



Islamabad POST

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Turkish top diplomat attends regional summit

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Russia's antics enough to destroy itself

Detailed News On Page-07

Briefs

Kashmiris' sacrifices hailed

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, has greeted the UN community and Muslim citizens on Eid-ul-Azha, while paying tributes to the "heroic" struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination. In a message on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, which is being celebrated in the U.S. on June 28, he said: "On this auspicious occasion it is appropriate to manifest in accordance with the immutable principles of Islam, our support and solidarity for all those people confronted by misfortune and oppression; by war and pestilence; by exploitation and foreign occupation."

Changes to laws illegal: Sh. Rashid

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Ahmed said on Tuesday lowering of disqualification period for those politicians who were born incompetent did not matter. In a series of tweets, the AML chief said politicians were taking chartered flights to Dubai nowadays. They would take every decision in Dubai, including installing a caretaker setup, Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan and holding general elections in the country. He said they did not obey law, constitution, judiciary and bench.

Ali M. Khan arrested for sixth time

DNA

MARDAN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has been re-arrested for the sixth time after being released from jail. The judge of an anti-corruption court approved the bail of PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan today. The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) arrested Khan again in another case. Khan was immediately arrested by the ACE officials at the jail gate.

PM makes 4th contact with IMF chief

Decision on IMF loan in 'a day or two'

In phone call with PM, govt says IMF MD acknowledged Dar and his team's efforts



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Tuesday that Pakistan expects a decision on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) stalled bailout programme within a day or two as the struggling country continues to meet the lender's demands. The prime minister expressed hope after his telephone call with IMF Managing Director (MD) Kristalina Georgieva – his fourth contact with the lender's boss in six days. Rating agencies and economists fear that the \$350 billion economy could default on its foreign debt obligations if it fails to secure the \$1.1 loan tranche of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The premier spoke to the IMF chief over the phone today after meeting her thrice – from Thursday to Saturday – on the sidelines of the New Global Financial Pact summit held in Paris, France. The PM's Office released a statement that the IMF chief and the prime minister discussed matters related to the stalled bailout programme. On the call, the IMF chief acknowledged Finance Minister

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Revenue collection reaches historic high: Ishaq Dar

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had so far collected an amount of Rs7 trillion – the highest in Pakistan's history – during the current fiscal year (FY23). Dar, in a tweet, said the figures were updated till June 26 and the overall numbers would increase during the remaining four days. Earlier, the government had set a revenue collection of Rs7.64tr for the year, which means the FBR is still short of the achieving the goal by Rs0.64tr – or Rs640 billion. That's why it was feared that Pakistan might not be able to meet the annual tax collection target for the ongoing fiscal year as there was a gap of Rs1.446bn that must be covered by the June end. Tax collection during the July-May period of the year 2023-24 clocked in at Rs6.194tr. And amid the low tax-to-GDP ratio and the IMF's persistent demand amid a widening budget deficit, the government is eyeing at over Rs9tr in revenue collection for the next financial year of 2023-24.

Military trials of civilians not started yet, SC told

SC rejects pleas to stay civilians' trial in military courts

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan confirmed Tuesday that military courts were trying no civilian at the moment. The AGP's remarks came during the fourth hearing of the petitions filed against the trial of civilians in military courts. After the AGP's clarification, the PTI chief's counsel took to the rostrum at the start of the hearing and said that the AGP and the ISPR DG had conflicting statements. "A press conference was held by ISPR DG yesterday in which he talked about the trial of 102 people. The Attorney General and ISPR DG have conflicting statements," he said. To this, the AGP responded: "I stand by my statement even today." He added that the representatives of the Ministry of Defence were present in the court and could explain the situation better. At this, Justice Ayesha observed: "We are currently reviewing existing judicial precedents." Moreover, the CJP expressed faith in the

Continued on Page 06

Justice Afridi urges CJP to form full bench

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi, who is part of a six-member larger Supreme Court bench hearing petitions against trials of civilians in military courts, has urged Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial to constitute a full bench on the matter. He also said that this is an additional note which was issued on Tuesday along with the apex court's order on the military courts' petitions proceedings of the second day. "The entire edifice of a credible justice system is based on public trust. In the current politically charged scenario, where the term of the present

Continued on Page 06

US acknowledges 'important steps' to counter terrorism

The Pakistani people have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks over the years, US State Dept highlighted



NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The US State Department Monday acknowledged Pakistani measures to counter terrorism as the South Asian nation slammed the United States and India for a "one-sided" statement issued after President Joe Biden's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington. In a joint statement, the leaders of the two countries demanded Islamabad take steps to make sure that Pakistani soil is not being used in "launching terror attacks". During his press conference, US State De-

partment spokesperson Matthew Miller said America recognises that Pakistan has taken some important steps to counter terrorist groups in line with the completion of its Financial Action Task Force action plans. "...we remain committed to working with Pakistan to address the shared threat posed by terrorist groups throughout the region," the spokesperson mentioned. The Pakistani people have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks over the years, he highlighted. Miller said at the same time; however, the US has also been consistent on the importance of Pakistan continuing to take steps to permanently disband all terrorist groups. "And we will raise the issue regularly with Pakistani officials, and will continue to work together to counter mutual terrorist threats," the spokesperson added. In response to the strongly-worded statement, Pakistan on Monday summoned an American diplomat to the Foreign Office to lodge a protest.

