



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**UNESCO says US plans to rejoin body from July**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Former Italian PM Berlusconi dies at 86**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Haddad first Brazilian in WTA top 10**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Sherry stresses on Climate funding**

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday urged for new financial regimes for Climate funding. "A fair amount of thought leadership and retooling is needed, both for markets and public institutions to change their instruments to meet quantum growing needs, as navigating a forest of barriers has become normalized for accessing a small percentage green financing," said the minister.

**Fazl wants action against Imran**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The head of the PDM, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on Monday criticised the unity government headed by PM Shehbaz Sharif for not taking action against former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan. "Why there is no action being taken against the PTI chairman and his party regarding mega scandals? We are questioning the government. If action can be taken against a person who had been prime minister of the country three times, then why not against the PTI chairman," he questioned while addressing a press conference in Islamabad.

**Aleem Khan appointed president IPP**

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Former PTI leader Abdul Aleem Khan has been appointed as president as Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) announced party positions. As per details, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party head Jahangir Tareen took to Twitter and announced the party positions. He appointed PM Shehbaz Sharif's advisor Awn Chaudhary as Additional Secretary General & Spokesperson of the party and of Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Tareen while Aamir Kiyani has been appointed as Secretary General.

## May 9 incidents

# NA demands speedy trial of the rioters

House declared that there were no human rights violations while taking action against miscreants and criminals involved in the May 9 incidents

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed a resolution to initiate proceedings against the elements involved in the vandalism of military installations and martyrs' memorials on May 9 under the Army Act 1952 without delay even for a single day. Presenting a motion, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the House was of the view that a political party and its chairman while committing blatant violations of the law and the Constitution on May 9 attacked military installations, which caused irreparable loss to the state and its institutions. "Of which, all evidence is available, so in line with the law and the Constitution, proceedings be completed against them without a single-day delay." The minister said the people and leaders of that party were not ready to take the burden of the party and its chairman's anti-Pakistan activities and disassociate themselves from it. "It validates that this party and its head's agenda is based on enmity with Pakistan," he added. He said the House declared that there were no human rights violations while taking action against miscreants and criminals involved in the May 9 incidents.

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## COAS Munir calls on PM Shehbaz

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Sources said the two leaders met at the Prime Minister House and exchanged thoughts on country's law and order situation. The COAS briefed PM Shehbaz on professional matters of the army. The meeting also deliberated over the implementation of decisions taken at the National Security Committee meeting and the intelligence-based operations against terrorism. Earlier, COAS Munir declared that the nation would not forgive those responsible for the May 9 incidents. He expressed these sentiments during his visit to the

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# 'No point in sitting with rulers' Establishment holds key, rulers powerless: Khan

PTI Chairman condemns midnight raids on leaders' houses

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Meanwhile, PTI Chairman Imran Khan talked informally with a woman lawyer in the courtroom. "The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has clarified that the talks will be with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Why do you bring the establishment in?" she questioned. "The real power and decision-making is with the establishment," the PTI chairman said. "Asif Ali Zardari had said that the charter of the economy will have to be agreed upon," she put another question to Imran Khan. "These rulers don't have any power. What would be the use of sitting with them? They [the establishment] are the decision makers. There is no point in sitting with them [the rulers]," Imran Khan pointed out. "The politicians signed the Charter of Democracy together. Why don't you like to talk to them?" the woman lawyer questioned further.

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## Khan gets protective bail in DG Khan case

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday granted protective bail to PTI Chairman Imran Khan for 14 days in the Dera Ghazi (DG) Khan case. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard Imran Khan's plea for protective bail in the DG Khan case and ordered him to submit Rs25,000 worth of surety bonds. The court also ordered Imran Khan to approach the court concerned of Dera Ghazi Khan within 14 days. "14 days is sufficient time to approach the court concerned," the chief justice said in a reply to Imran Khan's lawyer who had demanded three-week protective bail. Earlier, a judge of

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# NATO begins unprecedented air drill in 'show of strength'

The significant message we're sending is that we can defend ourselves," Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz of the German Luftwaffe told

CENTRELINE REPORT

BERLIN: NATO began its largest ever air force deployment exercise in Europe on Monday, in a display of unity toward partners and potential threats such as Russia. The German-led "Air Defender 23" will include some 250 military aircraft from 25 NATO and partner countries including Japan and Sweden, which is bidding to join the alliance. It will run until June 23. Up to 10,000 service members are to participate in the drills intended to boost interoperability and preparedness to protect against drones and cruise missiles in the case of an attack within NATO territory. "The significant message we're sending is that we can defend ourselves," Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz of the German Luftwaffe told public television. "Air Defender" was conceived in 2018 in part as a response

to the Russian annexation of Crimea from Ukraine four years before, though Gerhartz insisted it was "not targeted at anyone". He said the exercise would not "send any flights, for example, in the direction of Kaliningrad," the Russian enclave bordering alliance member states Poland and Lithuania. "We are a defensive alliance and that is how this exercise is planned," he said. The first flights began in the late morning at the Wunstorf, Jagel and Lechfeld air bases, a Luftwaffe spokesman confirmed to AFP. Hundreds of demonstrators had gathered at Wunstorf in northern Germany on Saturday against the drills, under the banner "Practice peace - not war". Protesters called for a "diplomatic solution" to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and an immediate ceasefire. US Ambassador to Germany Amy Gutmann said

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## DAY OF RUSSIA CELEBRATED



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Danila Ganich and others cutting cake to celebrate Day of Russia. - DNA

## Promise of importing Russian oil fulfilled

Marriyum says the govt has taken steps for welfare of journalists

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that the coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had fulfilled the promise of importing crude oil from Russia. In a tweet, the minister said, "It is called the fulfillment of promises, the ability and intention to solve the problems of the country and the nation." This was called "true public service", she added.

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# Biparjoy may hit Pak coast by June 15 Evacuation begins as cyclone moves closer to Pakistan

Sindh braces for 'extremely severe cyclonic storm'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh government Monday kicked off the evacuation drive from the coastal areas of Badin in the wake of fast-approaching cyclone Biparjoy, moving the residents to safe places in order to avoid any loss of life. The government had decided to evacuate the residential areas and other human settlements near the coast of Sindh as the risk of tropical cyclone Biparjoy present in the Arabian Sea escalates. Currently, the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm (ESCS) lies about 600 kilometres south of Karachi, 580km south of Thatta, and 710km south-east of Ormara, after moving further northward during the last 12 hours. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah - along with Local

Continued on Page 06

## PM Shehbaz talks to CM Sindh

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday talked to Sindh Chief Minister and discussed the preparations regarding the incoming cyclone. In a tweet, the Premier said, "I just spoke to CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and discussed the preparations to deal with the cyclone. I commend the Sindh government for the arrangements it has made under the leadership of the Chief Minister. I assured the Sindh government of complete support of the federal government. God willing, we will be able to overcome this situation with the support of the people".

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New Chevening pathway for Pakistani scholars agreed - Page 08

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## ATC sends Dr Yasmin Rahsid to jail

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Yasmin Rashid to jail on 14-day judicial remand in Askari Tower vandalism case. Earlier, the police produced Dr Yasmin Rashid before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan on expiry of her two-day physical remand. The investigation officer submitted that investigations could not be completed from the PTI leader during the remand period. He pleaded with the court to grant further remand for the purpose. However, the court turned down the request and sent Dr Yasmin Rashid to jail on 14-day judicial remand. The court ordered for production of the PTI leader on expiry of the remand term, on June 25. The Gulberg police had registered a case against PTI leaders, including Dr Yasmin Rashid, and workers under Anti-Terrorism Act for vandalising Askari Tower, during May-9 riots.—APP

## LDA demolishes illegal constructions

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams conducted an operation at the main boulevard, LDA Avenue-1, against illegal constructions and illegal commercial use of the land. During the operation, seven illegally established workshops and marble factories were partially demolished and 10 offices and a private school building were sealed for illegal commercial use of the land. Encroachments of shops, offices, marble stores, builders and dealers were demolished. A large police contingent and heavy machinery participated in the operation. Director Town Planning Zone V Azhar Ali headed the operation.—APP

## Govt is trying to provide travel facilities to people

**DNA**  
ATTOCK: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Member of National Assembly Malik Sohail Khan on Saturday inaugurated Passport Processing Counter facility for the residents of the Tehsil Pindi Gheb in NADRA office. Speaking on the occasion, he said Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, it was decided to establish passport processing counters under one roof in NADRA centers. This will help in improving the accessibility of passport facility to the public. He said that Despite the difficult economic conditions, the govt presented a balanced budget. Govt employees will get relief due to increase in salaries he added. Former Provincial Minister Ch. Sher Ali Khan and others were also present on the occasion. He said efforts were being made to strengthen partnerships and cooperation with other countries to enhance facilitation, he added. SAPM highlighted the significance of this milestone technological advancement and public service delivery. He said the initiative included the establishment of 30 passport processing counters at Nadra offices located in those areas where dedicated passport offices were unavailable. He said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and his team are working day and night to provide relief to the people. The budget will bring ease in the lives of common people. Considering the effects of inflation, the government provided relief to govt employees and pensioners. Despite the difficult situation, the government presented.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the stalls by vendors on green belt along the PIMS Metro Stop as local administration ban such activities but after the operation against encroachments, as soon as the vendors start installing their setups again, in Federal Capital.—Online

# 3 SWAT pilot project starts under testing training by ITRC

World Bank Task Team leader Francois Onimus also reached here to monitor the canal modernization in Sindh to introduce distributory modernization systems in irrigation networking system here at Hydrology Laboratory

**NAZIR SIYAL**

KARACHI: World Bank funded pilot project, under Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) proposed three distributories among "Jariki minor left bank area in Badin, Ghundran at Nara canal in Sanghar and Mirpur minor at Ghotki were proposed for pilot project for canal modernization in Sindh initially". Modernization Program objectives to improve channel system VS old irrigation systems to cover the losses of water, seepage and the fair distribution of irrigation water for tail end growers. Managing Director SIDA Pretam Das also discussed pilot project issues and positive change in the training to the experts of irrigation of Punjab and Sindh". "The total 15 canals will be modernized under the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation project to improve the irrigation networking to channels to maintain the water data through proper and mod-

ern way" "told MD SIDA". "Under the management of SIDA, one canal will be selected and tested from the existing Area Water Boards" Pretam Das Managing Director SIDA told". "Physical Module will be constructed at main Irrigation Hydraulic Laboratory" Pretam Das MD SIDA". "Representatives of the World Bank reached Pakistan to train the irrigation engineers of Sindh and Punjab on the new pattern of measurement and technicalities of the program" said Pretam Das MD SIDA". Habib Ursani, the Director at Hydraulic laboratory of irrigation department Hyderabad told the experts that the "Irrigation engineers of Sindh and Punjab participated in the training organized at the Irrigation Laboratory to implement accordingly". "Under Canal Modernization, the water level will be maintained by creating a long crest in the canal, which will facilitate equita-

ble distribution of water" Ahmed Junaid Memon UN FAO program manager briefed in the training". "The irrigation department of Sindh has continued the manually system of distributories are managed but after modernization of the canals, the distributories will be maintained through Farmer Organizations that will reduce cost level and will cover the loss of water also". "Water management will be easy under this system, a farmer can also check how much water is running" passing through each steps". Ahmed Junaid Memon said. "Under the new system, water distribution will be made transparent by maintaining the water level" told Dylan Goodwin water expert US ITRC Irrigation Training and Research Center California, who also briefed to the experts of irrigation of Punjab and Sindh during day long training and activity". "The experts described

flows of water can be maintained with different methods successfully, these practices are also continued in US various regions. He further told that there is no any such issues were developed because the modernization method is a unique and easy to operate" said Dylan Goodwin a water expert of US. "The 10 member delegation of irrigation water experts from different provinces of Pakistan will be trained in US to implement such methods in the canal, while modernization at irrigation systems in Pakistan will be implemented after tests verify in the activities," said Dylan Goodwin water expert". "In Pakista there is commonly wide spread assumption that regulation of water is personally modulated and randomly operated there seems to be no agreement between irrigation authorities and Farmers Organizations. Therefore, it is more complicated, no design existed

or practiced, consecutive-ly there is irrigation system is in- equitable" Said Dr Charles Burt Chairman ITRC at US California. Water expert briefed several key points and recoveries in training to the officials at Hydraulic laboratory at Hyderabad". "Through maintaining the weirs of distributories channels, the water will be maintained according to requirements up and down by following the long crested weirs and constant head outlets" Dr Charles Burt told". However the training at hydrology lab focused on historical proportional control vs control with more cross regulators Influence water levels on outlet flow rates. The cross regulators - long crested weirs versus sluice gates, operation of canal with upstream control by cross regulators, results of new operations, dynamic with operators, field personal and farmers told in the training.

