented price hikes taking a toll on the masses, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a statement issued here today that an upward revision in the gas tariff will burden the people with hundreds of billions of rupees, therefore the decision should be withdrawn. The decision will help state-run gas companies get additional funds of 226 billion rupees amid mounting losses. OGRA's decision will provide SNGPL with additional funds of about Rs121 billion during the next financial year. SSGCL will get additional funds of Rs105 billion, which is not justified. He said that domestic production is continuously falling, the production of major industries has decreased to an alarming level.-DNA

### Researchers to preserve remains of Dead Blue Whale

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) will preserve the specimen of recently discovered 36-feet long dead Blue Whale from Balochistan, for public awareness and research. According to the PMNH,

the 36-feet long lifeless

Blue Whale body reached

to shore on coast of Jiwani, Gwadar, Balochistan on last Friday. The concerned authorities identified it as a blue whale, one of the three whale species found in Pakistan's waters, alongside Bryde's whale and Arabian humpback whale. Director General, Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Mujeeb Ur Rehman Qambrani pronounced to preserve dead specimen of Blue Whale for public awareness and research. On the request of GDA, a team of PMNH zoologists comprising on Muhammad Asif Khan, Dr. Muhammad Abbas, Dr. Shabbir Ali Aamir and Dr. Rifaqat Masroor reached onsite to inspect the dead specimen of Blue Whale to preserve its remains and skeleton. Director, Administration, GDA, Zahid Ahmed Lango and Deputy Director Administration, Abdul Rahim Baloch also accompanied the PMNH team to facilitate them in preserving dead Blue Whale remains and skeleton for the purpose of public awareness and scientific research.—APP

#### UBG demands business friendly budget

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) on Monday demanded a business-friendly, export-oriented and pro-poor people budget to gear up trade activities, besides restoring the confidence of investors with a basket of lucrative incentives to attract foreign invest-

Chairing a meeting of industrialists and traders, Chairman UBG Shahzad Ali Malik said that the government was considering their all proposals at all levels and discussing in detail about their incorporation in the coming annual federal budget, said a press release. He said the Prime Minister's office had sent UBG proposals to ministries of finance, commerce, FBR and other relevant departments, which he added are now in the final stage of approval by the competent authority.—APP





# Critical to de-risk with deeds

ccording to a statement issued by the US State Department, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel J. Kritenbrink is on a visit to China starting Sunday. It is rare for the Chinese Foreign Ministry not to disclose any information about a senior US diplomat's visit to China. The trip, if it is indeed happening, will make Kritenbrink the most senior US diplomat to visit China since Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman visited the country in July 2021. On Jan 17, Beijing clearly expressed its welcome to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who was due to visit China on Feb 5-6, as agreed by the two countries' leaders during their meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in November. The visit was unilaterally called off by the US side because of the so-called Chinese spy balloon incident. The nonchalance the Chinese side has displayed to the visit this time is a telling sign that Beijing has become more pragmatic toward bilateral interactions.

Kritenbrink is accompanied by the senior national security official for the Chinese mainland and Taiwan island affairs, Sarah Beran.

With Washington's proposal that the defense ministers of the two countries meet on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on the past weekend given a cold shoulder by Beijing, the visit by Kritenbrink and Beran may prove to be one of the last chances for the two sides to try and find some space in which to maneuver in order to find a diplomatic solution to arrest the deterioration in bilateral relationship. The whole world knows that it is the US that is resorting to military suppression, trade bullying, diplomatic deception, economic coercion, geopolitical isolation, ideological stigmatization and strategic containment to hinder the development of another country. About two and a half years after the Joe Biden administration took office, its China policy has been given three descriptors: competition (with guardrails), decoupling and competition(in a rules-based order) and so-called de-risking (in the face of national security threats). The cross-the-board tensions between China and the US have escalated dramatically in recent months since Washington allowed the meteorological research airship to balloon into such a sensationalized threat to the US. Washington should save itself the trouble of trying to invent any new concept or discourse to camouflage the nature of its China policy. Beijing now only cares about what Washington does rather than what it says.



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# China-Russia cooperation

n the afternoon of May 24, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin, who was on an official visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Mishustin also held talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on the same day. China and Russia signed a series of bilateral agreements on service trade cooperation, sports, patents, and Russian millet exports to China, which shows significant results of Mishustin's first visit to China since taking office as Russian Prime Minister. The increase in quality of China-Russia economic and trade cooperation, coupled with a full tank of oil, will drive them toward a farther and broader future. The size and level of the Russian team and the number of entrepreneurs accompanying Mishustin is rare in recent years. The visit mainly aimed at implementing cooperation projects and further expanding economic cooperation. In March this year, President Xi made a successful state visit to Russia and outlined the blueprint for the development of China-Russia relations and cooperation in various fields with President Vladimir Putin.

This is the essence of the new type of major-country relationship, and we strongly suggest that Washington take it seriously. Because Washington's narrow-mindedness cannot accommodate China or Russia, making even the vast Pacific Ocean seem cramped. Western media, whose minds are filled with confrontation, become nervous at the sight of normal cooperation between China and Russia. They either advocate for China and Russia to "join forces to resist the West" or stir up the old tune of "Russia is dependent on China" to provoke China-Russia relations. Is it possible for the US to contain and suppress China, isolate Russia in all respects, and try to isolate China and Russia from each other as well? The root of this divided attitude in the US lies in its uncontrollable hegemonic impulses and the fear of the so-called "China-Russia alliance," which is considered the US' greatest geopolitical nightmare. These two factors create an internal conflict and psychological strain that the US cannot resolve. The tense atmosphere over the Asia-Pacific region is essentially an external manifestation of Washington's geopolitical anxieties. Discussing global affairs in front of the world map in their offices, armchair strategists in Washington can only perceive threats and adversaries. Through their meddling, they bring about a self-fulfilling prophecy, pushing countries that could have been potential partners to the opposite side of the US and creating the most severe strategic risks of the era. Through practical actions, China and Russia continue to enrich the content of their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era, outlining a clearer profile of a new type of international relationship, which not only provides the world with more impetus for development but also serves as a valuable benchmark and model. The resilience of China-Russia cooperation against interference has significantly strengthened, and the noise generated by the US and Western countries serves as a reverse motivation for us to continue moving forward. Just as the famous Tang Dynasty poem quoted by Mishustin during his visit to China goes, "You will enjoy a grander sight, if you climb to a greater height."

# Gulf support for Turkey's Erdogan is about more than economics

**James Dorsey** 

Counterintuitively, Mr. Erdogan likely benefitted not only from skills that best come to the fore when he is in a political fight but also from his religiosity, religious lacing of politics, and promotion of greater freedom for public expressions of piety in a country that long sought to restrict them to the private sphere. Conservative religious women were one major constituency that benefitted economically and socially from Mr. Erdogan's rollback of Kemalist restrictions that barred women from wearing headscarves in government offices and universities. "Erdogan is loved that much because he changed people's lives," said Ozlem Zengin, a female member

hen jailed Turkish politician Selahattin Demirtas apologized for his pro-Kurdish party's poor performance in recent Turkish elections, he did more than take responsibility. Mr. Demirtas implicitly questioned the notion that Turks vote primarily along ideological and identity lines rather than based on assessing which party will best further their economic and social interests. However, the reality is that all the above shape how Turks vote. Mr. Demirtas' Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), running under another party banner due to a potential ban over alleged militant ties, won 8.79 percent in last month's parliamentary election compared to 11.7 per cent in 2018. Even so, it remains the third-largest party in parliament. At first glance, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's economic performance suggested that Turks would choose change. Inflation hovers around 44 per cent; the Turkish lira has lost 90 per cent of its value over the last decade and hit a new low a day after Mr. Erdogan's electoral victory. In addition, many blame corruption and a failure to enforce building standards for the degree of devastation caused by earthquakes in February in eastern Turkey, parts of which are predominantly Kurdish. Stunning as those statistics and allegations may be, they tell only part of the story.

Counterintuitively, Mr. Erdogan likely benefitted not only from skills that best come to the fore when he is in a political fight but also from his religiosity, religious lacing of politics, and promotion of greater freedom for public expressions of piety in a country that long sought to restrict them to the private sphere. Conservative religious women were one major constituency that benefitted economically and socially from Mr. Erdogan's rollback of Kemalist restrictions that barred women from wearing headscarves in government offices and universities. "Erdogan is loved that much because he changed people's lives," said Ozlem Zengin, a female member of parliament for the president's Justice and Development Party (AKP). Similarly, religion may have been one reason voters in earthquake-hit areas favoured the AKP above Mr. Demirtas' HDP.