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LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting in connection with the pre-monsoon rains during Eid days in Punjab. – DNA

PM orders preparation for expected rains

DNA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday ordered an inquiry and fix the responsibility on the officials concerned over their failure to overcome the flooding situation caused by recent rains in Lahore. The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of predicted rains in North Punjab, particularly Lahore, expressed his annoyance over the failure to make timely arrangements to drain the rainwater. He instructed the provincial government and the district administration to fix the responsibility for poor water drainage, and immediately suspend the officials showing any negligence. He said the slackness of the relevant departments made the citizens suffer. The prime minister instructed to ensure full preparedness in the wake of rains predicted in the next few days.

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Qureshi's bail extended

'PPP, PML-N busy in race for PM house while country suffers'

PTI Vice Chairman questions PM's silence over Modi-Biden remarks

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Speaking to the media after the hearing of case, PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who had served as the foreign minister under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) tenure in government, regretted that no one from the incumbent government has responded to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement. "The Indian prime minister says Pakistan is dying its own death. But the Pakistani prime minister is silent," regretted Qureshi. According to Qureshi, there is a race between the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for the next prime minister. Both Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Maryam Nawaz are candidates for the position, said the beleaguered former minister. "There is a lot of talk about their meeting in Dubai these days." What's happening with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will become apparent in a day or two, said Qureshi.

Continued on Page 06

ATC extends Khan's interim bail

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in three different cases related to the May 9 riots, including Jinnah House attack case, till July 7. ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI chairman. Imran Khan along with his counsel also appeared during the proceedings and got his attendance marked. The Sarwar Road police, Gulberg police and Shadman Town police had registered three different cases against PTI leaders and workers in connection with

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FBI, Homeland security ignored 'massive amount' of intelligence – Page 07

Putin lauds Russian troops for putting down unity – Page 08

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Commissioner seeks report on road damage

LAHORE: On the directions of Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, LDA and WASA teams are carrying out maintenance work on the green belt and part of the road that has become damaged due to heavy rain in Khayaban Firdoosi, Johar Town. LDA engineering wing and WASA teams are working together to repair the damage. Commissioner and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa has sought a report from WASA and LDA in this regard. Additional wardens have been deployed and dividers installed to manage the flow of traffic. The Commissioner Lahore directed LDA and WASA to restore the road by completing the rehabilitation work as soon as possible. — APP

LWMC's operational control room inaugurated

LAHORE: Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) inaugurated the operational control room and disseminated its plan of sanitation arrangements for upcoming Eid-ul-Azha by holding a press briefing at LWMC Head Office, here on Tuesday. Minister Local Government Amir Mir, along with Minister Housing Syed Azfar Ali, Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and DC Lahore Rafia Haider attended the ceremony as chief guests. CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din briefed all the guests on newly established operational control room. After the inauguration all guests participated in press briefing held for Eid-ul-Azha cleanliness plan. While talking to the media, Minister Local Government Amir Mir briefed the media regarding Eid-ul-Azha cleanliness plan. He stated, "We have made reforms to the grass root level for providing the facilities at every nook and corner of the city." In order to ensure the proper disposal of waste. — APP

Ban imposed on burning 'siri paye'

LAHORE: The Lahore authorities have imposed a ban on burning 'siri paye' (trotters and skulls of goat and cow) at public places during Eidul Azha days. On the instructions of Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Section 144 has been imposed on burning 'siri paye' (trotters and skulls of goat and cow) at public places during Eid days. Commissioner Lahore also ordered to enforce Section 144 on the sale of sacrificial animals on illegal and unauthorised points. Ali Randhawa also urged citizens to make sure they dispose of animal remains after the Eid sacrifice in plastic bags provided by the authorities. The authorities have also imposed Section 144 on keeping meat and offal in public places. Central Ruet-i-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad announced that Zil Hajj moon was sighted in Pakistan and Eidul Azha will fall on June 29 (Thursday). Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad made the announcement in Islamabad before the media after receiving moon sighting testimonies.