'5000MW electricity injected into system'  
LAHORE: Federal Minister for Power Division Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan said on Monday that the coalition government managed to inject 5000 megawatts (MW) of additional electricity into the system within one year. Addressing a press conference here at Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) headquarters, he explained that 1980MW had been added to the national grid from Thar coal power plant, three power plants of accumulative generation of 1100MW had been inaugurated in Karachi, and other 720MW projects, which were neglected by previous government, had now started generation, while testing of 1200MW Punjab thermal would start soon. "In one year of Shehbaz Sharif government, we have worked a lot in the energy sector. We have brought back electricity in the country, which faced scarcity from 2018 to 2022 due to negligence of the former government," he added.—DNA

## 'Govt provides relief to common man'

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali on Monday said that despite the economic crisis, the federal government has provided relief to the common people including the business community in the budget. The current federal government has allocated 57 billion rupees for the merged districts in the budget, he said while talking to a representative delegation of Kohat Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House. Representatives of Kohat Press Club and Kohat Bar Council were also included in the delegation. The Governor said that the services of the business community in providing economic stability and employment in the province are commendable. He said that in order to deal with the economic challenges facing the country, people associated with all sectors would have to work together. He said the previous provincial government could not get released even one rupee of fund from the federation for the merged districts. The federal and provincial governments are taking joint measures to provide facilities to the business community, he noted. Ghulam Ali said that economic development is the first priority of the federal and provincial governments. In the meeting, the delegation informed the Governor about the overall problems faced by Kohat Chamber, Bar Council, Press Club and the people of Kohat city.—APP



RAWALPINDI: Punjab Primary Health Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir talking to media.— DNA

## 'Integration of ISA, PTV, Radio Pakistan academies a milestone'

The minister said that the merger of ISA, PTV and Radio academies reflected her goal to launch a world-class center of excellence for media, broadcasting, films, acting, training and capacity building across Pakistan

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday declared the integration of the Information Service Academy, PTV Academy and Radio Pakistan Academy as part of the first film policy and said it was a major milestone in the history of the Ministry

of Information and Broadcasting. In a tweet, sharing the teaser of the newly integrated academy, she said on May 13, 2023, she had announced the launch of PTV Film Institute and today she was thrilled to share the teaser. The minister said that the merger of ISA, PTV and Radio academies reflected her goal to launch a world-class center

of excellence for media, broadcasting, films, acting, training and capacity building across Pakistan, which should be open and accessible to all especially youth. She said that this initiative was very close to her heart. Practical training was incorporated with the academic programs of the academies using media equipment and facilities at PTV and Radio Pakistan, she said. The

academy, she continued, will not only be open to new inductees and existing employees of the Ministry of Information, PTV and Radio Pakistan but students and youth from across Pakistan will be able to enroll in courses including the academy's summer school. The minister congratulated and thanked the teams of the Ministry of Information, PTV Acad-

emy, Managing Director PTV and Radio Pakistan teams that worked tirelessly to make the launch of PTV Film Institute a reality. She also appreciated Vaneeza Ahmed, for her tireless efforts for implementation of the integration process and launch the study program in a short span of time as the Project Director.

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JUNE

- June 02/Italy  
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

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Cantonment Board 9270151-3

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# ICCI entrepreneurship Program for students

Program is a golden opportunity for students to learn business, Ahsan Bakhtawari

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that women constitute 52 percent of Pakistan's population. Sustainable development is not possible without their full involvement, in the developed countries of the world, women are playing their role in every field of life alongside men, this is the secret of the development of these countries. To deal with unemployment. There is a need to focus on entrepreneurship, it is not possible to accommodate millions of young people who have graduated from universities in the public and private sector, instead of looking for employment, the youth should become job sharers by promoting entrepreneurship. He expressed these views while addressing the launch ceremony of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry's entrepreneurship program for all students. Chamber members, Director Federal Directorate of Education Prof. Aftab Tariq, principals and a large number of students of educational institutions of Islamabad participated in the ceremony. President Islamabad Chamber said that all government schools



and colleges of Islamabad are 50-60 years old, their reconstruction has become inevitable, out-of-the-box thinking and concern is needed in this regard. He said that Attention should be given to IT education in all government schools and colleges of Islamabad, Islamabad Chamber is ready to play its role to make Islamabad an IT hub. He said that Islamabad is ready to teach students about

entrepreneurship as well as business under the entrepreneurship program of Islamabad Chamber. He said that he will personally provide capital for the IT lab in Islamabad College for Girls, similarly, business personalities of Islamabad should be included to provide facilities in other colleges. He said that every school and college should allocate a room for the education of out-of-school children and arrange education for them. President Islamabad Chamber said that this program of ICCI is a great opportunity for students of educational institutions of Islamabad to learn business during their studies. He said that IT is the sector that has the most entrepreneurship opportunities for the youth. In the current budget, the government has taken steps to promote entrepreneurship. For

the promotion of entrepreneurship, the government should provide loans to the youth on easy installments. He said that this initiative of Islamabad Chamber is the first step and we will take it further. Speaking on this occasion, Vice President Engineer Azhar ul Islam said that youth need to work with hard work and honesty, businessman is the real hero of the society due to which millions of people get employment, youth should idealize such people. Who have made their name through hard work and honesty. Speaking on the occasion, Director FDE Prof. Aftab Tariq said that I am grateful to Islamabad Chamber who have taken this excellent step, in fact there is a need to attract our youth towards entrepreneurship. He said that I hope students will take advantage of this opportunity. In the opening ceremony of the program, former president Zafar Bakhtawari, members of the executive committee, Maqsood Tabish, Parveen Khan Khalid Chudhry, principals of various colleges, Saba Faisal, Dr. Firdous Zahra, Shazia Rizvi, Fatima Mubeen, Sadia Aziz, Farah Hamid, Shazia Wazir, Sadia Abrar, Humira Agha, Zubeera Mughal, Rosina Fahim, Madam Asia and others participated.

## Dr Shehzad calls for reforms to put economy on right track

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in Senate Dr Shehzad Waseem on Monday said the federal budget 2023-24 lacked proper reforms to put the country's economy on the right track.

Opening the debate on federal budget, he said that the coalition government did not take appropriate steps to improve gross domestic product (GDP) and check inflation and unemployment in the country. He said there had been a rise in the poverty and the people would be further burdened with the imposition Rs 200 billion in taxes. He said a major chunk of the country's revenue would go to pay interest on debt borrowed by the past governments. After this payment, there would be a limited amount for development works, he added. Pointing out the economic challenges, Dr Shehzad Waseem called for introducing genuine reforms, curtailing unnecessary expenditure besides setting national priorities to steer the country out of the current crisis.

He said elite culture always created hurdles in the development of the country. He said the national progress and prosperity would only be ensured through the supremacy of Constitution and law in country.—APP

### 3 Corona cases reported in last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Monday said that three new coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country. As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.22 percent while six patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 1,358 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. The minister said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There would be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports, he said, adding that 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine.

"An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19," the minister added.

He said the Border and Health Services Pakistan was ensuring the implementation of international health regulations. He said that in case of any untoward situation, the health system was fully prepared to deal with any sub-variant of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 including BF.7 in the country.—APP

# Senate starts debate on budget 2023-24

ISLAMABAD: Senators from both government and opposition benches on Monday participated in the debate on the budget 2023-24 in the upper house of the parliament and proposed various suggestions. Participating in the discussion on the budget for the year 2023-24, Senator Manzoor Kakar suggested that more funds should be allocated for development projects in Balochistan for the uplift of people of the province. He appreciated the decision of increase in salaries for government employees. He said that more focus should be on giving relief to poor people by announcing subsidies for them. He said that all political parties should sit together and make a comprehensive plan to make

this budget more pro-poor people. He said that priority should also be given to agriculture sector. Senator Tahir Bazenjo said that the government should increase funds for Balochistan to start new projects in the neglected areas of the province. Senator Dr Asif Kirmani said that the opposition's criticism on proposed budget is baseless. He said that the opposition should tell the people about those projects which they had pledged to start but they failed to take any step. He said that they looted the public money during their tenure and questioned how they can raise question on the present government's finance policies. "They signed agreement with the IMF but making criticism on our

government," he added. He said that opposition parties are wrongly propagating about financial situation of the country. "They should compare their tenure with the PML-N tenure of 2013-17". He said that they are the enemies of this country and its people. "They failed to deliver during their tenure but now criticizing on the present government." He said that there are many positive aspects in the budget and assured that the present government will make this country as per the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Senator Sania Nishtar and Senator Waleed Iqbal also participated in the debate. Opening the debate on federal budget, he said that the coalition government did

not take appropriate steps to improve gross domestic product (GDP) and check inflation and unemployment in the country. He said there had been a rise in the poverty and the people would be further burdened with the imposition Rs 200 billion in taxes. He said a major chunk of the country's revenue would go to pay interest on debt borrowed by the past governments. After this payment, there would be a limited amount for development works, he added. Pointing out the economic challenges, Dr Shehzad Waseem called for introducing genuine reforms, curtailing unnecessary expenditure besides setting national priorities to steer the country out of the current crisis.—APP

# NA Speaker for eradicating Child Labour

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday said that the bright future of the nation is interlinked with the eradication of the menace of Child Labour. In a message on the occasion of International Child Labour Day, which is celebrated across the world on June, 12 every year under the auspices of the United Nations, he said, that each child should be given the opportunity for standardized education by eliminating all kinds of forced labor, mental and physical abuse, especially against children from society. He also stressed on the need to take special initiatives to protect children from the menace of child labour. The Speaker said that forced labor from children is tantamount to compromise and destroying their childhood as they are deprived of what is essential for development. The speaker said that the constitution guarantees the protection of children's rights and under the constitution, it is the responsibility of the government to provide facilities for children from 5 to 16 years to avail the opportunity for getting free education. He said that Pakistan being a signatory of the International Convention for the Protection of Children should strictly adhere to international agreements to protect children from labour. He also pointed out that added that according to Pakistani laws taking forced labor from children is a punishable offence. Pervaiz Ashraf has said that the Parliament of Pakistan became first regional Parliament to formulate Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights to ensure child-friendly legislation.—DNA

# IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman on Monday, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Islamabad Circle, Anguri, NCP, Magnyal, Shahdara, Shahpur, Khyaban Iqbal, Peer Sohawah, Quaid-e-Azam University, Punjab House, Bari Imam, Mandala, Athal, NIH Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Zaraj, Dhok Awan, IST, Mohra Nagyal, Kahota City-II, Hanif Shaheed Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Azizabad, Nust Road Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Cantt, CMH Jhelum, Mandi Bhalwal, Garmala, Singhai, Khakaliyal, Chotala, Bakrala Feeders, Chakwal Circle, CS Shah, Basharat, Tharpal, Morat, Medina Town, Tala Gang City, Main Bazar Feeders, Attock Circle, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Taxila-2, Taxila-1, Sher Shah Suri feeders and surrounding areas.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to expand a road at Chak Shahzad neighbourhood in the Federal Capital.—APP

# Property sales event for Etihad Garden held

The event attracted a large number of participants who showed interest in the property market and Etihad Group's projects, a news release said.

ISLAMABAD: The Etihad Group on Monday organized a Property Sales event at Royal Desert Palm Hotel in Rahim Yar Khan to get insights into local property market and highlight their real estate exclusive project "Etihad Garden". The event attracted a large number of participants who showed interest in the property market and Etihad Group's projects, a news release said. The efforts of the organizers were commended by Etihad Group's Managing Director Chaudry Munir, Group Directors Raheel Munir, Suhail Munir

and Faisal Munir, Etihad Group's Chief Executive Officer Chaudry Muhammad Shakeel, Etihad Group's Chief Operating Officer Sheikh ShujaUllah Khan, and Project Head Sales Syed Adnan, along with other members of the Etihad Management. On the occasion, Etihad Garden's Project Head Sales Syed Adnan Khalil welcomed the audience and stated that the project was expected to be a groundbreaking residential and commercial development that will offer a unique opportunity for individuals seeking a vibrant,

modern, and luxurious lifestyle in Rahim Yar Khan. He added that with its prime location and state-of-the-art facilities, Etihad Garden promised to be the epitome of elegance, comfort, and convenience. At this exclusive event, attendees got the chance to engage with expert consultants who provided in-depth analysis of the local property market and shed light on the incredible investment prospects offered by Etihad Garden. Attendees were also offered the chance to avail exclusive event-only discounts.—APP

## JUNE 2023

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## Briefs

## Rupee sheds 69 paises against US Dollar

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Rupee on Monday weakened by 69 paises against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs 287.62 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.93. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 304.5 and Rs 307 respectively. The price of the Euro went up by Rs1.05 to close at Rs 309.93 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.88, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen gained some paises to close at Rs 2.06, whereas an increase of Rs 2.08 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 362.06 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 359.98. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal appreciated by 18 and 19 paises to close at Rs 78.30 and Rs 76.69 respectively.