Economist Jeanet Sinding Bentzen notes that "individuals become more religious if an earthquake recently hit close by. Even though the effect decreases after a while, data on children of immigrants reveal a persistent effect across generations." Economics in mind, some voters questioned whether opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu with his vow to reintegrate Turkey into the Western fold, would have been able to secure badly needed support from Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. After years of strained relations, Saudi and Emirati support for Mr. Erdogan was displayed within days of the Turkish leader's electoral success. The UAE ratified a fiveyear, US\$40 billion trade deal with Turkey three days after the vote. 'This deal marks a new era of cooperation in our long-standing friendship," said UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani al-Zeyoudi. Meanwhile, Saudi Aramco, the kingdom's national oil company, met in Ankara with some 80 Turkish contractors this week to discuss US\$50 billion worth of potential projects.

"Aramco wants to see as many Turkish contractors as possible in its projects. They are planning refinery, pipeline, management buildings, and other infrastructure construction that will be worth \$50 billion in investment," said Erdal Eren, head of the Turkish Contractors Association. In a bow to foreign investors, including Gulf states that increasingly tie aid to recipients' economic reform policies, Mr. Erdogan on Saturday named Mehmet Simsek, a widely respected former banker and deputy prime minister and finance minister, as his new treasury and finance minister. Foreign investors and analysts saw the appointment of Mr. Simsek, an advocate of conventional economic policies, as a sign that Mr. Erdogan may shift away from his unorthodox refusal to raise interest rates that fueled inflation and an exodus of foreign money.

In addition to stabilizing the economy, Mr. Erdogan faces challenges funding reconstruction in earthquake-hit areas as well as northern Syria as part of an effort to facilitate the return of refugees. With 3.7 million registered refugees, Turkey is home to the largest Syrian exile community. Anti-migrant sentiment and pledges to return refugees were important in last month's election campaigns. Refugee return is also part of the Gulf states' renewed engagement with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. In a twist of irony, Gulf support for Mr. Erdogan, despite his Islamist leanings, may be driven as much by economics as geopolitics. At a time when the UAE and Saudi Arabia adopt positions at odds with the policies of the United States, the region's security guarantor, they may see Mr. Erdogan as an increasingly important partner irrespective of whether the Gulf states' moves constitute a genuine policy shift or merely a pressure tactic to persuade the US to be more attentive to their concerns. Like the two Gulf states, Mr. Erdogan, despite Turkey's NATO membership, has pursued an independent foreign policy involving close ties to Russia and a military intervention in Syria that impacts Gulf efforts to drive a wedge between Syria and Iran. In its latest charting of an independent course, the UAE said it was pulling out of a US-led maritime security force, the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). Led by a US admiral. the CMF groups 38 countries, including Saudi Arabia, in a bid to halt Iranian attacks on commercial ships, weapons smuggling, and piracy. The UAE said its withdrawal was part of an assessment of "effective security cooperation" in the Middle East. However, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and his Emirati counterpart, Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, did not mention a UAE withdrawal in a joint statement on Friday after talks in Washington. "Sheikh Tahnoon praised the United States' strong security and defense partnership with the UAE. Mr. Sullivan confirmed the US commitment to deterring threats against the UAE and other US partners while also working diplomatically to de-escalate conflicts and reduce tensions in the region," the statement said. Moreover, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken will meet in Saudi Arabia this week with his Gulf Cooperation Council counterparts, including the UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan.

At the same time, various Iranian and other media quoted a

Qatari news website, Al Jadid, saying that China was facilitating talks between the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Iran to create a joint naval force to enhance maritime security in the Gulf. The report did not clarify whether China would play an active role in the force or whether participation would be limited to Middle Eastern states. Iranian naval commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani discussed plans for a joint maritime force on local television but did not mention Chinese involvement. In a first response, CMS and US Fifth Fleet spokesman Commander Tim Hawkins dismissed the notion of maritime forces that includes Iran. ""It defies reason that Iran, the number one cause of regional instability, claims it wants to form a naval security alliance to protect the very waters it threatens, Mr. Hawkins said. Nevertheless, the force, if created, could cast a different light on Emirati and Saudi efforts to boost Mr. Erdogan. Taken together, the UAE's alleged withdrawal from the US-led CMF, the creation of a China-associated alternative force, and support for Mr. Erdogan would signal a Gulf willingness to take greater responsibility for the region's security. It would also indicate a qualitative change in Chinese engagement in the Middle East following the China-mediated agreement in March between Saudi Arabia and Iran that restored diplomatic relations. Turkey has been conspicuously absent in discussions about Gulf security even though it is a regional powerhouse with a battle-hardened military, an expanding homegrown defence industry, and regional ambitions. The UAE and Saudi Arabia account for 40 per cent of Turkish arms exports. Turkey first proposed establishing a military base in Saudi Arabia in 2015, two years before the kingdom and the UAE initiated a 3.5-year-long diplomatic and economic boycott of Qatar that was lifted in 2021. The Gulf states demanded, among others, that Qatar halt military cooperation with Turkey and shut down a Turkish military base populated by Turkish forces at the beginning of the boycott. "If the current trend of US detachment from the region continues, and Turkey's rising regional posture keeps moving in a forward direction, Ankara may have an opportunity to fortify its position in the Gulf," said Middle East scholar Ali Bakir. Thank you for joining me today. I hope you enjoyed today's column and podcast. Twice-weekly, my syndicated column and podcast offers an acclaimed, fresh, and independent perspective on the geopolitics as well as the politics of religion and sports in the Middle East, Eurasia, and beyond. For the past 12 years, I have maintained free distribution as a way of maximizing impact. I am determined to keep it that way. However, to do so I need the support of a core of voluntary paid subscribers to cover the cost of producing the column and podcast. If you believe that the column and podcast add value to your understanding and that of the broader public, please consider becoming a paid subscriber. You can do so by clicking on Substack on the subscription button at www.jamesmdorsey.substack.com and choosing one of the subscription options or support me on Patreon at www.patreon.com/mideastsoccer. Please join me for my next column and podcast in the coming days. Thank you, take care and best wishes.

### A tale of two economies

### Qamar Bashir

n their most recent publications, the IMF, Asian Development Bank and World Bank separately assessed the worth and outlooks of world economies, including Pakistan and India. These assessments present a diametrically opposed picture of the two South Asian giants. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated in its report released on May 11, 2023, while commenting on Pakistan's economic outlook, that its team was very heavily engaged with Pakistani authorities, as Pakistan is facing a very challenging situation, the economy is experiencing stagflation, and it has very large financing needs. It has been hit by a series of shocks, including particularly catastrophic floods, demanding significant additional funds to support policy measures that are stalled due to the failure to sign the IMF's ninth assessment. It also stated that the economy is experiencing domestic and external imbalances, necessitating fiscal strengthening through permanent revenue measures and reductions in untargeted subsidies. scaling up social protection to assist the most vulnerable and flood victims, allowing the exchange rate to be market determined to gradually eliminate the foreign exchange shortage, and improving energy provision by preventing further accumulation of circular debt. The same study concluded that "India is a bright spot, both for the global economy and, of course, for Asia." India is rapidly expanding, and the IMF sees it as a crucial player in the region and a necessary support for the global economy." "In terms of digital currency in India, the country is making rapid progress in developing a digital public infrastructure, which has improved financial inclusion, social inclusion, and has also aided in the delivery of healthcare services." The IMF encourages non-performing economies to learn from India in order to improve their economy. This Indian success story did not take millennia, but only fifteen years. India's actual per-capita income was just under \$600 when it launched economic reform in 1991. This figure has more than tripled. Over the last 15 years, an estimated 400 million people in India have been lifted out of poverty, representing one of the world's fastest rates of poverty alleviation. In 1991, the country was one of the world's top assistance receivers, but it is currently a net donor. It is also the world's third largest economy in terms of