MURREE: Director of Education for USAID/Pakistan Anne Flaker, Dr. Ayesha Razzaque, Acting Chief of Party HESSA, Dr. Randy McCrillis, Dean of Students at University of Utah, and Ms. Gwendolyn Schaefer from the Institute of International Education posing for a group photograph along with participant after the the four-day annual summit honoring student support services.—DNA

Minister explores meat export opportunities with American CG

The American Consul General assured Minister Ibrahim Murad of full support and cooperation for the livestock industry in Punjab

DNA

LAHORE: Provincial minister for Livestock Ibrahim Hasan Murad met with American Consul General William K Makaneole at American Consulate General in Lahore to discuss meat export opportunities between the two countries. He said the government was keen to expand meat exports to international markets. The purpose of the



meeting was to explore new avenues for strengthening bilateral trade relations between the US and Pakistan in the livestock sector with a specific focus on meat exports. Minister Murad and Consul General Makaneole reiterated their commitment to fostering a strong trade relationship that would not only benefit the livestock industry but also contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan. American Consul General William K Makaneole appreciated the efforts of the minister in fostering the livestock industry to international markets. He also expressed that US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome was also very eager to enhance trade between the two countries. The American Consul General assured Minister Ibrahim Murad of full support and cooperation for the livestock industry in Punjab.

Control Room established in CDA for facilities on Eid

ISLAMABAD: The administration of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has established the Control Room in the Authority's headquarters to provide the best facilities to public without interruption during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. According to the CDA officials, the relevant staff will be present from June 28 to July 2 during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. The staff of DMA Directorates includ-

ing Water Supply, MPO, Street Lights, M&RM, Roads, Environment (East and West), City Sewerage Division will perform their duties in the control room established as per the details. In this regard, duties have also been distributed among the staff so that all possible facilities can be provided to the citizens even during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. Citizens can also register their complaints

at 9252962 and 9253016 at the control room set up at CDA headquarters. Furthermore, on the direction of the CDA administration, the Sanitation Wing has also completed its arrangements with a comprehensive and concrete strategy to maintain high standards of sanitation in the city during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays so that the citizens do not face any kind of difficulties

during Eid-ul-Azha Holidays. In this regard, the Sanitation Wing has also issued its helpline numbers 9213908, 9203216, 9211555 and 1334 for the guidance of the public so that all possible facilities can be provided to the citizens even during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. It should be noted that the complaints received will be resolved in a timely manner.—APP

Rescue 1122 finalizes emergency plan for Eidul Adha

LAHORE: Emergency Services Department Punjab (Rescue 1122) on Tuesday finalized the arrangements to ensure prompt response to emergencies in Punjab during Eid-ul-Adha. Secretary ESD Dr. Rizwan Naseer directed the all-district emergency officers (DEOs) to ensure foolproof arrangements to ensure the provision of timely emergency ambulance, rescue, and fire services without any discrimination across Punjab. He also directed all DEOs that close coordination should be maintained with districts/tehsils headquarters hospitals for better management of victims of emergencies in case of any untoward situation. He was presiding over a zoom meeting of all district emergency officers to review arrangements to provide emergency cover during hol-

idays of Eid-ul-Adha, held at Emergency Services Headquarters here which was attended by all DEOs, and Heads of Wing of Emergency Services Department & Academy. The Provincial Monitoring Officer briefed the meeting that around 15,000 rescuers would be deployed during Eid to provide timely and professional care in case of emergency in the province. All these rescuers would be deputed in three shifts at 1304 key points established across Punjab. Out of them, 652 Key points of Motorbike Rescue Service, 492 emergency ambulances, 125 fire vehicles, and 35 rescue vehicles would be established in all districts of Punjab. Likewise, 431 specialized rescue teams would also be deputed at major Eid prayer venues to provide optimum emergency cover to the citizen

across Punjab. The Provincial Monitoring Cell and Patient Transfer Services Cell at Emergency Services Headquarters would remain operational round-the-clock to ensure the effective implementation of District Emergency Plans. The DEOs briefed that emergency plans for Eid-ul-Adha including plans to deal with emergencies have been finalized in their respective districts in consultation with respective Deputy Commissioners (DCs). In this connection, Emergency Response and Management Plans have been prepared by all District Emergency Officers in consultation with all stakeholders in District Emergency Board Meetings for effective & efficient management of any untoward incident during the Eid holidays.—APP

Nazar Muhammad Gondal quits PTI

DNA

LAHORE, JUN 27 (DNA) — Former federal minister, Nazar Muhammad Gondal on Tuesday announced to quit Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over May 9 riots. In a statement, Nazar Muhammad Gondal strongly condemned the May 9 violent protests that were triggered after the PTI chairman's arrest. "I do not believe in the politics of clashes with the state institutions," he added. Gondal said that May 9 violent protests have "shaken the nation", and hoped that the public would soon emerge stronger from this crisis. Several PTI leaders, ticketholders, former lawmakers have quit the party after the May 9 violence.