## Kundi urges govt to protect citizens from cyclone impacts

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Monday urged the Sindh government to follow all the instructions to protect the citizens from the cyclone impacts. He was speaking at a presser along with the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri. The SAPM said that the PPP's victory in the by-election in Azad Jammu and Kashmir reflected the people of AJK's love and trust for the PPP. He said that Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address a public meeting in Swat on June 17. While President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has held meetings regarding the election in Lahore. The SAPM expressed the hope that PPP will win the general election in the same way it won in the AJK by-election. He said that the PPP has always raised its voice for the rights of the people of FATA/PATA and supported extensions in their tax exemption period. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Monday said that the administration of Sindh is on high alert in the wake of the cyclone. She said that Sindh's coastal areas of Sajawal, Thatta and Badin are facing the danger of cyclone. Shazia Marri said that the provincial government is continuously monitoring the situation and repeatedly giving instructions to the people. She conveyed that more than 80,000 people are being shifted to safe places in wake of the expected storm. She said that the Sindh government is putting serious efforts to protect its people from the storm. About the BISP, Shazia Marri said that the programme entered successfully in its fifteenth year. Some people tried to end the BISP program during the past but failed in their efforts. She said that nine million women have been registered under the Benazir Kafalat programme.

## Book on Extremism and Counter-Extremism Narratives launched

Author Dr. Sadia Nasir is an independent researcher, holds PhD from Quaid-i-Azam University, also a UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi research fellow and an RCSS Alumni

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The book launch event of "Extremism and Counter-Extremism Narratives in Pakistan: An Analysis of Narrative Building" by Dr. Sadia Nasir, was held by the Department of Humanities and Social Science department of Bahria University, Islamabad on 12 June 2023. Dr. Sadia Nasir, is an independent researcher and Adjunct Faculty Member at Bahria University. She holds PhD from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. She is a UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi research fellow and an RCSS Alumni. Mr. Hamid Ali Khan, Former Federal Secretary and National Coordinator of NACTA, Dr. Shabana Feyyaz, Chairperson DSS department, Quaid-e-Azam University and Mr. Hamza Ijaz, Program Manager at USIP, graced the occasion to evaluate and comment on the book as discussants. The event was well attended by the experts on the issue area, notable scholars, academicians, practitioners and students. Former Federal Secretary Mr. Hamid Ali Khan praised the timely contribution and Pakistani perspective by the author. He mentioned that the author has provided a clear difference among various concepts such as extremism, radicalization, and terrorism. Which are often interchangeably used but have different connotations. Dr. Shabana Feyyaz while



discussing the importance of the book mentioned that the author has used the primary sources to educate the reader about the importance of the construction of narratives and counter narratives in Pakistan and the role of madrassah. Mr. Hamza Ijaz appreciated the university for arranging and supporting the research work

of Dr. Sadia. Dean Social Sciences (Bahria University) said that young generation is the future of Pakistan and exposed to social media. They should learn from such academic activities and need to be careful while taking information from social media. The book has been recently published by Routledge; London and New York as part of

its series on Routledge Studies in South Asian Politics, and is the first of its kind to analyse extremist narratives and counter-narratives, from different lenses at the same time. The book provides a reasoned and thoughtful analysis demonstrating the complexity of trying to build a meaningful counter-extremism narrative which is not detached from broader socio-political realities. It argues that counter-extremism narratives if they are to be successful in Pakistan, need to be taken out of an exclusive security-centric framework and focus on addressing social values and norms which form their basis. It highlights the construction and institutionalization of extremist tendencies and studies the process of the adoption of the narrow interpretation of religion and society, which subsequently was equated with national identity. It looks at the efforts of counter-extremism narratives, which tend to focus on violent extremism while overlooking non-violent manifestations. The author highlights that the main issue with counter-narratives is the difficulty in presenting extremism.

## Tarar lauds budget as plan to tackle crisis

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar on Monday praised the Budget 2023-24, describing it as a well-balanced plan that addresses the needs of the people during a challenging financial crisis. Speaking on the floor of the Senate, he emphasized the government's commitment to supporting employees who have been severely impacted by rising inflation. Minister Tarar highlighted the Cabinet's extensive deliberations, which lasted over an hour, to ensure financial relief for government employees. Recognizing their right to meet household expenses and other domestic obligations, the government had decided to increase their salaries, he added. Discussing the main features of the budget, Minister Tarar emphasized the revolutionary reforms implemented in various sectors, including agriculture, information technology, education, trade, tourism, energy, and youth programmes. He encouraged his colleagues to provide their proposals in a timely manner for further improvement and inclusion in the upcoming budget. Minister Tarar reassured the house that the government, led by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), would continue its efforts to improve the country's financial stability through all available means.—APP

## President meets COMSTECH Scientific Advisory Council

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Second meeting of the COMSTECH Scientific Advisory Council held at COMSTECH Secretariat on Monday. The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary chaired the meeting. He welcomed the participants of the meeting and presented a detailed report on the COMSTECH programs and achievements to the council. The council is comprised of leading STI experts and practitioners. The President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi had a meeting with the members of COMSTECH Scientific Advisory Council at the president secretariat and discussed the problems being faced by the Ummah and the prospective solutions that can be provided through the application of science, technology and innovation through the plat-

form of COMSTECH. The President of Pakistan is the Chairman of COMSTECH. The second meeting was attended by the Ambassador Askar Mussinov, Assistant Secretary General (S&T) OIC General Secretariat, Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Former, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Chairman,

HEC and Federal Minister for S&T, Pakistan, Tan Sri Dr. Zakri bin Abdul Hamid, Chairman of Atri Advisory, member of the Islamic Development Bank scientific advisory board, Prof. Dr. Hayat S. Sindi, founder and CEO of iQ Institute, and goodwill ambassador at UNESCO for STEM, Prof. Dr. Mahmoud

M. Sakr, President of academy of scientific research and technology, Prof. Dr. Ousmane Kane, former Director General of the institute of food technology, Prof. Abdelkader Djeflat, Chairman, the Magtech Network, Dr. Jaoud El-Kharraz, Executive Director, regional center for renewable energy



## PDMAs conduct mock exercises in vulnerable areas

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik on Monday instructed the provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs) to conduct a local-level needs assessment and mock exercises, deploy manpower and machinery, and work closely with relevant departments in areas at risk of Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY effects. The NDMA convened National Coordination Conference on Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY presided by Chairman NDMA, Lt. General Inam Haider Malik to review the development of 'Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm' (ESCS) BIPARJOY over Arabian Sea in PDMA Sindh Headquarter, Karachi participated by representatives of relevant stakeholders including Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), PDMAs Sindh and Balochistan, K-electric, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) HQ, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), Radio Pakistan and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), a news release said. The PMD officials briefed

the forum that BIPARJOY had moved further northwards during last 12 hours and was now lying at a distance of about 600 kilometers (km) south of Karachi, 580km south of Thatta and 710km southeast of Ormara. The maximum sustained surface winds were 160-180 Km/hour and gusts 200 Km/hour around the system center. It added that favourable environmental conditions were supporting the system to maintain its severity. "The ESCS BIPARJOY is most likely to track further northward until 14 June morning, then recurve north-eastward and cross between Ketu Bandar (Southeast Sindh). It is likely to cause above 100mm rainfall in Karachi and extreme rain spells in Sajawal, Badin and Thatta around 200-300mm from 13 June onwards," the Met Office officials informed the forum. The National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) provided an update of potential impacts including heavy rains, thunderstorms and winds in south and south-east Sindh (Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin,

Tharparkar and Mirpurkhas) from the evening of 13 June onwards; damage to weak structures due to winds; storm surge and urban flooding along the coast and rough to very rough sea conditions with high-intensity squalls that would prevent fishermen from venturing out into the open sea. The NEOC was continuously monitoring and sharing information with all stakeholders and the public through webpage-based projections of BIPARJOY's tracks and impacts on coastal areas. The PDMAs of Sindh and Balochistan shared their contingency plan, humanitarian impact, mass communication efforts, risk assessment, and logistics support for areas at risk of disaster. The Chairman NDMA informed the forum that NDMA was in close coordination with PMD, PDMA Sindh and Balochistan, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Maritime Security Authority (PMSA), Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) issuing advisories and guidelines to all concerned stakeholders at national and provincial levels to undertake proactive preparedness and mitigation measures.

## Arrival of Russian oil to help reduce petroleum prices

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Monday said that after continued efforts of one year, the first consignment of cost-effective Russian crude oil has reached Karachi Port, which would help in reduc-

ing petroleum prices in local markets. In a statement, he congratulated the nation and said that the incumbent government has fulfilled its promise to import crude oil from Russia as the last selected and incapable regime led by Imran Khan had not taken any such practical step

for importing cheap oil to facilitate the people in the country. The last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) only inaugurated the projects which were initiated and completed during the time of Pakistan Muslim League-N, he said adding that now these habitual liars.—APP


## NUST think tank holds webinar on 'Saudi-Iranian Rapprochement'

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, Netherlands and South Korea, Ambassador (Retd) Javid Hussain has said that the détente between Saudi Arabia and Iran had the potential to bring about positive changes, countering the negative impacts of regional geopolitics. He made these remarks as a keynote speaker at a webinar on "Saudi-Iranian Rapprochement," held by the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS). Amir Yaqub, Director of NIPS moderated the session, which was attended by veteran statesmen,

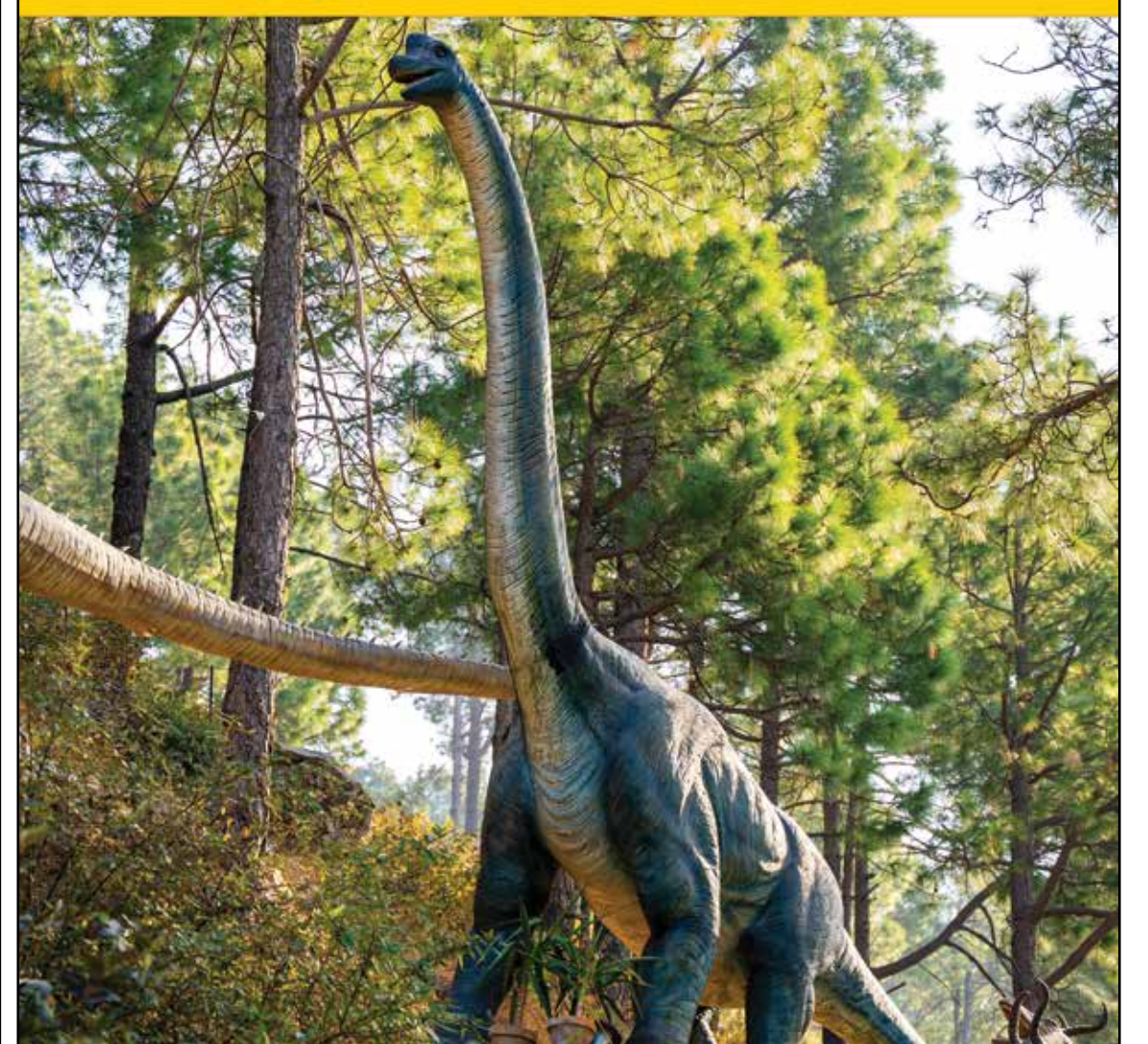
diplomats, academics, researchers and students. Hussain maintained that the agreement reached between Saudi Arabia and Iran, through Chinese good offices, was a testament to the victory of pragmatism, which shows that mutual understanding and cooperation are vital to safeguarding national interests. The other keynote speaker, Prof. Ahmet Uysal, Director of Middle Eastern Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM), Ankara, said that Türkiye emphasizes the importance of maintaining friendly relations with neighbours.