purchasing power parity, contributing about 15% to global growth this year. Furthermore, with its G20 presidency this year, India is taking the global lead. As such, its goal focuses on global public goods and improving international coordination in sectors such as debt, crypto assets, climate change, and digitalization. India accomplished this initially by gaining political stability while also developing democratic institutions, and later by implementing universal banking, adopting international best practices in regulation and supervision, and establishing the National Stock Exchange. It also offered electronic trading, allowing larger enterprises to get access to market-based finance by utilizing both bond and equity markets. India has also pleased the international community by encouraging financial inclusion via its public digital infrastructure, with local firms using cellphones to execute the majority of financial transactions, resulting in better public finance management efficiency. The digital payment method enhanced general sales tax revenue collection while cutting enterprise tax compliance costs. This also helped the government send 37 billion dollars in social payments to people's bank accounts between 2020 and 2021, bypassing

expensive intermediaries and reducing leakages. Asian Development Bank in its evaluation report issued on 4th April 2023 said that Pakistan's economic growth is expected to slow significantly in FY2023 due to last year's devastating floods, ballooning inflation, a current account deficit, and an ongoing foreign exchange crisis. It said that Pakistan GDP growth is projected to slow to 0.6% in FY2023 from 6% last fiscal year as it is struggling to recover, but may rise to 2% in FY2024, provided the resumption of macroeconomic stability, implementation of reforms, post-flood recovery, and improving external conditions. The report added that the country is experiencing decelerated industrial growth resulting from fiscal and monetary tightening, a significant depreciation of the local currency and higher domestic oil and electricity prices. Average inflation rate is projected to more than double from 12.2% in FY2022 to 27.5% this fiscal year due to higher domestic energy prices, a weaker currency, flood-related disruptions to supply, and restraint on imports caused by the balance of payment crisis. The same report while commenting upon India said that despite the global slowdown, India's economic growth rate is stronger than in many peer economies and reflects relatively robust domestic consumption and lesser dependence on global demand. It added the Government of India's strong infrastructure push under the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti (National Master Plan for Multimodal Connectivity) initiative, logistics development, and industrial corridor development has contributed significantly to raising industrial

competitiveness and boosting future growth." In a statement issued on April 4, 2023, the World Bank stated that Pakistan's economy is expected to grow by only 0.4 percent in the current fiscal year ending June 2023, citing subdued private sector activity, deteriorating investors confidence, import controls, belated fiscal tightening, and the effects of the unprecedented floods of summer 2022. It stated that due to intrinsic economic vulnerabilities and consequent political uncertainty, Pakistan's economy was unable to absorb shocks caused by disastrous floods, which increased global commodity prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The bank also identified inconsistencies in policy responses, such as monetary tightening, new subsidies, and an informal exchange rate cap, as well as depletion of foreign exchange reserves, which was exacerbated by macro risks, tighter global liquidity conditions and a lack of access to international capital markets. According to the report, Pakistan faces rising debt, limited financial inflows, and record inflation. Private sector inactivity has drastically weakened consumer and investor confidence, and disruptions induced by administrative import limitations have caused the lower middle-income poverty rate to rise to 37.2 percent in FY23. Same report while commenting on the Economic outlook of India said that although significant challenges remain in the global environment, India was one of the fastest growing economies in the world and "Notwithstanding external pressures, India's service exports have continued to increase, and the current-account deficit is narrowing." The inflation remained at 5.2 percent in FY23/24, India's financial sector also remains strong, buoyed by improvements in asset quality and robust private-sector credit growth. The debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to stabilize, current account deficit is projected to narrow on the back of robust service exports and a narrowing merchandise trade deficit. The overall growth remains robust and is estimated to be 6.9 percent for the full year with real GDP growing 7.7 percent year-on-year during the first three quarters of fiscal

These reports, has asked the failing economies to benchmark India's best economic policies and have specifically

asked Pakistan to introduce fundamental economic reforms to unlock fresh financing, avoid a balance of payments crisis and lay the foundation for a recovery of private investor confidence and higher growth over the medium term". These reports have also cautioned Pakistani leadership to take IMF proposals seriously as the progress with the IMF-EFF program depends heavily on securing new official external financing as ongoing delays will contribute to a further deterioration of the investors confidence. It also advised Pakistan to maintain overall sound macroeconomic management, including a flexible exchange rate, controlling inflation through adoption of an appropriate monetary policy stance; increase revenues, rationalize expenditure (including reducing untargeted energy subsidies); and implement trade and private sector reforms to support improvements in investment, competitiveness, and productivity.

These findings are not novel or out of the box, neither are the solutions proposed by international financial institutions new or novel. These recommended policies are off-the-shelf solutions that are pushed and forced down the throats of all non-performing economies as a penalty for pursuing vested interests, spiteful and vendetta-based politics, and constantly battling fires without instituting long-term changes. These solutions are also pushed down the throats of economies where the focus is on settling personal scores and there is a lack of innovation, creativity, and original ideas, where national assets are looted to accumulate personal wealth, and where there is a lack of ability to settle and resolve the underlying causes of issues that cause political and social unrest. Where corruption is not an issue and institutions are hellbent on destroying one another in order to gain as much power, authority, and nuisance as possible. Where the constitution is shattered and laws are flagrantly violated with total impunity. Where the media is suppressed and civil society is terrified to express itself. Political dissent is punished, and the diversity of beliefs and opinions is effectively suppressed. But, because we are not such a country, we have the right to wonder why our economy is not performing.

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

## World / Sports



### **Briefs**

### **Govt poised** to tackle all challenges

From Page 01 "We have met all conditionalities. I repeat, each and every requirement of the IMF as prior actions has been met," he asserted.

"Some of those actions are usually met after the board's approval, but this time the IMF required that those actions be met before the board's approval, so we have met them," he was quoted by the Turkish news agency as saying.

The prime minister said the people of Pakistan had faced challenges in the past, and it needed, would tighten their belt and rise again. About May 9 vandalism, he said PTI chief Imran Khan faced charges of "serious corruption, malpractice, and wheeling-dealing," stressing that the "law had to deal with this." He (Imran Khan) for a period of time, had been preparing his people mentally, his bunch of thugs as he would call them, to react violently, in case he (IK) was arrested, the prime minister added.

### PM for public...

From Page 01 parties is highly significant in every initiative. He noted with satisfaction how the ruling coalition saved the country from economic and political turmoil through cooperation and beyond their political interests. The meeting was told the National Flood Response Program, which has been delayed for years, is

#### Pak-Iraq resolve...

From Page 01 Bilawal also called on Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani on the first day of his visit and said after the meeting that they "discussed a broad range of issues, including enhancing bilateral trade, convening of joint ministerial commission, rebuilding Iraqi infrastructure, connectivity, zaireen (pilgrims) and enhancing people-to-people and business contacts".

Earlier, Radio Pakistan reported that the two countries had agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties,

The "understanding" between the two countries was reached during a meeting between Bilawal and his Iraqi counterpart, Dr Fuad Hussein, the report said.

### 'Nazi era law of kin...

From Page 01 multiple health issues, saying such acts of violation of the value system of our society will further breed hatred and anger against this

fascist government. In a strong reaction on Monday, PTI Chairman said: "I strongly condemn Mian Azhar's abduction from his

residence in Lahore." Imran Khan said that he was one of the most respected politicians of Punjab, 82 years of age and was struggling with multiple health issues. "It just goes to show that this fascist regime is devoid of any sense of ethics or morality in its mission to crush PTI," he added. PTI Chairman stated that such acts that violate the value system of our society especially the way we respect women and our elders, will further breed hatred and anger against this fascist govt.

### **Asad Qaiser** says he...

From Page 01 addressing a presser in Islamabad along with Qaiser, had announced his decision to quit as the PTI president. However, Qaiser remained silent during the event where Khattak had condemned the May 9 mayhem and said it wasn't possible for him to continue as a PTI office holder, adding that he would announce his future plan later after consulting his friends and party colleagues.