US, China, UK top 4 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-May (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 5481.385 million as opposed the exports of US\$ 6162.991 million during July-May (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.05 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1891.949 million compared to the exports of US\$ 2544.418 million last year, showing a decrease of 25.64 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1806.385 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 2011.859 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.21 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1488.461 million against US\$ 1574.850 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.48 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1341.359 million opposed US\$ 1632.907 million last year. During July-May (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1324.959 million against US\$ 1341.035 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 478.342 million against US\$494.8585 million.

IRSA releases 356,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 356,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 565,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1487.26 feet and was 89.26 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 284,200 cusecs and 150,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1169.95 feet, which was 119.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 86,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 212,900, 169,300, 100,900 and 36,400 cusecs respectively.—APP

CCPO reviews investigation wing performance

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamrya on Tuesday chaired a meeting at his office to review five months performance of the investigation wing related to under-investigation cases, pending road certificates, and the arrest of the accused. The meeting was attended by DIG (Investigations) Kamran Adil, SSP (Internal Accountability) Imran Kishwar, SSP (Investigations) Anooosh Masood Chaudhry, Divisional SPs (Investigations), and SDPOs. He emphasized that SDPOs who consistently exhibited poor performance would be held responsible for their actions, stressing that any form of disinterest, negligence, or laxity in official duties would not be tolerated. He announced that a daily performance review of all SDPOs would be conducted, and the annual reports of officers with unsatisfactory performance would reflect their incompetence. The CCPO ordered that all pending investigation cases be resolved on merit within one week. Similarly, the completion of challans, eradicating road pendency, and improvement in recovery should not be delayed. He emphasized that cases involving nominated suspects pending for more than a month or cases related to unidentified suspects should not linger on for more than three months. — APP

Development hinges on promotion, facilitation of SMEs

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood said on Tuesday that Pakistan economic and industrial development hinged on promoting, incentivizing, financing and strengthening the SMEs, besides establishing one platform for their facilitation. He stated this while addressing a ceremony regarding World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day organized by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here. On this occasion, SMEDA signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with six public sector organizations including Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messalaha

International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of the Punjab and Government of Gilgit Baltistan. The Federal Minister cited that in other countries, a company that started in the backyard grew speedily and ultimately turned into a multi-billion global company but unfortunately in Pakistan, it was very hard for SMEs to survive. He added that the world had done a lot regarding SMEs and also micro businesses but Pakistan had not done enough as there was a lot it could have done. The SMEs in Pakistan faced too many issues especially regarding finances as there were too many bottle necks and hurdles in the bureaucracy and government, he said and mentioned that as federal minister, his focus was to get rid of these bottle necks

and facilitate SMEs, which could also turned into a multi-national companies and 'this is our vision and focus.' He was of the view that government should not be intervening and interfering but it should be facilitating, incentivizing and focusing on making policies. "I am very lucky to have a best SMEDA team and we worked together. Today, we have signed MoUs with public sector organizations," he maintained. The Federal Minister also appreciated the very important incentives introduced with regards to single window operation like MoU was signed between Punjab government and SMEDA. "I think, more has to be done when I see different organizations working on Pakistan's single window; they all are working on single window but actually there is no one platform




for the single window. So I had a meeting with SMEDA team and asked them that we have to get in touch with all government organizations working on the single window and there should be a one platform wherein an entrepreneur can come and get registered and facilitated regarding taxation, financing and other incentives, and it should also be helped to get finance. Now, I am happy to sign MoUs with Punjab government but I would also ask SMEDA to sign MoUs with Pakistan's single window and other provinces," he maintained. In Pakistan, he said, SMEs did not grow while the large scale industry was given all the incentives, finances and subsidies by the government and the commercial banks also preferred the large-scale industry as it was easier for them to deal with a single


big company rather than dealing with 100 small companies. Government and large industries get major borrowings from banks while SMEs were unable to grow due to no or low provision of financing by the banks. The Minister believed that Pakistan was enriched with resources and potential to progress speedily but unfortunately, it had to depend on huge imports even for food security therefore reforms in every sector were indispensable to bring the country at par with developed economies. He also stressed the need to focus on value-addition that would prove to be a catalyst for export and economy. He also advised the SMEDA to work out viable plans for incentivizing and promoting the value-addition sector that would definitely enhance substantially the country's exports revenues.—APP

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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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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Monal group installs bird nesting, feeding poles in Capital parks

The feeders are cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the spread of diseases, and damaged or worn-out components are immediately replaced