He welcomed the recent rapprochement between nations and hoped for a reduction in tensions within the region. Intiaz Gul, Executive Director, the Center for Research and Security Studies, pointed out that regional politics was shifting rapidly, which calls for careful diplomacy on the part of Pakistan to avoid falling behind the geopolitical curve in the region. Gen (Retd) Masud Aslam highlighted the long history of Saudi-Iranian differences and asserted that Pakistan should cleave to realism and prudent management of bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia

and Iran. Solvere Lim Swee Keng, a Singaporean S&T and global affairs expert, underscored the need for intra-civilisational and inter-civilisational harmony for regional and global peace. He said that trade and connectivity had proven to be "reliable vehicles" for harmony promotion within and across regions. Other prominent speakers included Ambassador (Retd) Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Ambassador (Retd) Fauzia Nasreen, former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia; and Nasir Ali Shah Bukhari, Chairman KASB Group.—APP



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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 264

Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

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## Arctic: threatened by Ukraine war

As the cold war thawed in the 1980s, the frozen high north of the planet was a leading beneficiary of more conciliatory times. Speaking in Murmansk in 1987, Mikhail Gorbachev called for an end to military competition in the Arctic, and a new focus on preserving its unique ecosystem. "The community and interrelationship of the interests of our entire world," said the Soviet leader, "is felt in the northern part of the globe, in the Arctic, perhaps more than anywhere else." Mr Gorbachev's words paved the way for a cross-state consensus around the idea of "Arctic exceptionalism" – an agreement that in an environmentally crucial region, where Europe, North America and Asia meet, geopolitical rivalries should be put to one side. Since 1996, the Arctic Council, comprising the eight Arctic states including Russia, has embodied that spirit of cooperation. It is yet another disastrous consequence of Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine that it is now at risk. Since Russia's invasion in 2022, the council's western members have rightly refused a business-as-usual approach with Moscow. At a scientific level, this has meant lack of access to crucial data and the pausing of joint projects. That is no small matter, given that 40% of the Arctic is Russian. Meanwhile, the region's natural resources – increasingly accessible due to disappearing sea ice – are being sucked into the fallout of Mr Putin's war. Turning away from Europe, Mr Putin is stepping up collaboration on Arctic projects with China, following President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Moscow. In March, Russia announced the creation of a joint working body with Beijing to develop the Northern Sea Route, which connects the eastern and western parts of the Arctic Ocean. As well as facilitating shipping routes, melting sea ice promises much easier access to abundant untapped oil reserves, gas and raw materials. In 2008, the United States Geological Survey estimated that the Arctic region contained the equivalent of more than 400bn recoverable barrels of oil. The clear danger is that the breakdown of collaboration in the region, combined with Russia's pivot to the east, leads to what the Finnish foreign minister, Pekka Haavisto, has described as "an Arctic area with no common goal for climate change". Given that respect for the sovereignty of states is one of the Arctic Council's founding principles, it is difficult to see how Russia can be treated as a normal member while its war continues. On the other hand, the development of a competing Sino-Russian strategy for the region, making it a new theatre of great-power rivalry, is a deeply alarming prospect. Last week it was reported that the 2030s will see the first ice-free Arctic summers. The far north of the world has entered a zone of dangerous geopolitical uncertainty.



## IAEA must not bend rules for AUKUS

Li Song, China's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, once again stressed that the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal is a cover for nuclear proliferation at the board meeting of the IAEA in Vienna on Thursday. No matter how far the de facto anti-China bloc has gone to justify the deal, they cannot deny its fundamental nature, which is the transfer of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium from two nuclear-weapon states to a non-nuclear-weapon state. That violates the principles and practices of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and severely undermines the international non-proliferation regime and the IAEA's safeguards system. Thursday's meeting marked the eighth consecutive time the IAEA has reviewed the AUKUS issue through intergovernmental discussions. But rather than addressing the international community's concerns with concrete actions, fulfilling their non-proliferation obligations, and maintaining candid and transparent communication with other parties on the basis of equality and mutual respect, the AUKUS countries have attempted to depict their nuclear submarine deal as a routine safeguards issue between a non-nuclear-weapon state and the IAEA Secretariat. They have requested the IAEA invoke Article 14 of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement to make safeguards exemption arrangements, which, as the Chinese envoy stressed, is "a clandestine move to coerce the IAEA Secretariat into endorsing their cooperation". To bypass the nuclear nonproliferation rules, the AUKUS countries claimed they would work out suitable arrangements with the IAEA Secretariat. Such a move is not only of no legitimacy, but also sets a bad example. The representatives of more than 20 countries put forward different perspectives on the AUKUS deal that involves complicated political, security, legal and technical issues. In the face of such opposition, since AUKUS unilaterally announced the deal in September 2021, the three countries have sought to divide the members of the nuclear energy watchdog into confrontational blocs. Interestingly, the Western media organizations have neither reported these countries' concerns nor AUKUS' dirty underhand dealings within the IAEA, even if promoting nuclear nonproliferation has always been regarded as political correctness in their editorial policies. The IAEA Secretariat should comply with the IAEA Statute and the mandates of member states, rather than yield to the pressure of the US. In the eyes of the three countries, all of the IAEA rules are expendable. The more they try to advance the AUKUS deal in an underhand way, the more all countries need to join hands to steadily advance an open, inclusive, transparent and sustainable intergovernmental discussion process on the issue.

## Rebalancing US-Saudi relations

James M. Dorsey

In the ultimate analysis, the US and Saudi jockeying aims to find a new centre of gravity in relations that would replace a decades-old bargain of preferred US access to Saudi oil in exchange for US defence of Saudi Arabia against foreign challenges and Saudi support for US policies. That bargain needs updating. Oil prices still matter, but the United States, the world's largest producer, no longer depends on Saudi oil imports. In addition, efforts to counter China cast US interests in the Middle East in a different light. For its part, Saudi Arabia, rejuvenated by Mr. Bin Salman's social and economic reforms and armed with a massive financial war

draft bill in the US House of Representatives that would strip PGA Tour, the organizer of golf's flagship events, of its tax-exempt status because of its merger with a Saudi-backed rival spotlights the pitfalls of American and Saudi efforts to put relations on an even keel. So did comments by Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan at the tail end of last week's visit to the kingdom by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, laying down parameters for the Gulf state's future engagement with the United States. To drive the point home, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcomed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to the kingdom a day before Mr. Blinken's arrival and phoned Russian leader Vladimir Putin hours after meeting the secretary. Two days later, Saudi Arabia hosted a major Chinese Arab business conference. Former US Middle East negotiator Aaron David Miller argues that the PGA Tour's controversial merger with LIV Golf, its US\$405 million, 14-tournament league Saudi rival, fits the pattern. "The message to Washington is unmistakably clear: we've got influence even in your own backyard, and you're not the only game in town," Mr. Miller said. "What makes the PGA-LIV deal so intriguing – and potentially threatening – is that (Mr. Bin Salman's) latest play with golf has taken him directly into America's backyard, its domestic politics where the Saudi image is still tied in the minds of many Americans to 9/11 and the brutal Khashoggi murder – and where Republicans tend to be more supportive of a strong US-Saudi tie and Democrats suspicious if not hostile," the former official added, referring to the 2018 killing of Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

In the ultimate analysis, the US and Saudi jockeying aims to find a new centre of gravity in relations that would replace a decades-old bargain of preferred US access to Saudi oil in exchange for US defence of Saudi Arabia against foreign challenges and Saudi support for US policies. That bargain needs updating. Oil prices still matter, but the United States, the world's largest producer, no longer depends on Saudi oil imports. In addition, efforts to counter China cast US interests in the Middle East in a different light. For its part, Saudi Arabia, rejuvenated by Mr. Bin Salman's social and economic reforms and armed with a massive financial war chest, sees an opportunity to chart a more independent course and position itself in an increasingly multi-polar world in which middle powers have greater agency and leverage. Even so, Saudi Arabia still needs the US military to ensure oil flows from the Gulf, with neither China nor Russia willing or able to take over that role. As a result, US-Saudi jockeying is an effort to redefine the balance of power in the relationship. In some ways, the jockeying resembles a game of bluff poker designed to test each other's limits. "In the Cold War, the US

could pretty much count on the Saudis to back its big strategic initiatives. When the Cold War ended, the Saudis didn't have much choice. Now they have choices. The period of American unipolarity is basically over, and the Saudis understand that, and they are seeing other options," said Gulf scholar Gregory Gause.

In one instance of bluff poker, a leaked US intelligence document suggested that Mr. Bin Salman, responding to US anger at his slashing last year of oil production amid high energy prices, threatened that "he will not deal with the US administration anymore." The document quoted the crown prince as saying there would be "major economic consequences for Washington." Outreach since then by senior US officials and Mr. Blinken's visit have made clear that both sides were eager to pull back from the brink. Describing the Saudi-US relationship as strategic rather than transactional, Mr. Blinken said, "what we're seeing is an increasing convergence in our partnership to advance in issues of mutual interest to Saudi Arabia, to the United States, and, for that matter, to countries in the region and beyond." The secretary insisted that the Biden administration had "been very clear we're not asking anyone to choose between the United States and China. We're simply trying to demonstrate the benefits of our partnership and the affirmative agenda that we bring."

In redefining Saudi Arabia's relationship with the US and its place on the global totem pole, Mr. Bin Salman has cards to play with. He has a clear vision of where he wants his kingdom to be. In contrast, the United States struggles to come to terms with a multi-polar world where it is a less dominant player. Economics compounded by Saudi Arabia's oil-based financial muscle work in Mr. Bin Salman's favour with China replacing the European Union and the United States as the kingdom's foremost trading partner. Even so, economic relations with the United States remain significant, with US\$55 billion in trade and investment, Saudi defense and aviation orders worth at least \$265 billion, a potential acquisition of at least 150 Boeing 737 Max jetliners by the kingdom's newest state-owned airline, Riyadh Air, and continued Saudi investment in US aerospace and technology companies that include 5G and 6G cellular networks. In comments during Mr. Blinken's visit, Mr. Bin Farhan, the Saudi foreign minister, stressed that the kingdom had options. Yet, one reading of his remarks suggests that he also acknowledged limits.

Like Mr. Blinken, Mr. Bin Farhan rejected the notion that Saudi relations with the US and China amounted to a "zero-sum game." He insisted that "we are all capable of having multiple partnerships and multiple engagements, and the US does the same in many instances." Even so, one indication of Saudi Arabia's ability to balance relation-

ships will be the kingdom's handling of its peaceful nuclear program plans. The United States has made support for the program conditional on the kingdom surrendering its rights to enrich uranium at a low level. US opposition is reinforced by fears that the Middle East may head for a nuclear arms race as Iran becomes a nuclear threshold state. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia has indicated the importance it attributes to US support for the program by making it one of several conditions for establishing relations with Israel. "It's no secret that we are developing our domestic civilian nuclear program, and we would very much prefer to be able to have the US as one of the bidders. Obviously, we would like to build our program with the best technology in the world," Mr. Bin Farhan said. Saudi Arabia has reportedly suggested that the kingdom and US companies establish a joint entity to manage the kingdom's nuclear program to alleviate US concerns. The entity would give US companies a direct role in the development and oversight of the program, including the enrichment of uranium in the kingdom. The Saudi gesture may go a long way toward assuaging US concerns. However, more may be needed to secure Congressional approval to transfer sensitive atomic equipment and materials.