And on Monday, Qaiser said he wasn't in contact with Jahangir Tareen. He was replying to a question about whether Tareen had contact ed him as the influential politician from Lodharan is currently busy in forming a new political party mostly comprising the PTI defectors.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Rising Stars Hockey Club posing for a picture with Chief Guest Muhammad Umer Khan, Sales Manager North, Turkish Airlines, before League match, at Naseer Bundha Hockey Stadium. - DNA

# CDA trying to make sports the identity of Islamabad

The teams of ICCI, CDA, Media anchor and ICT XI participated in the tournament. Senior officials of CDA, Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber Faad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Zafar Bakhtawari participated in the tournament Among others participated

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Captain Noor Ul Amin Mengal has said that we are trying to make sports the identity of Islamabad city.Improving sports facilities in Islamabad is our priority, CDA is working on a mega project to upgrade sports grounds. Providing sports facilities to the youth is indispensable for building a better society. He expressed these views yesterday in his speech as a special guest at the cricket tournament organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The teams of ICCI, CDA, Media anchor and

ICT XI participated in the tournament. The senior officials of CDA. Senior Vice President Islamabad Chamber Faad Waheed, Vice President Engineer Azhar Islam, Zafar Bakhtawari participated in the tournament Among others participated. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CDA said that CDA is taking great steps regarding sports.will provide complete sports facilities in every



sector of Islamabad, working to improve the condition of the existing grounds. He said that CDA is also working for special sports enclaves, jogging tracks have been

made indispensable in all major parks. Islamabad Chamber's interest in the promotion of sports is welcome, I hope the

who was jeered for

refusing

hands

with Sa-

Talking on this occasion, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that sports can be the best alternative for youth in any society. Promoting heels means highlighting positive activities in society. He said that the Islamabad Chamber has a keen interest in the promotion of sports related activities in the city. The Chamber is working on a project to construct a multi-purpose sports ground in Islamabad. Which will not only benefit the chamber members but other citizens will also be able to benefit, he said that there is a need to work for the promotion of sports in educational institutions.

Better talent will emerge only if sports are promoted at the grassroots.He said that Chairman CDA's interest in promoting sports is welcome. If other

#### institutions also cooperate in this regard, the situation can improve. All institutions need to work together to take Chamber and CDA will work together for Islamabad forward in sports. 'Modric, Lloris among

**Saudi targets'** 

RIYADH: Luka Modric and Hugo Lloris feature on a list of "more than 10" top-level Saudi Arabian football transfer targets headed by Lionel Messi and Karim Benzema, a source close to the negotiations has told AFP. Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba, Sergio Busquets, N'Golo Kante, Angel Di Maria and Roberto Firmino are also among the seasoned World Cup and Champions League winners being lined up for the Saudi Pro League, the source said. The latest information comes as Saudi officials are in Paris and Madrid to try to wrap up deals with Messi and Benzema respectively, according to sources and reports, that would allow them to join Cristiano Ronaldo in the oil-rich kingdom. Saudi authorities are "in contact with more than 10 players, many of them won the World cup or the Champions League, to join the Saudi league next season", the source close to the negotiations said.

In addition to Messi, "the list includes Benzema, Ramos, Di Maria, Modric, Hugo Loris, Kante, Firmino, Alba and Busquets". "Beside receiving quite lucrative offers they will play in a very competitive league," the source said, adding that the Saudis aimed to "seal most of the deals" before the new season starts on August 11. Separately, a Saudi government official told AFP that the authorities are holding negotiations with "world-class players". "The objective is to establish a very strong and competitive league and elevate the Saudi clubs' levels," the official said. - Agencies

### Juve fail to qualify for Europa LONDON: Juventus beat Udinese 1-0 thanks to Feder-

ico Chiesa's second-half goal in their last match of the Serie A season on Sunday but failed to secure a Europa League spot for next term. Juve's hopes of a place in UEFA's second-tier competition were dashed as AS Roma won 2-1 versus relegation-battling Spezia and Atalanta beat Monza 5-2 to take the Europa League places. Roma's Paulo Dybala netted a penalty in the 89th minute to secure the points for Jose Mourinho's side who put aside the disappointment of Wednesday's Europa League final defeat. Juventus came seventh with 62 points and qualified for the Conference League, while Atalanta (64) and Roma (63) ended the campaign in fifth and sixth place respectively. - Agencies

### 'No respect for those...

From Page 01

who burnt graves of martyrs, adding that the arsonist did not belong to the country. "Anyone who vandalised martyrs' scriptures could not be a Pakistani,' she added. She added that the nation will not forgive the May 9 rioters and people who are hiding as they hurt the feelings of martyrs' families. "The nation will not forgive those who meted out ill treatment to the martyrs," she remarked.

The PML-N chief organizer lambasted PTI saying that those who came to power in 2018 through rigging are now leaving them and those who wanted to divide PML-N their party is now no more in the politics.

"The party which was imposed by rigging has crumbled today. The person who used to say that he is enough alone is crying while sitting alone," she explained. "The party that attempted to ruin PML-N suprmo Nawaz Sharif's politics was in tatters,' she remarked.

#### Fazl rules out talks...

From Page 01 the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is not an electoral alliance. However, the seat adjustment might be possible at the local level. He said that in the past, despite their differences, they made important collective decisions including bringing a no-confidence motion against then prime minister in 2022.

He said during the previous PTI regime, the TLP, PML-N and PPP launched their long marches against inflation but their supporters didn't break even a vase during their rallies and they never attacked the state in-

stitutions and the GHQ. Talking about the PDM rally outside the Supreme Court building last month, Fazl said that the PDM went to the public against the 'biased' attitude of the judiciary. He lamented that nowhere in the country's history, we could find the precedence of the May 9 incidents.

#### Russia says it thwarts...

From Page 01 Oleksiy Danilov, Secretary of Ukraine's Security and Defence Council, said: "The war continues. Until complete victory." Further north, near the long-contested city of Bakhmut, Ukrainian forces were reported to have been "moving forward" by the commander of Ukraine's ground forces, Oleksandr Syrskyi. An armed forces video showed Russian positions under fire and Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said Ukrainian forces had retaken part of the settlement of Berkhivka, north of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, calling it a "disgrace".

#### Soldier embraces...

From Page 01 determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Earlier, funeral prayers of Lance Naik Mairaj Uddin Shaheed (23 years, resident of D.I Khan) and Naik Zaheer Abbas (38 years, resident of District Khushab) who embraced shahadat in North Waziristan while fighting gallantly with terrorists, were offered at their respective hometowns. The Shaheeds were laid to rest with full military honours. Senior serving & retired officers / soldiers, relatives and a large number of people attended the funerals.

### Iran embassy...

From Page 01 expelled by Saudi authorities, will return under the leadership of Alireza Enayati, who previously served as Iran's ambassador to Kuwait. Tehran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani announced the reopening in a statement Monday, confirming earlier comments by a diplomatic

source in Riyadh. Iran's embassy in Riyadh, its consulate in Jeddah and its representative office to OIC "will be officially reopened on Tuesday and Wednesday", Kanani said. Saudi Arabia has yet to confirm when it will reopen its embassy in Tehran or its pick for ambassador.

### Roland Garros bracing for Svitolina vs Sabalenka clash coming a mother eight months ago,

is the partner of Gael Monfils, one

of the French fans' most belov-

ed player, which makes her.

in her own words, the 'last

French player standing'. The

former world number three

was fully supported by the

fans in her fourth-round win

against Russian Kasatkina,

who was booed at the end of

PARIS: Tension will be at its highest at the French Open on Tuesday when Elina Svitolina faces Arvna Sabalenka in front of a notoriously fickle Roland Garros crowd in the most electrifying sporting clash since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Ukraine's Svitolina has been refusing to shake hands with players from Russia or Belarus. who has been a key staging ground for what Moscow calls a 'special military operation', while Belarusian Sabalenka the form of Svitolina, who will have the full backing of the rau-



mare' Sabalenka, who has skipped two press conferences here saying she felt 'not safe' after being repeatedly quizzed about her personal stance on the war, can expect a hostile reception. The Roland Garros aficionados' reactions can be so unpredictable, however, that it was

balenka after their firstmatch. Whether extra security measures would be taken was not disclosed, with organisers telling Reuters that "for reasons of confidentiality we do not communicate on this matter". In the men's draw, world number one Carlos Alcaraz and two-time French Open champion Novak Djokovic face the last obstacle before much-awaited semi-final encounter. The Spaniard takes on 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas, the fifth seed, having dismantled the hugely-talented Lorenzo Musetti in the previous round, while the Greek has had an easy path into the last eight. Djokovic, gunning for a record-breaking 23rd men's Grand Slam singles title here, will be up against Russian 11th seed Karen Khachanov, who has beaten him only once in nine meetings, in 2018. - Agencies

### Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz into French quarters

swept into the French Open quarter-finals for the 14th straight year on Sunday as world number one Carlos Alcaraz breezed past Lorenzo Musetti to stay on a collision course with the 22time Grand Slam champion. Third seed Djokovic ended the surprise run of Peruvian outsider Juan Pablo Varillas, winning 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, and has yet to drop a set through four matches.