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Living up to its traditions and as part of its corporate social responsibility the Monal Group has installed 200 bird nesting and feeding poles in various Islamabad Parks in collaboration with the CDA. By installing bird nesting and feeding poles in the park, the purpose is to provide valuable resources for birds, offer educational opportunities for visitors, and contribute to the overall biodiversity and enjoyment of the parks environment. A wild bird family has given birth to a healthy brood of birds! The Monal management hopes that this family will thrive as they are surrounded by an abundance of Grain and Fresh Water which is Replenished Twice a Day by our dedicated staff and we reinforce our pledge to continue to un-



dertake similar initiatives for the betterment of our beautiful city. The Monal group earnest-



ly believes that the bird nesting and feeding poles should be part of a broader conserva-



tion and wildlife management effort. It's essential to create a habitat-friendly environment

by preserving native vegetation, minimizing pesticide use, and ensuring the park is a safe

space for birds to thrive. In order to feed birds properly there is need to include a variety of bird feeders on the poles to attract a diverse range of bird species besides offering different types of bird food, such as seeds, suet, nectar, or fruit, to accommodate the dietary preferences of various birds. The Monal group has ensured that the feeders are easily accessible and can be refilled regularly. Moreover a regular inspection and maintenance of the bird poles is also ensured besides the maintenance of the nesting boxes, and feeders. The feeders are cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the spread of diseases, and damaged or worn-out components are immediately replaced. The Monal group initiative has widely been hailed by social and political circles and termed it a worth-emulating step.

IMF agreement is inevitable for Pak: ICCI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the steps taken by the government to make the negotiations with the IMF successful will prove to be disastrous for the troubled country's economy. Measures like collection of additional taxes, one percent increase in interest rate, withdrawal of one year amnesty for bringing dollars into the country will hamper the journey started for economic recovery. An agreement with the International Financial Institution is inevitable, but the government will have to take decisions keeping in mind the country's economic recovery. The business community has been supportive of the government's initiatives, but the government should not adopt such an attitude that will worsen the already difficult situation for business.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, he said that the business community across the country, including the Islamabad Chamber, had demanded the government to reduce the interest rate in the budget proposals, which was supported by the parliamentary committees including Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, but now As soon as the budget is approved, the State Bank has increased the interest rate by one percent. This decision will bring more difficult times for the already troubled Pakistani economy. Pakistan's industry is already facing the highest interest rates among the regional countries. In these conditions, it will be impossible to run the industry. He said that while the production will decrease due to the increase in interest rate, employment opportunities will also decrease due to the industry being affected. In the budget, the federal government had announced a one-year amnesty to meet

the shortage of dollars in the country, which has now been withdrawn, which is not a correct move. Pakistan's currency problems have worsened over the past one year. Currency stability will only come when the country is no longer short of dollars. It was a good scheme by the government but there will be disadvantages in withdrawing it. It was the best opportunity to provide facilities to those who want to bring back dollars. He said that Pakistan's property and construction sector is working beyond its capacity to meet the needs of employment, revenue and housing.

The government had taken the best decision by giving incentives in the budget, but now the tax on this sector has been increased which is harmful for development. Instead of collecting more revenue from people already in the tax net, the government should take steps to increase the tax net. In this regard, the Islamabad Chamber has

suggested several measures. The business community of Pakistan believes that the IMF agreement is indispensable for the country. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has negotiated with the IMF as a real national leader and spokesman for the aspirations of the Pakistani nation. He emerged as a true national hero by not compromising on national interests during the long period of negotiations, but it is our misfortune that at last he also had to accept the tough conditions of the IMF to save the country economically. The business community believes that the trust of friendly countries and international organizations will be restored by the IMF agreement, but instead of putting the entire burden of this agreement on the people or the business community, the government should find a middle way. He said that to get out of the economic crisis, the government formulated short, mid and long term policies.

Army leadership set a shining example of self-accountability

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Tuesday that the army leadership has provided an excellent example of responsibility and personal accountability by completing disciplinary action against serving and retired generals and their close relatives, which is praiseworthy. Now the nation is waiting for the strictest action against the rioters and their patrons who have become a national security threat, he said. In a statement issued here today, Dr Murtaza Mughal said that the terrorists should be brought to justice as soon as possible so that no one dares to play with the integrity of the country in the future. He said that all the masterminds and planners of the events of May 9 did what even the enemy could not do, so they must be made an example. This tragedy was a conspiracy against Pakistan, which was foiled by the army through its restraint at the time of demonstrations. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the army is sacrificing lives almost every day in war against terror and suffering heavy losses, but the miscreants ignored their sacrifices, insulted the martyrs and hurt feelings of their families which is unforgivable. Poisonous propaganda against the army is also going on to create divisions in the army and alienate the people from them, which is an attempt to strengthen the hands of the enemies, he added. He rejected the miscreants' accusations and said that if the army carried out the attacks on its own installations, was the army itself also spreading toxic propaganda against itself on social media? He noted that there is no justification for raising human rights issues because these rights are not available to the traitors who are spreading chaos to damage the country. Dr. Mughal said that the army has proved its moral superiority by taking action against its officers. The time has come that important civilian officials should not defame themselves and their institutions with politics to please their relatives, act responsibly and give priority to merit.—DNA