The draft bill to strip golf's PGA Tour of its tax-exempt status is the latest indication of Saudi Arabia's reputational deficit in the US Congress. Saudi Arabia "cannot be allowed to sports wash its government's horrific human rights abuses," said California Democrat John Garamendi, the bill's author. In effect, Mr. Garamendi put the ball in the Saudi court. In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Blinken is believed to have pushed for the lifting of a travel ban on a dual US-Saudi national, 72-year-old Saad Ibrahim Almadhi, as part of a broader, albeit half-hearted, attempt to persuade the kingdom to improve its badly tarnished human rights record. Sentenced to 19 years in prison for posting criticism of the government on Twitter when he was in Florida, Mr. Almadhi was released in March but forbidden to leave the kingdom. While rejecting US pressure for greater human rights adherence, Foreign Minister Bin Farhan did not close the door. "We are always open to having a dialogue with our friends, but we don't respond to pressure. When we do anything, we do it in our own interests," Mr. Bin Farhan said. The draft golf bill and comments by other Democratic Congress members suggest that improving human rights is a Saudi interest, given that the kingdom has bigger fish to fry. In an indication of the gap with Congress that Saudi Arabia needs to bridge, Democratic Senator Chris Murphy recently asserted that "any strategy in the Middle East built upon assuming Saudi Arabia is going to be a constant, reliable partner is destined to fail. The Saudis will work with us sometimes and against us sometimes, and the sooner we realize that, the better."

## The Two Nations Theory is a base of Pakistan

Asad Ullah



With the rise of Muslim nationalism in Hindu-dominated India, the "Two Nations Theory" emerged and persisted throughout the period. Both communities coexisted under the same rulers, but their integration was inconceivable. Even Mughal emperor Akbar's attempt to unify Hindus and Muslims into a single nation had failed. The Muslims faced agony at the hands of Hindus and the British. Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah rejected Nehru's belief that there were only two forces in India, British imperialism and Indian nationalism represented by the Congress. Jinnah reminded Nehru that there was another party, the "Muslim League," which had the right to represent Indian Muslims. It has been mistakenly assumed that Muslims are a minority, but Jinnah argued that Muslims are a nation in their own right. Hindus and Muslims belong to different religions, philosophies, social customs, and literature, and they have conflicting ideas and conceptions. Therefore, they must have their own homeland, territory, and state. Life is a sacred gift from God, and individuals and communities must adhere to certain codes, laws, and ideals. Pakistan's ideology is rooted in Islamic ideology, which encompasses both the spiritual and material aspects of life. Pakistan is a state founded on an ideological basis, not territorial grounds. The Muslims of the subcontinent constitute a nation, and the two-nation theory gave rise to the distinct ideology of Pakistan. It is an ideological state with foundations based on Islamic teachings from the Quran and Sunnah. Hindus and Muslims belong to different cultures with conflicting

ideas and concepts, deriving inspiration from different sources of history. The freedom movement in the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent must be understood in its proper historical context. Muslims entered India as conquerors from the west and northwest. The establishment of Muslim rule by Muhammad Bin Qasim in 712 A.D. marked the beginning of Pakistan. Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion in the 11th century integrated the lands that now constitute Pakistan under Muslim rule. Islamic culture flourished, and justice, tolerance, and prosperity prevailed wherever Islam was upheld. Muslim saints and rulers upheld the flag of Islam, and the Muslim empire ultimately declined. During the 18th century, cracks appeared in the Mughal Empire, and the Marathas threatened Hinduism's rise. The Muslim rule diminished, and the British took advantage of the situation, ruling over India. The Muslims suffered under British and Hindu dominance. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Allama Muhammad Iqbal emerged as beacons of hope for the Muslims. They worked towards uplifting the Muslims of India and revitalizing their past glory. The revival movements led by these leaders allowed Muslims to voice their grievances and fight for their rights. Over time, Indian Muslims realized they could not coexist with Hindus due to their differing beliefs, cultures, traditions, and outlook on life. Muhammad Ali Jinnah embraced the idea of a separate Muslim state, Pakistan, and became its leader. Jinnah refused to accept Nehru's belief that there were only two forces in India and emphasized the Muslim League's right to represent Indian Muslims. Jinnah recognized that the Hindu majority sought to dominate the Muslims and saw no desire for fair treatment. The British rule further demonstrated this, as the Muslim minority suffered under Hindu-majority rule. The Muslims, under the leadership of Jinnah and inspired by Urdu, their national language, stood firm under the Muslim League flag. Jinnah firmly believed that Hindus and Muslims could not live together, as Hinduism and Islam have distinct social codes and aspects of social life. In his historic speech at Lahore in 1940, Jinnah highlighted the differences between Hindus and Muslims and asserted that Muslims are a nation by any definition. He emphasized the need for a separate homeland and state for Muslims. Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah stands alone as a figure who, through sheer determination and unwavering

dedication, etched his name into the history of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent. Undoubtedly, his task was more arduous than that of any other freedom fighter. In a part of the world where colonial powers had long enslaved the populace, and where the Muslims had lost their fighting spirit, it was nothing short of a miracle that a leader single-handedly succeeded in instilling a sense of purpose in a dispirited mass of people. Within a short span of time, the Quaid transformed a demoralized, scattered multitude into a unified and determined force. Under his leadership, the Muslim nation had to confront three adversaries the British, the Congress, and "quailing" Muslims. Such a remarkable and fruitful struggle finds few parallels in world history. This struggle for Muslim independence could have ended in failure had it been led by a person of lesser vision. Qaid-e-Azam fought for the division of India into Pakistan and Hindustan, a vision that entailed freedom for both the Hindu and Muslim nations, and he emerged victorious. "Pakistan is a state deliberately established not on economic, linguistic, or racial grounds, but on the basis of religious unity." He founded a new country based on the idea that Muslims of British India required a separate nation in which they could freely practice their religion, develop their culture, and shape their society without the burden of Hindu majority's social and cultural influence. Throughout history, despite living in close proximity to Hindus, Muslims managed to maintain their distinct identity primarily due to their historical experiences of Muslim rule in South Asia. History encompasses the significant events occurring worldwide, and the history of South Asia is replete with momentous occurrences, with the emergence of Pakistan standing as a paramount milestone. After immense sacrifices, the long-cherished aspiration of millions of Indian subcontinent Muslims became a reality under the extraordinary and unprecedented leadership of Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. On August 14, 1947, the Muslim state of Pakistan came into existence. Islamic ideology serves as the philosophical foundation of the Two Nations theory. Pakistan is a state founded on ideological principles rather than territorial considerations. The Two Nations theory became a reality through the distinct ideology of Pakistan. The ideology of Pakistan is not only the cause of the country's creation but also

the driving force behind its existence and the destiny of its people. Those who reject the Two Nations theory and oppose Islamization are not friends or well-wishers of the country. Allama Iqbal, a champion of the Muslim cause, deserves immense gratitude. His interpretation of Islam in its true essence, his message of "back to the Quran," his accurate diagnosis of the ills afflicting Muslim India, and his suggested remedies completed the political revival of the Muslim community in India. The banner of Pakistan ideology, passed on by Allama Iqbal, was carried forward and fulfilled by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who not only staunchly believed in and supported the Two Nations theory but also founded the ideological state of Pakistan. He single-handedly fought against foreign rulers and the Indian Congress, remaining steadfast with wholehearted support from his colleagues and Indian Muslims. The great Quaid unequivocally declared to the world: "By a separate homeland, I mean a country where the Muslims of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent can shape their lives according to the principles of the Holy Quran and Sunnah." If we desire to promote Pakistan ideology and transform it into a true stronghold of Islam, let us work together unitedly and act wholeheartedly upon the Quaid's resounding call: faith, unity, and discipline. Let us vow to demonstrate through actions, not mere words. Let us earnestly strive for an Islamic way of life, both on an individual and national level. Let us wage a battle against the forces of evil, social injustice, bribery, corruption in public life, poverty, and ignorance. If we wish to safeguard our hard-earned freedom, we must firmly hold onto Allah's guidance. Our sole hope of survival lies in faithfully implementing the Pakistan ideology. When people uphold their ideology, that ideology can, in turn, preserve and safeguard the people. At the end, I thank to Respected Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer for his valuable source of guidance. He generously shared his time and knowledge, providing me with valuable feedback and constructive criticism that has significantly improved the quality of my work. His patience, encouragement, and willingness to engage in meaningful discussions have been truly inspiring. —The writer is Student of BS Mass Communication [sadullahbhatti027@gmail.com](mailto:sadullahbhatti027@gmail.com)

## Briefs

## NA demands speedy trial of the rioters

FROM PAGE 01

In that regard, he said, allegations of a political party and propaganda had no reality. As per the international practice, he said Pakistan too had the legal right to initiate proceedings against such elements under the relevant law. So, all the elements involved in the May 9 vandalism be prosecuted under the Pakistan Army Act-1952 without any delay and get them punished.

Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) agreed to give exemplary punishment to perpetrators of the May 9 incidents but opposed their trial under the Army Act.

He viewed that the rioters of May 9 should be tried in the civil and anti-terrorism courts, and his party would accept their decisions.

The Defence Minister said all over the world, forces had to take action against those involved in incidents like attacking military installations and Pakistan also had the same legal and constitutional authority.

He said no patriot Pakistanis could dare to attack military installations and martyrs' memorials, but unfortunately, the workers of a political party crossed all the limits on May 9.

## COAS Munir calls on PM...

FROM PAGE 01

Police Lines in Islamabad on the occasion of Pakistan Martyrs' Day, says the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The army chief said the events of May 9 were deeply saddening and condemnable. He emphasised that the nation would not tolerate any disrespect towards the memorials of martyrs or any action that undermined their honour.

The sacrifices made by these martyrs could not be erased. The Pakistan army, along with the police and other law-enforcement agencies, served as a symbol of the state and acts as its frontline defence, he said. He praised their unwavering commitment and readiness to make any sacrifice for the country's dignity.

## NATO begins...

FROM PAGE 01

The exercise would show "beyond a shadow of a doubt the agility and the swiftness of our allied force" and was intended to send a message to countries including Russia. "I would be pretty surprised if any world leader was not taking note of what this shows in terms of the spirit of this alliance, which means the strength of this alliance, and that includes Mr Putin," she told reporters, referring to the Russian president.

"By synchronising together, we multiply our force." Russia's war on Ukraine has galvanised the Western military alliance set up almost 75 years ago to face off against the Soviet Union. Finland and Sweden, which long kept an official veneer of neutrality to avoid conflict with Moscow, both sought membership in NATO after Russia's February 2022 invasion.

Under NATO's Article Five, an attack on one member is considered an attack on all.

The exercise includes operational and tactical-level training, primarily in Germany, but also in the Czech Republic, Estonia and Latvia, with a total of around 2,000 flights.

## Khan gets protective bail in DG Khan case

FROM PAGE 01

The IHC had apologised to hear the plea of PTI Chairman Imran Khan for protective bail in the Dera Ghazi Khan case. The judge of Court No. 2 of the IHC had apologised to hear the plea. The case file had been sent to IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq again.