The Serb, chasing a third Roland Garros crown, is into a record 17th French Open quarter-final after making the last eight at a major for the 55th time. "I'm proud of it, but my attention is already in the

next match," said Djokovic,

seed Karen Khachanov for a place in the semi-finals, where Alcaraz could await. "I know what my goal is here. I'm trying to stay mentally the course and of course not look too far. "Obviously the performance of today gives me a great deal of confidence about how I felt, about how I played." Varillas, 27, was the first player from Peru to reach the second week of a Grand Slam since Jaime Yzaga

in the seventh game.

his third successive Grand Slam quarter-final after he recovered from a bad start to overcome Lorenzo Sonego 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (9/7), 6-1. Djokovic holds an 8-1 record against Khachanov, winning their only previous meeting at the French Open in 2020. Alcaraz looked every part the tournament favourite as made the US Open quarhe dismantled the talented ter-finals 29 years ago. Musetti in straight sets to return to the French Open Djokovic raced 4-0 ahead last eight. Musetti had not in the opening set only for Varillas to break in the lost a set in three rounds but Alcaraz brushed the next game and then have a chance to get back on serve Italian 17th seed aside in barely two hours, triumph-

a 5-2 lead it was plain saillast year's defeat on clay in ing for him as he closed out the Hamburg final. victory in just under two hours. Khachanov made 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas, who eased past Austrian qualifier Sebastian Ofner 7-5, 6-3, 6-0.

"I think I played such a great level, really high quality of shots. I played a really complete match from the first ball until the last and I'm pretty happy to get through this tough round," said Alcaraz. The 20-year-old faces a tough next assignment in

"The clash we've been all waiting for," said Tsitsipas, the Greek fifth seed who has lost all four meetings with Alcaraz. "I think everyone was expecting it, weren't they? And it's here. It's

game on." - Agencies





### **Briefs**

### **Turkiye gives** democracy lesson to world

**DNA** 

ANKARA: Speaker of Algeria's Council of the Nation, the upper house of parliament, Salah Goudjil, said Türkiye has given the world a lesson in democ-

participated in the swearing-in ceremony of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday. The Algerian speaker said he attended the swearing-in ceremony "to convey congratulation of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to his brother and friend Erdogan." "Turkiye has given the world a lesson in democracy,'

Goudjil told Anadolu. "We salute the Turkish people on this democratic election and we wish them prosperity and progress,' he said. The speaker said that the Algerian people followed closely the presidential and parliamentary elections in Turkiye. "The Turkish elections were a lesson to the world about democratic practice. It was a lesson to all skeptics," he added. "We rejoiced at the elections and the renewal of confidence in President Erdogan," Goudjil said. "We came here to celebrate the joy of the Turkish president, government, people and media," he added.

Algerian speaker termed relations between Türkiye and Algeria as strong. "Ties between the two countries will progress more in the future," Goudjil said.

#### Sudan's Darfur declared 'disaster zone'

KHARTOUM: The governor of Sudan's western Darfur region has declared the area a "disaster zone" amid killings and looting. "Crimes continue to be committed against residents at a time when we are seeking by all means to protect civilians and combat crime," Minni Arko Minnawi said on his Facebook account. He said locals in the town of Kutum in North Darfur and El-Geneina in West Darfur "are subject to atrocious violations". "We declare Darfur a disaster zone, and we appeal to the world to send humanitarian aid across the border and by all available means to save the people of the region," he added. On Sunday, at least 20 civilians were killed in an attack by gunmen in Kutum town, according to North Darfur Governor Nimir Abdulrahman. The governor did not rule out that the attack was linked to the ongoing clashes in Sudan between the army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group. At least 863 civilians have been killed and thousands injured in clashes between the two military rivals since April 15, according to local medics.-APP

### 34 suspects arrested for drug trafficking

ROME: Thirty-four people accused of drug trafficking have been arrested on Monday in Italy, Germany. Spain and Belgium, as part of an international investi-

Authorities also seized assets, such as buildings and companies, worth 3.8 million (\$4 million), according to Italy's Financial Police Guardia di Finanza. The arrests are the result of a complex investigation launched in 2020, which involved many national law enforcement authorities, including the Guardia di Finanza of Catanzaro, in southern Italy, Frankfurt's police in Germany, Liege's Federal Judicial Police in Belgium as well as Europol and Eurojust, Italian

authorities said. Twenty-five of these arrests were ordered by the Italian prosecutor's office of Catanzaro, while the rest were ordered by the Belgian judicial authorities. The people are accused of being part of a criminal network managing the illegal trafficking in Italy of heroin, cocaine and hashish, Italian authorities said.-APP

# Poland's justice reform infringes law: EU top court

The European Court of Justice ruled on Monday that Poland's 2019 justice reform infringed EU law after the European Commission, the bloc's executive branch, claimed that the Polish Supreme Court lacked the necessary independence and impartiality

#### **DNA**

BRUSSELS: The European Union stepped up its rule-of-law fight with member state Poland on Monday when the bloc's highest court confirmed that Warsaw had refused to comply with EU rules on judicial independence for which it has already lost over half a billion euros in fines.

The European Court of Justice ruled on Monday that Poland's 2019 justice reform infringed EU law after the European Commission, the bloc's executive branch, claimed that the Polish Supreme Court lacked the necessary independence and impartiality.

"By today's judgment, the Court upholds the Commission's action," a court statement said. It added that "the value of the rule of law is an integral part of the very

identity of the European Union as a common legal order and is given concrete expression in principles containing legally binding obligations for the Member States." It said Poland did not meet these obligations. Amid a plethora of con-

demnation and criticism. the court said that "the measures thus adopted by the Polish legislature are incompatible with the guarantees of access to an independent and impartial tribunal." The Polish law requires

judges to divulge membership of an association or party and allows that information to be made public. The ECJ ruling said the provisions were "liable to expose judges to risks of undue stigma-

tization.'

The disagreement over the functioning of the Supreme Court is only one of several disputes that the right-wing government in Warsaw has with the EU institutions. It claims the bloc is undermining Poland's inalienable rights to make independent decisions. The EU institutions have

insisted that Poland under the populist Law and Justice party has been on a slippery slope away from the EU's rule of law

principles.

This dispute centers on the independence of Polish Supreme Court judges when they review EU

last week, the Only United States and the EU's top justice official criticized Polish plans for another law that could keep political opponents from holding public office without full legal recourse. The EU threatened to take measures if it became fully clear such a law would undermine democratic standards.

The criticism does not only come from the EU itself. Hundreds of thousands of people marched in an anti-government protest in Poland's cap-

ital on Sunday, with citizens traveling from across the country to voice their anger at officials who they say have eroded democratic norms and created fears that the nation is follow-

Organizers estimated that 500,000 people took part in the march, which was probably the largest of recent dec-

ades.

ing Hungary and Turkey

down the path to autoc-

In the standoff centering on Monday's ruling by the Luxembourg court, Polish authorities already have had to pay about 550 million euros in fines since October 2021, when the system of 1 million euros in

daily fines started. The daily fines were halved in April. In the legal standoff

between Brussels and Warsaw, EU authorities are also withholding the release of some 35 billion euros in pandemic recovery funds. After the collapse of the

Soviet empire, Poland joined the EU along with a slew of other Central and Eastern European nations. Since they emerged from autocracy, they were long expected to be models to thrive to become models of Western liberal democracies. Critics now say that Poland, and Hungary, are slipping again toward one-party authoritarian rule.

### observes naval exercise in **Baltic Sea**

Scholz

BERLIN: Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday visited German navy headquarters in Rostock, and observed a multinational exercise in the Baltic Sea, amid heightened tensions with Russia. Scholz watched the naval exercise from the German frigate Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and took a briefing from navy commanders on maritime security, protection of critical infrastructure, and capabilities of the naval force. Besides German navy ships and submarines, warships from NATO allies France, Spain and Portugal also participated in the naval exercise.