PACRA reaffirms credit rating of PMIC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained the long term and short term entity ratings of Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) at 'AA' (Double A) and 'A1+' (A One Plus) respectively. The rating reflects strong equity base, well-conceived business plans and strong ownership structure. The ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk emanating from a very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments which is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events. PMIC, incorporated in 2016, is licensed to carry out investment finance services as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) under the NBFC Rules, 2003 and NBFC Regulations 2008. The strong sponsors, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (49%), Karandaz (38%) and KfW, a German development Bank (13%) strengthen the financial profile of PMIC.

OGRA to grant LNG virtual pipeline project licence

DNA

ISLAMABAD The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) under the requirements of LNG Rules 2007 held a Public Hearing in Karachi to discuss the grant of a construction license for Pakistan's pioneering LNG Virtual Pipeline project. LNG Easy (Private) Limited, a subsidiary of LNG Easy Pte Limited Singapore, had previously obtained a Provisional License from OGRA. Subsequently, they submitted an application for a construction license for their virtual pipeline project, which necessitated the public hearing in accordance with the LNG Rules 2007. The purpose of the hearing was to provide a platform for stakeholders to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions regard-

ing the proposed project. OGRA aimed to ensure transparency and inclusivity in the decision-making process. LNG virtual pipelines are an alternative to physical pipelines, transporting gas as liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the intended destination through various modes such as sea, road, rail, or a combination thereof. At the customer's location, ambient air vaporizers are employed to convert the LNG back into a gaseous state. Following measurement, natural gas is delivered to customers through in-house pipelines for utilization. Additionally, LNG storage tanks of different capacities can be installed at customer sites. LNG Virtual Pipeline Projects represent a significant milestone in Pakistan's energy landscape, offering an innovative and flexible solution for the transporta-

tion and distribution of Liquefied Natural Gas. These projects will extend the benefits of natural gas to regions lacking traditional pipeline infrastructure, fostering economic development and enhancing energy security nationwide. During the hearing, the discussion encompassed various aspects of the project, including safety, management, standards, and business considerations across the entire supply chain. In addition to the general public, representatives from key NOC issuing agencies such as the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Highway Authority (NHA), Ministry of Defence (MoD), Department of Energy (DoE), and National Logistics Cell (NLC) were present.

1282 constables, SPU jawans pass out

RAWALPINDI: A passing out ceremony of 809 recruit constables and 473 Special Protection Unit (SPU) Jawans was held here on Tuesday at Police College Sihala. Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) Training Punjab Muhammad Tariq Chohan was the chief guest at the passing out parade. DIG, Commandant Police College, Sihala Rawalpindi, Ashfaq Ahmed Khan also attended the ceremony. 809 recruit constables and 473 SPU jawans received their basic training in the course. Additional IGP Training Punjab Muhammad Tariq Chohan inspected the parade. Addressing the participants, the IGP Training said, "It is an honor for me to be the chief guest in the passing out parade of recruit constables." He also congratulated all the trainee officials, their parents and relatives. The management of Police College Sihala deserves congratulations for playing a practical role in the completion of this course, he added. He asked the constables and jawans to perform professional work with the same spirit exhibited during the training. The police department plays an important role in maintaining law and order and controlling crime in the country, the Additional IGP said adding, recruit constables are the hallmark of the institution. The role of constables is key in improving 'thana' culture, he said adding, they should make all-out efforts to provide relief to the citizens. The IGP said that the prevention of crime and the protection of the lives and properties of the citizens is the responsibility of the police.—APP

Pakistan 'okays' exports of donkey hides to China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has okayed the exports of various goods to China including donkey hides. As per details, the approval to sign four protocols with China for the export of donkey hides from Pakistan, beef, dairy items and chilies, was accorded by the federal cabinet through a circulation summary. The donkey hides will be export-

ed to China for processing, the sources said and added that signing protocols for the export of donkey hides are aimed to regulate the business. It may be noted that the four protocols which are to be signed by Pakistan with China were already been okayed by the Ministry of Law and Justice. Earlier on October 4, 2022, Ministry of Commerce on Monday told the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce that China ex-

pressed interest in importing donkeys and dogs from Pakistan. According to details, the Senate Standing Committee meeting on Commerce was held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Zeeshan Khanzada to get a briefing on imports and exports. During the meeting, Dinesh Kumar, a member of the standing committee, said that China is asking Pakistan to export donkeys as well as dogs.