## Pak to open campaign in ACC Women's Asia Cup

"Tournaments like these provide a fantastic platform for our young players to showcase their skills and potentially earn a place in the senior side internationally. It's a golden opportunity for them, and I believe they will grab it with both hands"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan women's team will be targeting a good display in the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup as they begin their journey in the eight-team tournament against Nepal at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Hong Kong on Tuesday. Fatima Sana will be leading the side in the T20 tournament, which began on Monday. Pakistan are slotted in Group A with Hong Kong, India A and Nepal. After tomorrow's game, Pakistan will play hosts Hong Kong and India A on June 15 and 17 respectively. Top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals which will be played

on June 19. The final of the tournament will be held on June 21. In the last edition of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2019, which was held in Sri Lanka, Pakistan remained winless in the four-team competition. Captain and right-arm fast Fatima, leg-spinners Tuba Hassan and Syeda Aroob Shah, and wicket-keeper-batter Najiha Alvi featured in the 2019 edition. Six players apart from Captain Fatima (31 ODIs, 24 T20Is) have already represented Pakistan women's team in international cricket. These include Gull Feroza (2 T20Is), Natalia Parvaiz (3 ODIs, 11 T20Is), Sadaf Shamas (4

ODIs, 2 T20Is), Syeda Aroob Shah (2 ODIs, 5 T20Is), Tuba Hassan (1 ODI, 21 T20Is) and Umm-e-Hani (1 ODI). Other than Aroob, three players - Anoosha Nasir, Eymaan Fatima and Shawaal Zulfiqar - have represented Pakistan U19 in the inaugural edition of ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in January this year in South Africa. Before the 15-day camp in Karachi, the players also represented Strikers in the first phase of Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament held in Karachi last month, where the team under the leadership of Fatima won all three matches. On the eve of the first game, Fatima Sana said: "We have

worked hard in our preparations, and the roles have been clearly defined to each player. Now is the time for them to step up and deliver their best for the team. "While individual brilliance can make a difference, I believe in the strength of our team. We have a talented group of players, and I don't want to rely solely on one individual. It's crucial for every player to contribute to the team's success. I have faith that each member will give their all and collectively, we will achieve great results. "Tournaments like these provide a fantastic platform for our young players to showcase their skills and potentially earn a place in the

senior side internationally. It's a golden opportunity for them, and I believe they will grab it with both hands." Squad: Fatima Sana (c), Anoosha Nasir, Eymaan Fatima, Gull Feroza, Gulrukh, Lubna Behram, Najiha Alvi (wk), Natalia Parvaiz, Sadaf Shamas, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Yusra Amir. Reserves: Amber Kainat, Dua Majid, Fatima Khan and Rameen Shamim Player support personnel: Aisha Jalil (manager), Mohsin Kamal (head coach), Muhammad Kamran Hussain (assistant coach), Muhammad Usman Shahid (analyst) and Rabia Siddiq (physiotherapist). - APP



ISLAMABAD: Students from various institutions, Regular Blood Donors PRCS Staff & Volunteers Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in collaboration with its Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, will organize cycling event 'Donors on Wheels' in connection with World Blood Donor Day 2023 at Jinnah Sports Complex, outside Liaquat Gymnasium. - APP

## Hong Kong beat Pakistan in Asian Netball C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Hong Kong outplayed Pakistan in the Asian Youth Girls' Netball Championship at Jeonju, Korea. Hong Kong beat Pakistan by 78-15 in the game. Pakistan faced defeat at the hands of Hong Kong in their third match after Thailand. Pakistan would play their fourth match against Malaysia on Tuesday. Pakistan has played three matches in the championship so far and had won against Japan in its first match. It is worth mentioning that teams from 11 countries were participating in the championship, which have been divided into two groups. Pakistan would play its fifth match against India on June 14. The quarter-finals and semi-finals of the championship would be played on June 16, whereas the final on June 17. - Agencies

## Haddad first Brazilian to reach WTA top 10

## SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Beatriz Haddad Maia became the first Brazilian woman to reach the top 10 of the WTA rankings on Monday following her dream run to the semi-finals of the French Open. The 27-year-old beat Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in the last eight in Paris to become the first Brazilian woman in 55 years to reach a Grand Slam semi-final. She was eventually beaten by eventual champion Iga Swiatek. Brazilian women's has had precious little success since the days of Maria Bueno who claimed seven Grand Slam titles between 1959 and 1966 - long before the advent of the WTA rankings which were introduced in 1975. Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten reached number one in the men's ATP rankings in 2000. Haddad Maia will take a ranking of 10 into the grasscourt season in which she impressed last year and will feature in this week's Nottingham Open as build-up to Wimbledon. - Agencies



## Sports play key role in holistic development: Shaza Fatima

LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said sports play major role in ensuring holistic development of children. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, she said that from today, Prime Minister's Sports Talent Hunt for football was being started across the country. She said that the purpose of the initiative was to take the youth towards positivity and to eliminate toxicity spread among youngsters due to politics based on hatred and unrest. She said the PM Youth Programme was launched in 2013 by the PML-N government, and Maryam Nawaz had presented its idea. She said that a number of programmes were started un-

der the Youth Programme like scholarships, laptops, 'Qarze-Hsna', business loans, internships, etc. She said that during the last one year, thousands of children participated in hockey and volleyball trials. Shaza said that in the coming two weeks, trials would be conducted across the country and calendar in this regard would also be shared. She said that after Eidul Azha, provincial leagues would be started on completion of trials. She said that teams, which would come forward in provincial leagues, their national competition would be held by the end of July in Islamabad. The SAPM said that economic well-being of sportsmen and sportswomen was important so prizes would be given in provincial

leagues as well. She said that it was unfortunate that in previous years, departmental sports were stopped by the previous government. Shaza Fatima said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had restored departmental sports. The provincial government had collaborated with the federal government in very good way and she hoped that collective efforts would definitely yield positive results for providing good opportunities to children in sports, she added. She said that Rs 2-3 million would be a prize money for provincial leagues. She urged the youth to actively take part in it and said that the first trial event was being started from Lahore College for Women University. Caretaker Punjab Sports

Minister Wahab Riaz appreciated the federal government over its approach under which they were collaborating with the provincial governments for promotion of sports. He said it was welcoming that youth, especially girls, would be empowered through the initiative. He said that all possible support would be extended to the federal government in this regard. The SAPM said that players, who had won events of wrestling and weightlifting, had also won medals at international levels. She said that all sports would be catered to one by one. PML-N leader Rana Mashood said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif always wanted to provide platform to youth in different fields of life. - APP

## Australia keep faith in expensive Starc's wicket-taking ability

McDonald said Starc was not the only bowler who went for runs against India and that the 33-year-old lent much balance to their pace attack

LONDON: Mitchell Starc may have leaked runs in the World Test Championship final against India but his wicket-taking ability is crucial to the balance of the Australia pace attack heading into the Ashes series against England, coach Andrew McDonald said on Monday. The left-arm quick claimed four wickets but went for 5.34 runs an over - the most expensive performance in his 78-test career - at The

Oval in London, where Australia triumphed by 209 runs with Scott Boland impressing the most among the Australian seamers. While Pat Cummins is safe as the captain of the side, a fit-again Josh Hazlewood would join Starc and Boland in the race for the remaining two spots in Australia's pace attack for the first Ashes test later this week. McDonald said Starc was not the only bowler who went for runs against India

and that the 33-year-old lent much balance to their pace attack. "Most of our bowlers went at above what they'd usually go, and we've just got to get our heads around that the tempo will be slightly different," McDonald told reporters before Australia moved to Edgbaston, which hosts the first test from Friday. "Mitch went at a bit more than he generally goes at, but they complement each other really, really well. "His wicket-taking ability is second-to-none. We've got to weigh all that up when we make decisions." Cummins also threw his weight behind Starc, tipping him to play a key role in the five-test series in England. "He did a role for us that we know Starc can do after 80 test matches," Cummins said after Sunday's win against India. "He has got a huge tour ahead of him and will play a huge role for us. The English side sets up slightly different as well. - Agencies

## Gambhir takes away WC 2011 credit from Dhoni

"World Cups are won by the efforts of the whole team. A single player can't win you a World Cup, otherwise, India could have won 5-10 World Cups by now," he said

NEW DELHI: Former Indian opener Gautam Gambhir said MS Dhoni wasn't the main reason behind their World Cup glory in 2011. Speaking in a viral interview, Gambhir claimed that PR and marketing hype individuals too much in Indian cricket. "He [Dhoni] says that he won us the World Cup. But in reality, Yuvraj Singh took us to the World Cup finals, be it in 2011 or T20 World Cup in 2007. Why nobody talks about him?" he questioned. "It's all about PR and marketing which hype particular players too much. People call some players underrated, but nobody talks about who made them underrated. "World Cups are won by the efforts of the whole team. A single player can't win you a World Cup, otherwise, India could have



won 5-10 World Cups by now," he said. India won their second World Cup in 2011 under the captaincy of Dhoni. They beat Sri Lanka in the final to lift the coveted trophy. Gambhir was also part of India's World Cup-winning squad. Dhoni is one of the finest captains Indian cricket has ever produced. Under his captaincy, India won ICC T20 World Cup's inaugural edition in 2007, ICC World Cup in 2011 and ICC Champions Trophy in 2013. CSK won all of their IPL titles under the captaincy of Dhoni. They won the cash-rich league in 2010, 2011, 2018, and 2021. A lot of young Indian players were groomed by Dhoni in his captaincy era. The world's finest batter Virat Kohli was also polished under the leadership of the wicketkeeper batter. - Agencies

## Evacuation begins as cyclone...

FROM PAGE 01

Bodies Minister Nasir Shah, Sindh Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput - visited Shah Bandar area of the district. After the visit, the chief minister headed a meeting to review arrangements for mitigating the impact of Biparjioy in the coastal belt at 31 Creek Conference Room in Sujawal.

While briefing the CM on the evacuation work, the Hyderabad commissioner said that the evacuation began from Badin's zero-point village Bhagra Memon and at least 2,000 people have been evacuated from the island of Shah Bandar. A total of 50,000 people will be evacuated from the villages of Shah Bandar, Jati, and Keti Bandar. The chief minister was informed that Biparjioy will hit the coast of Sindh on June 15, but its intensity will subside by June 17 to 18. However, the seawater will surge as the wavelength will rise up to 4 to 5 metres when the storm hits, he added. The decision to evacuate areas was taken on Sunday in a meeting chaired by Karachi Commissioner Iqbal Memon, where the participants discussed the preemptive measures regarding the cyclonic storm. Cyclone Biparjioy is likely to hit the coastal belt of southeast Sindh between Pakistan/Rann of Kutch-Indian Gujarat coasts by June 15 afternoon as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS), officials said on Sunday evening.

## Promise of importing Russian oil fulfilled

FROM PAGE 01

"As always, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is fulfilling his promises to the people", the minister said, adding that one year's sincere and honest work was paying off with the grace of God. Meanwhile, Mariyum Aurangzeb says the incumbent government has taken various steps for welfare and security of the journalist community. She was addressing the launching ceremony of Health Insurance and Relief Package for media workers at a ceremony held at National Press Club in Islamabad on Monday.

Mariyum Aurangzeb said it is the vision of PML-N chief Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ensure welfare, security and safety of the journalists and media workers and the government is following their vision in this connection.

## Establishment holds key...

FROM PAGE 01

"Now the situation is different," Imran Khan replied. "Smile Khan Sahib! Your smile is our hope," the woman lawyer said to Imran Khan. "Do you think that I am under any pressure?" asked the PTI chairman.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan strongly condemned the unabated midnight raids by security forces on the houses of PTI leaders and workers, breaking and vandalizing their homes, harassing and abusing women and even their servants aimed at unleashing a reign of terror. In a statement on Monday, PTI Chairman that this policy of oppression might have temporarily spread fear amongst the people, but it was only a matter of time before this seething hatred came out in the open.

Imran Khan said: "Whenever our Holy Prophet (PBUH) would go for battle, there were strict instructions that women, children and elders were not to be harmed. Today, our own security forces are raiding our houses in the middle of the night, breaking doors, vandalising the house and robbing it." PTI Chairman stated that women were abused, harassed and threatened and if the person was not there then their boys, fathers and even servants were picked up and jailed. "My sister's driver and cook Rahim were picked up when the police couldn't find her son. Both were jailed where they were packed like sardines," he added. He said that Rahim suffered breathing problems and since his release he had been on the ventilator fighting for his life, adding that clearly those who were responsible for this reign of terror feel they were above law.

## Briefs

## Trump is 'toast' if classified records case is proven

WASHINGTON: U.S. Attorney General William Barr on Sunday defended Special Counsel Jack Smith's 37-count indictment against Donald Trump on Sunday, saying if the allegations the former president will fully retained hundreds of highly classified documents are proven true, then "he's toast." "I was shocked by the degree of sensitivity of these documents and how many there were, ... and I think the counts under the Espionage Act that he willfully retained those documents are solid counts," Barr, who served under Trump, told "Fox News Sunday."

"If even half of it is true, then he's toast." The comments from Barr, who was Trump's attorney general from February of 2019 through December of 2020, are notable and were made at a time when many other prominent Republicans have been hesitant to criticize the former president and current Republican front-runner in the 2024 White House race.

Trump responded to Barr's comments with criticism and insults. Describing Barr as a "lazy" and "weak" attorney general, Trump on his social media platform Truth Social said he only made the comments because he was disgruntled and that they were misinformation. "Turn off Fox News when that 'Gutless Pig' is on," Trump said. —Agencies

## More than 40 killed in IDP camp attack in DR Congo

ITURI: More than 40 people have been killed in an attack on a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to local officials and activists. Richard Dheda, an official of the local administration for Bahema Badjere in Djuju territory in the DRC's Ituri province, said the attack on Lala camp early on Monday was carried out by fighters belonging to a coalition of militia groups called the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CO-DECO).

Dheda was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency that at least 41 people were killed in the attack on the camp, located 5km (3 miles) from Bule, the site of a United Nations peace-keeping base.