German frigate Mecklenburg-Vorpommern was deployed in the region at the beginning of this year, after Germany assumed leadership of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) for 12 months. –APP

### EU extends Ukrainian grain ban

KIEV: The European Commission has extended a ban on imports of Ukrainian grain to Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria until September 15, Reuters reported on Monday, citing Poland's agriculture minister, Robert Telus. The previous EU ban on Ukrainian wheat, maize, rapeseed, and sunflower seed to the five member states is set to expire June 5. "We have received from the EC a draft of a new regulation banning the import of 4 products to the 5 countries," Telus wrote on Twitter. "The effective date provided for in the draft is September 15 this year." "It's a draft but I hope it will come into force from tomorrow," he added. In May, the European Commission imposed "exceptional and temporary preventive measures on imports" of the four items from Ukraine to ease the impact of plummeting prices in neighboring EU countries. According to the European Commission, the measure was enacted to address the concerns of farmers in Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria that suffered substantial losses due to the influx of Ukrainian grain. Last year the EU suspended customs duties on all agricultural produce from Ukraine for one year, to

#### ern Europe, endangering the livelihoods of local producers. On May 31, the EU agriculture commissioner, Janusz Wojciechowski, said it was necessary to extend the restrictions until at least the end of October, despite fierce opposition from Ukraine.-Agencies US panicking over Africa's

ties with

Russia

support the nation's econ-

omy. However, the glut of

cheap grain has left EU pro-

ducers struggling against

what they view as unfair

competition. Exports of

Ukrainian crops that the

EU described as "critical

to feed the world and keep

food prices down" were in-

itially destined for Africa

and the Middle East, but

instead got stuck in East-

MOSCOW: Russia would have been able to mobilize support to end the US-led unipolar global order of "interference, demonization, and containment" if it had taken the necessary steps earlier, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki has claimed. The leader expressed his strong disapproval of the prevailing "law of the jungle" in an exclusive interview with Russian state owned channel. "No one is happy with this state of affairs. These are states of unipolarization, using every weapon, tool to intimidate, sabotage and even contain everybody is not acceptable by anyone," Afwerki said. Eritrea has consistently opposed resolutions against Russia in four separate votes held at the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council. That includes rejecting a vote aimed at condemning Russia's military operation in Ukraine. When asked why his country did not back the UN resolution to blame Russia for its position on Ukraine, the president said Eritrea would not support the ideology of "hegemony" and repression.-APP

### Turkish forces arrive in Kosovo to bolster NATO-led peacekeepers

Miroslav Laicak, the European Union's envoy for Kosovo-Serbia talks, arrived in Pristina on Monday to meet with top leaders. KFOR currently consists of almost 3,800 troops, including some 350 from Turkey. The Turkish commando battalion will be joining the peacekeeping mission as a reserve unit

ISTANBU: A Turkish commando battalion requested by NATO has arrived in Kosovo to assist in quelling recent violent unrest in the Balkan country. The Turkish Defense Ministry shared a video Sunday showing troops wearing the insignia of the Kosovo Force, a NATO-led peacekeeping mission established in 1999, departing Turkey and arriving in Kosovo. Violent clashes with ethnic Serbs a week ago left 30 international soldiers - 11 Italians and 19 Hungarians – and more than 50 demonstrators injured. The injuries the soldiers suffered included

fractures and burns from

improvised explosive incendiary devices. The clashes grew out of an earlier confrontation

after ethnic Albanian candidates who were declared the winners of local elections in northern Kosovo entered municipal buildings to take office and were blocked by Serbs. Ethnic Serbs overwhelmingly boycotted the votes. Serbia and its former province Kosovo have been at odds for decades, with Belgrade refusing to recognize Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence. The violence near their shared border has stirred fear of a renewal of a 1998claimed more than 10,000 lives and resulted in the KFOR peacekeeping mission. After the soldiers were injured last week, NATO said it would send an additional 700 troops to northern Kosovo.

The government of Kosovo and representatives of the country's ethnic Serb minority exchanged tit-fortat conditions to de-escalate the situation.

Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti said the government might consider holding fresh elections in four northern cities with majority Serb populations but not before gangs responsible for vi-99 conflict in Kosovo that olence leave. The ethnic reserve unit.—Agencies

Serb Srpska List Party said it would participate in new municipal elections but that the government needed to first withdraw special police forces from northern Kosovo and proceed with establishing an association of majority Serb communities.

Miroslav Lajcak, the European Union's envoy for Kosovo-Serbia talks, arrived in Pristina on Monday to meet with top leaders. KFOR currently consists of almost 3,800 troops, including some 350 from Turkey. The Turkish commando battalion will be joining the peacekeeping mission as a

### China blames US for 'trouble' in Taiwan Strait

BEIJING: China on Monday blamed the US for "stirring up trouble" in the Taiwan Strait after the warships of the two nations had a close encounter in the waterway south of mainland China.

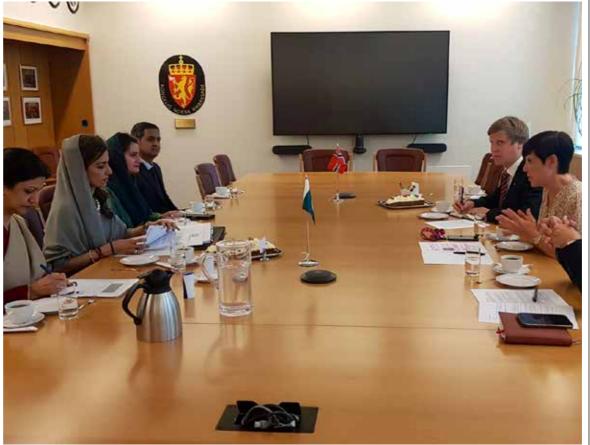
"It was the US that stirred up trouble and provoked in the first place, then China followed up with handling the affairs in accordance with laws and regulations," Wang Wenbin, spokesman for Foreign Ministry, told reporters in Beijing. The US and Canadian warships were sailing through the Taiwan Strait on Saturday when a Chinese warship came within 150 yards of the US destroyer USS

The US Navy has released a video of the incident. "The Chinese military's measures are completely reasonable, lawful, professional and safe. It is the US that should deeply reflect, self-assess and right its wrongs,' said Wang, according to the Chinese daily Global Times Shi Yi, spokesman for the Eastern Theater Command of China's People's Liberation Army, said China mobilized its air and naval forces to monitor the passage of the

American and Canadian warships. The PLA "guarded the whole process, and dealt with it in accordance with laws and regulations," Shi said. "Relevant countries deliberately create trouble in the Taiwan Strait region, deliberately provoke risks, maliciously undermine regional peace and stability, and send wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' forces,'

### 111th International Labor Conference begins in Geneva

GENEVA: The 111th International Labor Conference began in Geneva on Monday. The conference will run through June 16 with the participation of worker, employer and government delegates from the ILO's 187 member states. It will tackle issues, including a just transition towards sustainable and inclusive economies, quality apprenticeships, and labor protection. ILO Director-General Gilbert Houngbo said in his opening remarks that technological and scientific progress continues to shape new forms of work and are generating thousands of jobs today while providing gains in productivity. At the same time, all countries, without exception, are working to recover the economic and social gains lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Houngbo said. "It is clear that those efforts are being undermined by the many crises which are leaving the world in the state of upheaval at the moment," he said. "These structural changes on the labor market will, however, no doubt continue." Assuring that the progress in the labor market will continue, the ILO chief drew attention to some "deep-rooted" inequalities. "Even now, four billion of our fellow citizens have absolutely no access to social protection and the 214 million workers and some which put them below the poverty line," he said. "How do we justify women earning on average even today?" he asked, saying women still earn 20% less per hour for equal work than their male counterparts do. "I strongly feel that we cannot simply stand by and watch as child labor re-emerges and forced labor increases," he said. "We can't just watch the increasing risk of discrimination whatever type of discrimination it is that comes with these things and the exclusion, violence and harassment that they bring with them."—Agencies



OSLO: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Monday held a meeting here with members of Norwegian Parliament's Committee on foreign affairs and defence led by Chairperson Ine Søreide. -- DNA

### Indonesia, Australia affirm defense ties

"Cooperation between Indonesia and Australia can make an important contribution to regional peace and stability," Subianto said, adding that the two governments agreed to further strengthen their security ties, including joint military training in Australia and the education of Indonesian cadets at Australian academies.