CONDOLENCE

THE ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY

expresses profound grief over the sad demise of

mother of

Mr. Saeed Ahmed Khan

Accounts Officer, APNS.

May Allah the Almighty rest her

soul in eternal peace and grant

courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

Briefs

Journalists
vow to
become
voice of
Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Senior Kashmiri journalists here on Tuesday vowed to become the voice of Kashmiris at a time when the media in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was totally censored by Indian government and was not allowed to report ground realities. Speaking at a conference, while pointing out various shortcomings in structuring appropriate narratives on Kashmir, particularly after August 5, 2019, they desired the national media to play proactive role in highlighting Kashmir issue keeping in view the changing global realities and trends. The conference titled "Pleading the case of Kashmir in Changing Global Realities: Challenges and Opportunities" was organized by Institute of Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies (IDDDS) in collaboration with Riphah International University (RIU).

The conference was aimed at bringing the Kashmir issue in limelight keeping in view the changing regional and global situations. Speaking on the occasion, Director Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Dr. Rashid Aftab highlighted the need for adapting new trends to make media coverage of Kashmir productive. He said the institute would continue to organize such conference and seminars to formulate comprehensive strategies to promote cause of Kashmir. On the occasion, Executive Director, IDDDS, Dr. Waleed Rasool said the dynamics of Kashmir changed in post 5th August 2019 when India took the unilateral action to scrap special status of IIOJK and divided the whole state in two separate union territories under direct control of New Delhi. He said, media in IIOJK was the first casualty of this onslaught adding foreign media was left with no option but to leave Kashmir whereas the local media was put under total censorship. —APP

Int'l Day of
Parliamentarism

ISLAMABAD: The International Day of Parliamentarism will be marked on 30 June across the globe including Pakistan, the International Day of Parliamentarism is a time to review the progress that parliaments have made in achieving some key goals to be more representative and move with the times, including carrying out self-assessments, working to include more women and young MPs, and adapting to new technologies. Instituting an international day for parliaments is particularly important at this critical time for parliamentary democracy, when people are losing trust in political institutions and democracy itself is facing challenges from populist and nationalist movements. If democracy is to thrive, then parliaments, as the cornerstone of functioning democracies, need to be strong, transparent, accountable and representative. —APP

ANF seizes
679.645 kg
drugs; arrests
50 accused in
45 operations

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 679.645 kg drugs and 4.800 kg suspected drugs worth US\$ 17.189 million internationally, arrested 50 accused including four women, and a foreigner and impounded 15 vehicles while conducting 45 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country last week. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 218,360 kg opium, 27,047 kg heroin, 405,289 kg hashish, 260 grams cocaine, 28,204 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 60 grams ecstasy tabs (140 Tabs) and 425 grams ketamine. ANF Balochistan recovered 44.160 kg of drugs and 4.800 kg of suspected drugs in four operations while arresting four accused involved in drug smuggling. The seized drugs comprised 1.160 kg opium and 43 kg Hashish. —APP



ISLAMABAD: The Outgoing Ambassador of Republic of Korea Suh Sangpayo posing for a picture with his embassy staff on the occasion of a farewell reception he hosted to bid farewell to his friends.—DNA

GDA body approves
projects for Gwadar

The visionary policies adopted in these meetings have laid a solid foundation for Gwadar's economic potential to flourish, attracting both domestic and international investors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) approved a budget of Rs. 33.8 million for the feasibility study of a residential colony for fishermen in Gwadar. Last year, during his visit to Gwadar, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif approved the allocation of 200 acres of land for the construction of the residential colony for local fishermen. The feasibility fund for the colony was approved at the 26th GDA Governing Body meeting, chaired by Chief

Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo. Several other projects on the meeting agenda were also approved, according to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. "Gwadar is our primary coastal city, and the provincial government has provided substantial funds for its development," Chief Minister Balochistan told the meeting, adding, "The provincial government is improving the quality of life for the people of Gwadar through various development projects." According to an official statement, the meeting approved the revised GDA budget for the financial year 2022-23 and the proposed budget

for the financial year 2023-24. The body also approved a proposed GDA housing scheme of 100 acres with additional land, as well as beachfront development for the construction of recreational spots and a seafood street on Gwadar Marine Drive. The meeting further approved changing the status of 500 acres of land allocated for Gwadar University in Mouza Shabi, in the master plan, to an Education City. It was also agreed to hand over GDA's 23 km sewerage line to Gwadar Municipality. During the meeting, the GDA Service Regulation 2023 was approved, and the CM directed the