Maki Lombe, a witness, also told the Reuters news agency he had seen "more than 40 bodies" lying on the ground. He survived by fleeing during the night, he said. "They began to fire shots, many people were burned to death in their homes, others were killed by machete," Desire Malodra, civil society representative, told AFP. —Agencies

## Driver charged after bus accident kills 10 wedding guests

SYDNEY: A man was charged with dangerous driving on Monday after at least 10 wedding guests were killed when the bus they were travelling in crashed at a roundabout in Australia's worst bus accident in almost 30 years, police said. Twenty-five people were injured in the accident around 11:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) on Sunday near the town of Greta, about 180 km (112 miles) northwest of Sydney, police said. The bus carrying 35 passengers left the road and flipped onto its side at a roundabout after a wedding in the Hunter region, a rural area famous for its vineyards and wedding spots. Police said the driver, a 58-year-old man, had been taken to hospital for mandatory drug testing. He was refused bail and is scheduled to appear in court on Tuesday. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed his "deepest sympathies" to the families of the people killed and injured. "All of us know the joy of going to a wedding ... they are some of the happiest times that you can have. —Agencies

## UNESCO says US plans to rejoin body from July

The proposed plan to rejoin in 2023 must now be submitted to the General Conference of UNESCO Member States for final approval. Some member states want an extraordinary session to be held quickly to decide

## NEWS DESK

PARIS: The United States plans to rejoin UNESCO from July this year, ending a lengthy dispute that saw Washington end its membership in 2018, the UN cultural agency announced on Monday.

"It is a strong act of confidence in UNESCO and in multilateralism," said its director general Audrey Azoulay when she informed representatives of the body's member states in Paris of Washington's decision to rejoin. The United States, a founding member of UNESCO,

was a major contributor to UNESCO's budget until 2011, when the body admitted Palestine as a member state.

That triggered an end to the contributions under US law. Then president Donald Trump went further by announcing in 2017 that the United States was withdrawing from UNESCO alongside Israel, accusing the body of bias against the Jewish state. Its pullout took effect in 2018.

Azoulay, a former French culture minister who has headed UNESCO since 2017, has made it a priority of her mandate to bring the United States back.

"UNESCO is doing well, but it will be even better when the US returns," she said Monday.

"It's not hard to imagine all the things both the US government and civil society can bring to the international community in education, culture, and science," she added.

In a letter to Azoulay sent by AFP, Richard Verma, the US deputy secretary of state for management and resources, said Washington was "grateful" to Azoulay for progress on "significant issues", including "decreasing focus on politicised debate". Until the suspension of its contributions in

2011, the US paid about 22 percent of UNESCO's budget, or \$75 million. But the US Congress, then fully controlled by President Joe Biden's Democratic Party, in December paved the way for the United States to restore funding, setting aside \$150 million in the budget.

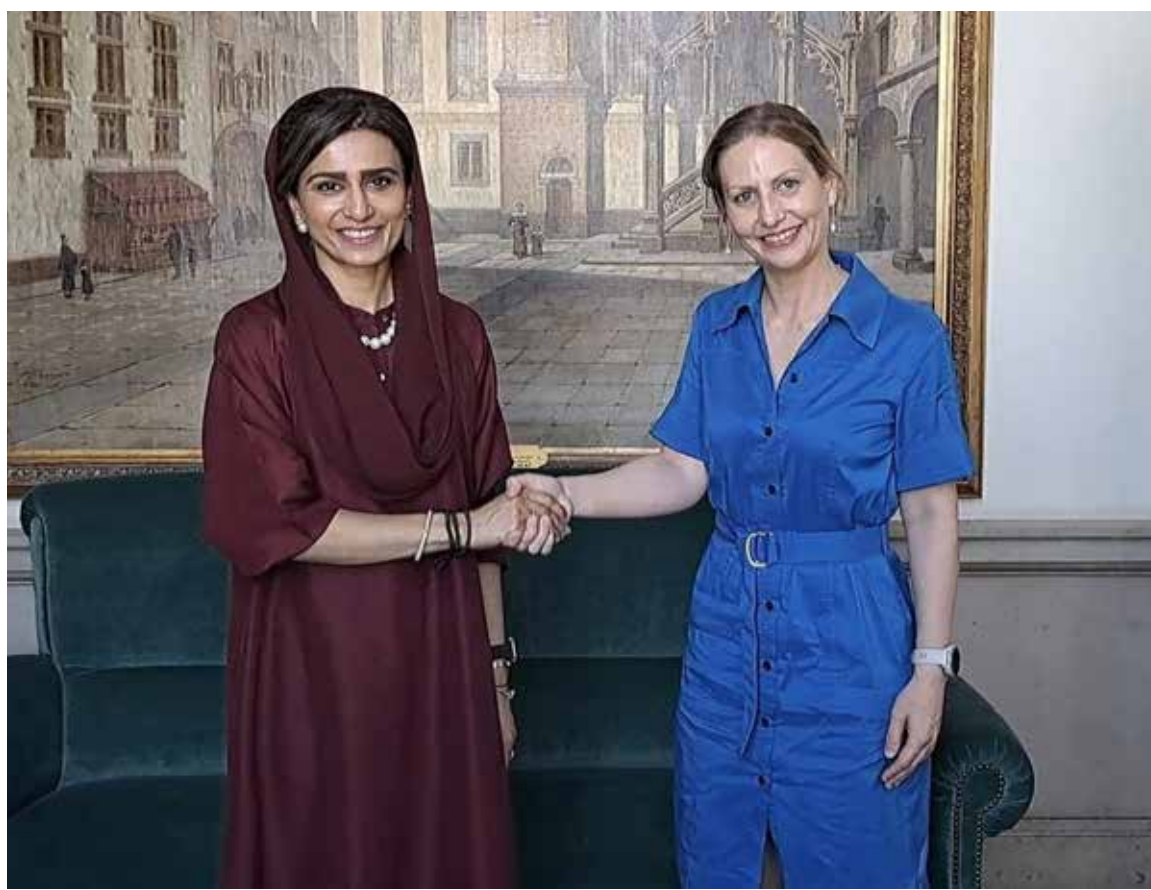
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in March said the US absence from UNESCO was letting China write rules on artificial intelligence. "I very much believe we should be back in UNESCO - again, not as a gift to UNESCO, but because things that are happening at UNESCO actually matter," Blinken told

a Senate committee when he presented the budget. "They are working on rules, norms and standards for artificial intelligence. We want to be there," he said. China's ambassador to UNESCO Yang Jin said Monday that Beijing would not oppose the United States' return, saying the body "needs every member state to join hands to fulfil its missions" and that China "is willing to work with all the member states".

Ambassadors from many other countries worldwide, from Peru to Djibouti to Poland, hailed the news, with some such as Germany saying Washington should be

readmitted "as soon as possible". "I am confident that most of the member states will work on the return of the US," Japan's ambassador to UNESCO Atsuyuki Oike said, calling American participation "indispensable". The US had already withdrawn from UNESCO in 1984 and rejoined the Organisation after an almost 20-year absence, in October 2003. The proposed plan to rejoin in 2023 must now be submitted to the General Conference of UNESCO Member States for final approval. Some member states want an extraordinary session to be held quickly to decide.

## MoS Khar, Belgian minister discuss cooperation



BRUSSELS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar meets with Belgian Secretary of State for Migration and Asylum Nicole de Moor.—APP

BRUSSELS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Belgian Secretary of State for Migration and Asylum Nicole de Moor on Monday discussed enhancing of cooperation in the field of labour mobility.

MoS Hina Rabbani Khar held constructive discussions with the Belgian minister in this regard. Earlier, she had arrived

in Brussels on an official visit to Belgium, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement. Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar also met Senator Alessia Cleas, the Chair of the Pakistan Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The discussions focused on fostering stronger ties between the two nations and exploring avenues for increasing trade and

investment cooperation. Both sides emphasized the mutual benefits of promoting people-to-people contacts as enhancing parliamentary interactions.

Khar invited the Belgian parliamentary members to visit Pakistan and build on the excellent people-to-people ties between the two countries. "The visit aims to strengthen bilateral ties

between Pakistan and Belgium across all areas of cooperation, with a particular focus on labour mobility from Pakistan to Belgium," the spokesperson said.

"Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with Belgium, that are embedded in history with an important focus on trade, investment and educational cooperation," she added.—APP

## Pak, China to strengthen coop in animal disease control

BEIJING: Afifa Shajia Awais, education attaché from the embassy of Pakistan in China, has stressed to strengthen collaboration between Pakistani and Chinese universities in the vocational education on animal disease control. During her speech on the animal industry and job market demand in Pakistan at China Agricultural University, she said Pakistan mainly exports processed dairy products and fresh meat to Middle Eastern countries and wants to introduce processing facilities and cutting-edge technologies from China. Vocational education on major animal disease control was urgently needed to meet food hygiene inspection, she said. She also expressed her wishes to strengthen education collaboration between top Chinese and Pakistani universities in the sector, China Daily reported. As coordinator of the China-Pakistan Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation and Extension Center, university professor He Cheng served as host for the event. Regarding major animal disease control, Awais welcomed CAU scientists to visit Pakistan and contribute to the construction of a disease-free zone in Pakistan. Moreover, the Pakistani embassy in China would support a China-aided project on major animal disease control in the next two years, she added. He Cheng will head a delegation to set up a new diagnostic lab for livestock disease control and promote key technology transfers for vaccine and diagnostic kits. The lecture was attended by 35 people at the university, including Pakistani students, Chinese undergraduate students and teachers.—DNA

## RPO inquires after health of injured cops

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Syed Khurram Ali on Monday paid a visit to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and inquires about the health of the cops who sustained injuries during the firing. According to a police spokesman, RPO also gave instructions to provide the best treatment facilities to injured cops. The RPO appreciated the courage of the injured personnel and gave cash rewards. Officers and

youths who do not care about their lives while protecting citizens are our valuable assets, he added. He said that it is the prime duty of the police to protect life and property of the people. Sub-Inspector Owais, Constable Mohammad Waqas and Atif were on patrolling duty last night in Hazara Colony area of Ratta Amal police station when armed gunmen opened fire on a police party and left policemen injured and fled away from the scene.—APP

## 13 illegal arm holders netted

RAWALPINDI: Police claimed to have arrested 13 arm holders and recovered arms, and ammunition from their possession during the crackdown here on Monday. According to a police spokesman, Rata Amaral police recovered one pistol (30 bore) from Hussain, whereas New Town police recovered pistol (30 bore) from Shahbaz. Similarly, Sadiqabad police held Noman, Amir Hamza, Zeeshan Taimoor and Jawad and recovered five pistols of 30 bore from their possession. Following the operation, Jatali police recovered one Kalashnikov from Yasir. Rawat police nabbed Jameel and recovered one pistol 30 bore from his possession. Chontra police recovered one pistol each from Aqib and Sadagat Hussain. Kahuta police recovered a pistol from Jamal. Kallar Syedan police recovered a pistol from Tuseef.—APP

## UN says concerned over Libya migrant arrests

TRIPOLI: The United Nations mission in Libya said on Monday it was concerned by the arbitrary arrest of migrants and asylum seekers in the country, accompanied by what it called a disturbing rise in hate speech and racist discourse.

The mission said Libyan authorities had detained

thousands of men, women and children from the streets and their homes, or following raids on alleged traffickers camps and warehouses.

It said many of them, including children and pregnant women, were being detained in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions and that thousands of others, includ-

ing some who entered Libya legally, had been collectively expelled. Last week eastern Libya authorities deported thousands of migrants into Egypt, making them cross the border by foot. In Tripoli, migration police have recently deployed at a major city roundabout where many migrants gathered daily

for work. Despite insecurity in Libya, where political control is contested and armed factions control most territory, the country is home to about half a million migrants. Some seek to travel onwards to Europe, others to work in the oil-financed economy. Both Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah in Tripoli and eastern Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar recently travelled to Rome where Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is pushing to reduce migrant crossings to Italy.—Agencies

## Chechen forces sign contract with Russia after Wagner's refusal

MOSCOW: Russia's defence ministry has signed a contract with the Akhmat group of Chechen special forces, a paramilitary group waging the Kremlin's offensive near the town of Mariinka in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine. The announcement came on Monday, a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin, the chief of Russia's Wagner group of private mercenaries, refused to sign such a contract. The deals are part of a new Russian law aimed at controlling private armies fighting on Moscow's behalf in Ukraine. The order requires all "volunteer units" to sign contracts by July 1, bringing them under the control of the country's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu. The Kremlin says volunteer fighters would receive the same benefits as regular troops if they agree to the rules of the defence contract. "I think this is a very good thing," Akhmat commander Apty Alaudinov said after the group's leader Ramzan Kadyrov accepted the offer. He added that his group has "prepared and sent tens of thousands of volunteers" to Ukraine in the past 15 months. So far, according to a report by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), a Washington, DC-based think tank, Chechen fighters have operated in areas behind the front line following their involvement in bloody battles in Ukrainian cities, including Mariupol, Severodonetsk and Lysychanok. —DNA

## Pak exhibitor expresses expectations for CCIF

BEIJING: Pakistani and other foreign exhibitors participating in the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair have expressed great expectations for this year's expo. The event held in Shenzhen in South China's Guangdong province.