### Foreign Desk

JAKARTA: Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles met his Indonesian counterpart on Monday to deepen security ties amid China's increasingly assertive activity in the Indo-Pacific region. Defense Minister Indonesian

Prabowo Subianto said he and Marles discussed ways to facilitate cooperation between their militaries. "Cooperation between Indonesia and Australia can make an important contribution to regional peace and stability," Subianto said, adding that the two governments agreed to further strengthen their security ties, including joint military training in Australia and the education of Indonesian cadets at Australian

academies. Military exchanges between the two neighbors have previously included counterterrorism and border protec-

Marles declined to make any comment to the media after meeting with Subianto. He vowed in a statement released by the Australian Embassy in Jakarta ahead of the talks to deepen defense engagement with Australia's closest major neighbor.

"I look forward to progressing our comprehensive strategic partnership during my visit to Jakarta,' Marles said in the statement.

Although Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation of more than 270 million people, is often presented as one of Australia's most important neighbors and strategic allies, the relationship has undergone various ups and downs. Recent disagreements include allegations of wiretapping by the Australian Signals Directorate in 2013 to monitor the private phone calls of then Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, his wife and other senior officials; Indonesia's use of capital punishment on Australian drug smugglers; and cases of people smuggling.

In 2017, Indonesia temporarily suspended military cooperation with Australia, including joint training, education, exchanges of officers and visits, over an alleged insult against the Indonesian state ideology "Pancasila" and the Indonesian military at an Aus-

tralian military base. In September 2021, Indonesia filed a diplomatic protest against Australia for being slow to provide information about its activities in the AUKUS trilateral pact involving the United States and the United Kingdom, including plans for Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Last year, Australia, along with Japan and Singapore, joined for the first

time the annual Indonesia-U.S. joint combat exercise called Super Garuda Shield, making it the largest since the drills began in 2009.

The expanded drills are seen by China as a threat. Chinese state media have accused the U.S. of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to limit China's growing military and diplomatic influence in the region.

Marles arrived in Jakarta on Monday after attending the annual Shangri-La Dialogue security forum in Singapore, where he described Australia's communications about its nuclear-powered submarine program as a model of "military transparency," and said that China needed to offer a "strategic explanation" of its military expansion.

Marles, who is also Australia's deputy prime minister, is to visit Vanuatu after Indonesia.



# Samahar POST



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### **Briefs**

### **Jets chase** small plane in Washington before crash

WASHINGTON: The United States scrambled F-16 fighter jets in a supersonic chase of a light aircraft with an unresponsive pilot that violated airspace around Washington D.C. and later crashed into the mountains of Virginia, officials said.

No survivors were found at the crash site, Virginia state police said. The jet fighters created a sonic boom over the U.S. capital as they pursued the errant Cessna Citation, officials said, causing consternation among people in the Washington area.

Four people were onboard the Cessna, a source familiar with the matter said. A Cessna Citation can carry seven to 12 passengers.

After several hours first responders reached the crash site but found no one alive, the Virginia State Police said in a statement.

The Cessna was registered to Encore Motors of Melbourne, Florida, according to the flight-tracking website Flight Aware. Encore owner John Rumpel told the Washington Post his daughter, a grandchild and her nanny were on board.

"We know nothing about the crash," the Post quoted Rumpel as saying. "We are talking to the FAA now," he added before ending the call. The U.S. military attempted to contact the pilot, who was unresponsive, until the Cessna crashed near the George Washington National Forest in Virginia, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said in a statement. - Agencies

#### New Zealand gives former PM Ardern title of dame

### WEB DESK

AUCKLAND: New honoured former minister Jacinda Ardern with the title of dame on Monday, citing her leadership after the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre and during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ardern, 42, shocked New Zealand in January when she announced she was stepping down as prime minister and retiring from politics, saying she no longer had "enough in the tank".

Her successor, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, said Ardern had been named a dame in the King's Birthday and Coronation Honours List. King Charles III, who was ceremonially crowned on May 6, is also head of state in New Zealand.

"Having served as prime minister from 2017 to 2023, Dame Jacinda Ardern is recognised for her service to New Zealand during some of the greatest challenges our country has faced in modern times," Hipkins said.

#### Wagner detains Russian officer over 'drunk' attack

MOSCOW: The Wagner mercenary group says it has detained a regular Russian army officer, who allegedly opened fire on a Wagner vehicle in Ukraine. In a video, the officer says that the incident happened while he was drunk, because of his dislike for Wagner.

Earlier, the group's boss said the Russian army had mined the roads Wagner used to leave the city of Bakhmut. There are longstanding tensions between Wagner and Russia's regular army, although they fight on the same side.

The head of the private military company, Yevgeny Prigozhin, has launched several scathing attacks on Russia's most senior defence officials, complaining frequently of a lack of ammunition during the battle for Bakhmut in Ukraine's

eastern Donetsk region. The Wagner group led the fighting there for the Russian side, which became the longest and bloodiest battle of the war. Last month, it claimed to have taken full control of the city and would transfer control to the Russian army. -Agencies

# Crowded Republican race helps clear way for Trump

Political analysts estimate that Trump can count on a diehard core of supporters, who make up at least a third of Republican voters, to help him secure his party's nomination

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A growing number of contenders for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination could clear the way for a Donald Trump victory while throwing up roadblocks for his main rival Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, party members and strategists said. Republicans who fear Trump is too polarizing a figure to beat Democratic President Joe Biden in 2024 worry that if too many candidates jump into the party's contest, they will splinter the anti-Trump vote. That would allow the former president to clinch the nomination, just as he did in similar circumstances in 2016.

Former Vice President Mike Pence, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum are planning to enter the fray this week, bringing the number of challengers to front-runner Trump into the double digits. Political analysts estimate that Trump can count on a diehard core of supporters, who make up at least a third of Republican voters, to help him secure his party's nomination.

DeSantis has been aggressively courting those voters, but few are expected to defect from Trump. If DeSantis has any hope of becoming the Republican nominee, political analysts said, he has to try to win over a significant chunk of the other roughly 70% of voters who are up for grabs. DeSantis must compete with a raft of Republi-

can rivals for those votes. To be sure, many of



the candidates are long shots who barely register in opinion polls, but they can still hamper DeSantis' efforts to build the coalition he needs to take on Trump. "I'm very concerned that we appear to be making the same mistakes that we made in 2016," said Larry Hogan, a popular former Republican governor of Maryland and a fierce critic of Trump.

Hogan seriously considered taking on Trump but decided earlier this year against entering the race because he feared that a large field of contenders would only help the former president to repeat his 2016 victory, when he bested 17 major candidates. "It's better for us to have a smaller field



with a strong candidate or two rather than 10 or more people who are failing to get attention, who are all in single digits," in the opinion polls, Hogan said in an interview. "The only one that benefits from that at this point in time appears to be Donald Trump," said Hogan, a moderate who wants the party to move on from Trump. "It's the definition of insanity continuing to do the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." Trump dominates the field among potential Republican primary voters with 49% support and DeSantis next with 19%. There is a yawning chasm between the front-runners and the rest of

the field: Pence has just 5% backing, while former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has 4%, according to the latest Reuters/ Ipsos opinion poll conducted in May. Others are barely registering at all. Christie has just 1% backing him, as does U.S. Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, while former Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, who declared in April, has 0%. A casual observer might ask why candidates with such low poll

"Most get in because they truly think they have a chance of winning the nomination," said Oscar Brock, a Republican National Committee member from Tennessee.

numbers are jumping into a race that already

has a clear front-runner early on

Some know they cannot win, said John Feehery, a Republican strategist, but they might be angling for a cabinet position, or hoping to join the ticket of the eventual nominee as the vice presidential candidate, or simply looking for 15 minutes of fame to secure a book deal. Long shots have also emerged from nowhere to win past nominating fights, Feehery noted, including Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1976 and Trump, who was polling at just 4% when he announced his candidacy in June 2015. Many may have also decided to enter the

2024 race because of the perceived vulnerabilities of the two front runners, Feehery said. Trump faces potential indictments for withholding classified documents and seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election, while DeSantis is trying to regain his footing after losing ground in opinion polls.

### **ECC approves Rs 12 billion** for NDMA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Economic Coordination Committee at its meeting chaired by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad Monday accorded approval for issuance of government of Pakistan guarantee amounting to 9500 million for Hyderabad-Sukkur motorway. The ECC approved Rs. 12

billion for NDMA for procurement of relief items to replenish its reserves. It approved fixation of maximum retail prices of 49 drugs on the basis of being lower as compared to their prices in neighboring countries.

The Committee approved supplementary and technical supplementary grants including Rs 839.129 million in favor of New Gwadar International Airport and Rs 700 million for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Rs 9145 million were approved for execution of Coal fired Power Project Jamshoro and Rs 110.653 million for National Counter Terrorism Authority.

According to a press release issued after the meeting, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi MNA/Ex-PM, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers attended the meeting.

#### IHC bans airing of judges' remarks in cases

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While hearing a plea for the recovery Minister Shahzad Akbar's brother Murad Akbar, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday banned the airing of judges' remarks and said that only the written verdict of the court would be aired.

The court in its order stated: "Only the written verdict of the court will be aired. Neither the name nor the picture of the judge will be displayed. It will be contempt of court otherwise." The judge said: "I am writing to Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra). If there is a violation, the license of the TV channel will be cancelled." The additional attorney general, Islamabad inspector general of police (IGP) and the interior secretary appeared in the court. "The file of the case is being sent to the chief justice. Similar cases are pending in the division bench," the text of the verdict read.

### Punjab govt asked to allocate funds to PML-N MPs

The CM House has sought recommendations from the district administration regarding development projects in different areas of Lahore

### DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab CM House has received recommendations regarding awarding of development funds to the tune of Rs100 million each to the PML-N ticket holders, its former members of Punjab Assembly and current members of the National Assembly in Lahore.

The CM House has received recommendations from the district administration which proposes to include the development schemes in the budget. The district administration has recommended to give Rs2 billion to Lahore's constituencies of the PML-N members and each PML-N MNA and ex-MPA should be awarded Rs100 million. Besides them, each PML-N ticket holder should also be given Rs100 million grant.

The CM House has sought recommendations from the district administration regarding development projects in different areas of Lahore. Sources said that the caretaker government would take final decision on the recommendations made for the release of development funds.

### Church arson reported in India's strife-torn Manipur state

#### WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: A more than five decades old Catholic Church, presbytery, and boarding school were burned down, while a convent was taken over by suspected outlaws in riot-hit Manipur state in northeastern India at the weekend, Church officials said. The fresh wave of violence erupted on June 4 as the federal government appointed a three-member judicial commission to probe ethnic violence in the state that has claimed 98

lives so far and displaced over 45,000 people. "We were informed that St. Joseph Church, its presbytery, and a school boarding attached to the parish were set on fire and the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) convent in the parish is currently under the control of outlaws whose identity is not yet established," a senior diocesan priest from the Archdiocese of Imphal. who did not want to be named, told UCA News on June 5. St. Joseph Parish at Sugnu, a

small township at the southern tip of the Kakching district inhabited by the Meitei and Kuki communities, is one of the oldest Catholic churches in the archdiocese. Hundreds of houses belonging to Christians in the township were burned down a couple of days before. "We cannot go to the affected locality to get a ground report due to restrictions, but credible sources informed us about the arson and other developments," the priest said. He said the parish has more

than 4,000 members from 35 villages in its vicinity, where Christians have abandoned their houses and fled to safer places including relief camps. "The outlaws set on fire abandoned Christian houses and institutions in an apparent bid to wipe out the community's existence," the priest said. A three-member judicial com-

mission set up in response to

the violence will be headed by Ajai Lamba, a former chief justice of Gauhati High Court in Assam state in the northeastern region. The other members will be Himanshu Shekhar Das, a retired bureaucrat, and Aloka Prab-

hakar, a retired police officer.

### Shelling, looting in Sudan's capital as battle continues

DUBAI: Shelling hit western areas of Sudan's capital on Monday morning after rival military factions fought through the night, residents said, with reports of deepening lawlessness in Khartoum and in the western region of Darfur. Fighting between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who have been battling each other for more than seven weeks, intensified after the expiry late on Saturday of a ceasefire deal brokered by Saudi Arabia and the U.S. The conflict has uprooted more than 1.2 million people within Sudan and sent about 400,000 fleeing into neighbouring countries, inflicting heavy damage on the capital where remaining residents are at the mercy of battles, air strikes and lawlessness. Late on Sunday, residents reported intense fighting across the three cities that make up the nation's wider capital - Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri - and smoke could be seen rising from several areas early on Monday. "The neighbourhood where we live in the centre of Omdurman is looted publicly on a daily basis without anyone intervening to prevent it, with clashes and shelling continuing around us," said 37-year-old resident Mohamed Saleh. In Khartoum East district, RSF troops who have spread out in neighbourhoods across the capital were in full control and were looting extensively, said Waleed Adam, a resident of the area. "You see them right in front of you, taking cars, money, gold - whatever they can get their hands on," he told Reuters by phone. "I guess it's just a matter of time until they come to my street." The RSF says it has been working to protect civilians by arresting looters. The war has also triggered unrest in Darfur in Sudan's far west, a region that was already suffering from mass displacement due to earlier conflict and where residents in several cities and towns have reported attacks by militias linked to Arab nomadic tribes. - Agencies

### Polls will be held in **Oct this year: Asif**

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has rejected all speculations about a possible delay in polls, saying that the next general elections for the national and provincial legislatures will take place in October this year without any delay. "The assemblies will complete their five-year term in August and polls will take place within the next 60 days. Elections will be held on time," Asif said on Sunday while talking to The Express Tribune. "When asked what he meant by "on time", he replied: "In October. Elections will take place in October without any delay." According to Article 224 (1), "A general election to the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly shall be held within a period of sixty days immediately following the day on which the term of the Assembly is due to expire, unless the Assembly has been sooner dissolved, and the results of the election shall be declared not later than fourteen days before that day." - DNA

### **UN body condemns US for** treatment of GTMO inmate

The United States has accused Nashiri of organising attack on the USS Cole by two suicide bombers in small boat as the warship was moored in the Yemeni port of Aden

### **News Desk**

GENEVA: The United States and several other countries have committed human rights violations against a Saudi man held in the Guantanamo prison and accused of organising the bombing of the USS Cole in the port of Aden in 2000, a U.N. report said. Abd al Rahim al Nashiri could face the death penalty if convicted for his alleged role in the attack. The United Nations working group on arbitrary detention said he had been arbitrarily detained for more than 20 years and it voiced concern about his physical and mental well-being. The United States has accused Nashiri of

organising the attack on the USS Cole by two suicide bombers in small boat as the warship was moored in the Yemeni port of Aden. Seventeen sailors were killed and dozens wounded. The al Qaeda Islamist militant group claimed responsibility for the bombing, which took place 11 months before the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

Washington did not respond to the U.N. body's report. The U.S. Defense Department, which operates the prison at the U.S. naval station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, did not respond to a request for comment. Nashiri has been held at Guantanamo since 2006. The working group said he suffered discrimination on the basis of his nationality and his religious beliefs as a Muslim

and said he had been deprived of fair trial guarantees. Sylvain Savolainen, a lawyer for Nashiri based in Geneva, said the outcome was important and he would keep fighting "to put an end to the infamy he has suffered, and still suffers". The U.N. document focuses on the Guan-

tanamo detention but also refers to seven

other countries - Afghanistan, Lithuania, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates - which allegedly transferred or detained him between 2002-2006. At times, he was held in Central Intelligence Agency "black sites", a U.S. congressional report said, and was subjected to interrogation techniques which critics call torture. The U.N. document said that the allegations of torture "stand unrefuted". Afghanistan, the UAE, Thailand did not respond to the U.N. body; Lithuania's response was late and discounted; Poland said it had already paid "just satisfaction" to the applicant after a 2014 judgment; Romania contested the allegations and referred to a past judgment; Morocco rejected the allegations, saying Nashiri was never registered there. The U.N. group's decisions carry political weight but are non-binding. The Guantanamo prison was set up by then U.S. President George W. Bush in 2002 to house foreign militant suspects following the 9/11 attacks. President Joe Biden has said he wants to close the facility but has not presented a plan for doing so.





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