Abduk Basit Khan, a Pakistani exhibitor participating in the expo for the second time, also expressed high expectations for the fair.

He showcased Pakistani jade products, specifically designed for the Chinese market, and expressed hope for a better year compared to the previous one. He mentioned that the Chinese market is significant for jade products, and his business has been operat-

ing in China for 10 years.

"I would definitely support any cultural exchange or activity that we could have in China or in Iran to promote culture, not only our culture to China but also China to Iran," said Mahdi Olyaei, an Iranian exhibitor, in an interview with media outlets. This is his second time attending the cultural exhibition in Shenzhen, and he noted the already strong cooperation between Iran and China.

The five-day national-level fair, predominantly featuring offline events, has attracted over 3,500 government bodies, cultural organizations, and enterprises. It is expected to provide new momentum for the development of China's cultural industry, China

Daily reported.

A digital China exhibition area has been set up for the first time to highlight and promote national-level market players, major platforms, and the latest technological innovations in the cultural industries.

Forums, conferences, contract signings, and creative contests will also be organized to share information and boost the innovative development of the cultural industries. Since its founding in 2004, the cultural fair has seen a continuous expansion in its exhibition scale, visitor number and degree of internationalization. It has become an important platform to promote the

development and opening up of the Chinese cultural industries. The forum came along with another grand cultural event, the first Forum on Building up China's Cultural Strength which also opened in Shenzhen on Wednesday, with the theme "Towards Greater Cultural Confidence and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations."

Chinese experts noted that China is building itself as a leading country in culture and enhancing the prosperity of Chinese culture with the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, while the Chinese civilization has also inspired other civilizations across the world through exchanges.—APP

## PSX loses 121 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 121.28 points, a negative change of 0.29 per cent, closing at 41,782.93 points against 41,904.21 points the previous day. A total of 179,118,281 shares were traded during the day as compared to 164,835,239 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 5.568 billion against Rs 5.195 billion on the last trading day. As many as 314 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 108 of them recorded gains and 184 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 16,367,000 shares at Rs 5.69 per share; TPL Properties with 13,004,193 shares at Rs13.52 per share and Pak Refinery with 10,796,483 shares at Rs14.67 per share. Colgate Palm witnessed a maximum increase of Rs135.12 per share price, closing at Rs1,936.67, whereas the runner-up was Khyber Textile with an Rs 42.25 rise in its per share price to Rs 625.00. Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs1,067.32 per share closing at Rs 23,000.00; whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan with a Rs 440.00 increase to close at Rs 6,890.00. Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs95.08 per share closing at Rs 1,172.60; followed by Sapphire Fiber with a Rs 87.66 decline to close at Rs 1,081.34.—APP

## Former Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi dies at 86

ROME: Silvio Berlusconi, the former prime minister who reshaped Italy's political and cultural landscape, died Monday aged 86.

The billionaire media mogul had been suffering from a rare type of blood cancer. Mourners laid flowers and notes outside Villa San Martino, Berlusconi's home near Milan, with one reading simply "we will miss you". Berlusconi will have a state funeral in Milan's gothic Duomo Cathedral on Wednesday. He had suffered ill health for years, from heart surgery in 2016 to a 2020 hospitalisation for Covid-19. Despite being re-elected to the Senate last year, he was rarely seen in public. But he remained the official head of his right-wing Forza Italia party, a junior - and occasionally troublesome - partner in Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's coalition government. "Berlusconi was above all a fighter," Meloni said in a video message posted on Twitter. "He was a man who was not afraid to defend his convictions, and it was precisely that courage and determination which made him one of the most influential men in Italy's history," she said.

Putin hailed Berlusconi as a "true friend" and described his death as an "irreparable loss and a great sorrow". "For me, Silvio was a cherished person and a true friend," Putin said in a telegram to the Italian president released by the Kremlin.—APP

## Thailand's poll body to investigate PM frontrunner

BANGKOK: Thailand's prime ministerial frontrunner Pita Limjaroenrat will be investigated over whether he was qualified to run in last month's election, a top official said on Monday, in another setback as he battles to win backing for his premiership. Pita, the 42-year-old leader of the progressive Move Forward party whose election victory stunned Thailand's military-backed establishment, has faced multiple complaints from rivals, three of which the poll body has dismissed for late submission, while four others against the party have been thrown out. But Pita is by no means in the clear, with the commission looking into whether he was knowingly unfit to register as a parliamentary candidate because of his ownership of shares in a media firm, which is prohibited under election rules. Pita has downplayed the issue, arguing the shares in the firm, ITV, have since been transferred and the company was not an active media organisation.—Agencies

## Briefs

### NAB chief says reforms underway to improve performance

LAHORE: National Accountability Bureau Chairman Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed has said efforts are being made to bring about more reforms and improvements in NAB system so that its mission to eliminate corruption and redress people's grievances can be carried out more effectively and efficiently.

Addressing a cheque distribution ceremony among affectees of four housing societies, he said that it was NAB's responsibility to hand over the recovered amount to the affectees in a transparent manner. The chairman said that NAB's Lahore region had contributed significantly to the efforts against corruption, as it made possible recoveries of billions of rupees in various housing sector scams and returned the money to the affectees. Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Nazir Ahmed said that direct recoveries of about Rs 100 billion were made possible by NAB during the last 15 to 20 years. He said that in the past, attempts were made to politicise NAB by using it as a tool for political engineering, due to which it had to face severe criticism by other institutions including judiciary, but now reforms were being introduced in the Bureau to overcome the anomalies or issues for reviving its reputation and taking elaborative actions against corruption. - APP

### PTI to remain 'neutral' in Karachi mayor election

DNA

KARACHI: With the election for the Karachi mayor heating up, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh has announced that his party will remain "neutral" during the vote despite the party chairman's decision to back Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz Naeem Ur Rehman. "We do not want to become part of a race in which someone else is winning," Sheikh said while talking to the media on Monday. The former ruling party's leader also added that the PTI's "race" was to rid the country of this "dirty system". The opposition leader in the Sindh Assembly said that after they rid the country of the "dirty system" then fresh local body elections should be held in the country under a uniform system and then the PTI will enter the race. "Right now, it is up to the PPP or Jamaat or whoever [gets the seat] we are out of the mayor election."

## INDEPENDENCE DAY OF PHILIPPINES



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Education Rana Tanvir Hussain, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, Additional Secretary Asia Pacific Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ameer Khurram Rahtore, host Maria Agnes Cerventes and others cutting cake to celebrate the Independence Day of the Philippines. - DNA

## New Chevening pathway for Pakistani scholars agreed

Whilst Professor David O'Mahony, Dean for Partnerships at the University of Essex, said: "The University of Essex has a long history of welcoming talented students from Pakistan

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the University of Essex signed an agreement to provide a new Chevening scholarship pathway for prospective Pakistani scholars. From 8 August 2023, those wishing to undertake a one-year master's degree in the select fields of Climate Change/Sustainability or Heritage/Museum studies in the UK will now be able to apply through a bespoke programme with the University of Essex, via the Chevening website (www.chevening.org). Both of the available fields: Climate Change/Sustainability and Heritage/Museum studies are highly relevant to Paki-

stan given last year's devastating floods, linked to climate change, which left 10% of the country submerged, affecting 33 million people. The floods also adversely affected the country's rich cultural heritage, with damage inflicted on the UNESCO heritage site of Moenjodaro, the Amri site museum and the Sehwan folk and craft museum amongst others. As the UK supports Pakistan in its flood reconstruction efforts, this new scholarship pathway will offer long term capacity building support. At the signing ceremony, Development Director at the British High Commission Islamabad, Jo Moir, said: "Congratulations to the Chevening Scholarships programme and the University of Essex for signing the Memorandum of Un-

derstanding. This partnership is a unique opportunity for mid-career professionals working on Climate Change and Sustainability, and Heritage and Museum Studies, to pursue their master's degrees at Essex University. Chevening represents the very best of the UK-Pakistan partnership. It is a transformative experience, not just for the individual, but also for Pakistan, as scholars return and use the benefit of their UK experience to make a positive difference in their chosen field." Whilst Professor David O'Mahony, Dean for Partnerships at the University of Essex, said: "The University of Essex has a long history of welcoming talented students from Pakistan to study, research, and grow within the vibrant international community at our

University. We also have a long and proud tradition of welcoming talented students from around the world through the Chevening Scholarship scheme, and therefore the University of Essex is delighted to be the first UK University to offer Chevening Partnership Scholarships for Pakistan. To coincide with the signing of the Chevening-Essex MOU, we are inviting applications for postgraduate Master's scholarships covering one of two fields: Heritage & Museum Studies or Climate Change/Sustainability. We have an international reputation in these areas and have just been ranked 56th in the world in the Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings which highlight the leading universities for promoting the UN Sustainability Development Goals".

## Russia says beat back Ukraine near villages claimed by Kyiv

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russia said Monday it had repelled Ukrainian attacks around several villages in the war-battered southeast of the country, contradicting earlier claims from Kyiv's forces that they had retaken the settlements. The contradictory reports from Kyiv and Moscow come as analysts have said that Ukraine has launched a long-awaited counter-offensive with Western weapons in an aim to claw back territory occupied by Russian forces. The Russian defense ministry said Monday that Russia forces had fought back three Ukrainian assaults near Velyka Novosilka, a town in the eastern Donetsk region where Kyiv has claimed gains. "Decisive actions of defending units - artillery fire and heavy flamethrower

systems of the Vostok grouping - repelled three enemy attacks," it said in a statement. The defense ministry also said that Russian troops had fought off Ukrainian attacks just west of Velyka Novosilka, around the nearby village of Levadne in the neighboring southern region of Zaporizhzhia. Ukraine has over recent days claimed to have advanced deeper into Russian-controlled territory around Velyka Novosilka, announcing the capture of three villages over the weekend. After months of building expectations, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed on Saturday that a counteroffensive against Russian forces had begun. On Sunday, Kyiv claimed to have captured three villages beyond Velyka Novosilka - Neskuchne, Blagodatne and Makarivka.

## Iran says indirect talks with US continue via Oman

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Iran on Monday said it has continued indirect negotiations with the United States through the Sultanate of Oman over its nuclear deal and a possible prisoner swap. Iran's nuclear program has long been the subject of scrutiny from Western powers, resulting in

sanctions that have crippled the country's economy. A 2015 deal granted Tehran much-needed sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program before it was torpedoed by the United States' unilateral pullout in 2018. In recent days, the two capitals have denied media reports that they were close to reaching an interim deal to replace the 2015 accord. "We welcome the efforts of Omani officials and we exchanged messages with the other party through this mediator" over the lifting of US sanctions, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said Monday. "We have never stopped the diplomatic processes," he added during his weekly press conference, emphasising that the talks "were not secret." Diplomatic ties between Tehran and Washington soured in 1980 following the 1979 Islamic revolution led by Iran's first supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

## Ishaq Dar for further boosting economic ties with China



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Ishaq Dar talking to Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Pang Chunxue. - DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Monday highlighted the need to deepen bilateral relations with China with a special focus on economy, trade and financial sectors. He was talking to Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Pang Chunxue, who called on the minister here. According to a press statement issued

by the finance ministry, Dar appreciated the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, and much-admired Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts. The finance minister further updated the Charge de Affairs about the progress on talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the completion of the 9th review. He further apprised her about the positive response of the various sectors of the economy on the Budget 2023-24, presented by the incumbent government despite dif-

icult economic circumstances. Dar expressed gratitude to Pang Chunxue for the support and cooperation Pakistan has been receiving from the leadership in Beijing. Pang Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments and acknowledged the friendly relations between the two countries. She also assured of continuous support from the Chinese government to the people of Pakistan. The two sides discussed various avenues, available to both countries in order to enhance the existing cooperation to unprecedented levels, the statement added.

## Kim Jong Un vows to 'hold hands' with Putin

DNA

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to "hold hands" with Russian President Vladimir Putin and bolster strategic cooperation on their shared goal of building a powerful country, state media KCNA reported on Monday. Kim made the pledge in a message to Putin marking Russia's National Day, defending his decision to invade Ukraine and displaying "full support and solidarity." "Justice is sure to win and the Russian people will continue to add glory to the history of victory," Kim said in the message published by KCNA. Kim called for "closer strategic cooperation" with Moscow, "holding hands firmly with the Russian president, in conformity with the common desire of the peoples of the two countries to fulfil the grand goal of building a powerful country," it added.

## Terrorist gunned down in Waziristan

DNA

Rawalpindi: On 12 June 2023, fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District, according to an ISPR statement. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and after intense fire exchange, one terrorist was sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered. The killed terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent citizens. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate menace of terrorism from the area.

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