concerned authorities to prepare a summary to make temporary GDA employees permanent. The meeting also sanctioned several new jobs in GDA. Following the meeting, Director General GDA Mujeeb Ur Rehman Qambarani stated that over the past year and a half, GDA has witnessed an extraordinary series of four governing body meetings. During these meetings, major policy decisions were made and numerous transformative projects were approved, setting the stage for unprecedented growth and development. These momentous decisions encompassed

crucial aspects such as infrastructure development, investment facilitation, Special Economic District, urban planning, and tourism promotion. The visionary policies adopted in these meetings have laid a solid foundation for Gwadar's economic potential to flourish, attracting both domestic and international investors. "With these important decisions, Gwadar is poised to emerge as a vibrant center of trade, commerce, and tourism, capable of captivating the world with its immense possibilities and unmatched beauty," Mr. Qambarani said.

HEDP finalizes
methodology for evaluating
learning outcomes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has developed the Undergraduate Education Policy (UEP) 2020, which provides the framework for enhancing the quality of new programmes leading to Bachelor of Studies (BS) degrees and Associate Degree (AD) in Affiliated Colleges and Universities, which is now being implemented. The revised four and two-year degrees are common in the private sector and even large public sector universities but implementing in all public Higher Education institutions (HEIs) and Affiliated Colleges (ACs) across the country is a daunting task. This is where the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project is assisting HEC. HEDP is a five-year project (2019/20 – 2023/24) being implemented by HEC to expand its key higher education priorities. It aims to support research excellence in strategic

sectors of the economy, improve teaching and learning, and strengthen governance in higher education. The activity is led by the Post-Secondary Education Reform Unit (PERU) team of the HEDP project responsible for the execution and rollout of Undergraduate Education Policy (UEP), in close coordination with HEC and the Higher Education Departments (HEDs) of the provincial governments. During the rollout of the UEP, it is important to gauge the impact on learning outcomes via an assessment study. The study aims to assess the improvement in learnings due to the newly implemented programmes under the UEP. For this purpose, PERU has already tested the tool for this study it now needs to be expanded upon. The findings of the study will contribute to achieving a key Project Development Objective (PDO). This study will be an indicator of progress in improved teaching and learning in Affiliated Colleges. The project has engaged an interna-

l expert Mr. Salvador Malo Alvarez to support this study. Mr. Salvador is a Mexican national with extensive experience in higher education policy and reform in Latin America. He has been Director General (DG) at Mexico's Ministry of Education, Mexican Centre for the Assessment of HE and Council for the Assessment and Certification of Competencies. His team has developed an international test of assessing cognitive learning skills rather than rote learning of content. In his recent visit to Pakistan, he guided the HEDP team to improve the methodology assessment of study. The overall purpose of the visit is to liaison with all the relevant stakeholders of learning achievement assessment test that include HEC's Academic Division, National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Education Testing Council (ETC), and the Pakistani assessment experts to develop strong understanding around how to successfully execute this assessment of undergraduate students.

Poultry output
targets fixed at
2.363 million tons

ISLAMABAD: The government has set a target to produce about 2.363 million tons of poultry during fiscal year 2023-24 in order to fulfill the domestic requirements of poultry meat and other value added products. The poultry output during the 11 months of current fiscal year (2022-23) was recorded at 2.160 million metric tons as compared to its fixed targets, where as about 5.809 million tons of meat also produced in order to fulfill the local requirements of the commodity as well as for exporting to exploit existing potential of halal meat in global markets. Domestic output of meat in 11 months of last year was (2021-22) was recorded at 5.5 million tons as the government had set to produce about 5.5 million tons of meat during the year 2022-23, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that beef production targets for period under review were fixed at 2.630 million metric tons and mutton at 817,000 tons, adding that during going fiscal year the local production of beef was recorded at 2.55 million tons as against the set targets of 2.54 million tons, where as about 799,000 metric tons of mutton also produced as compared to the set targets of 799,000 metric tons. He further informed that agriculture sector was envisaged to grow by 3.9% in the Annual Plan 2022-23 given a strong crop sector performance of the previous year. However, he said that during the period from June-August 2022, torrential rains and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in various parts of the country and as per Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA), agriculture sector suffered the greatest damage.—APP

RWMC cancels holidays of
4,052 sanitary workers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) has cancelled holidays of around 4,052 sanitary workers and officials to ensure cleanliness during the Eid days. "The Company has finalized a comprehensive cleanliness plan for Eid-ul-Azha to get rid of entrails and offal of the sacrificed animals on the instructions of Commissioner Rawalpindi Laigat Ali Chhatta," Chief Executive Officer RWMC Rana Sajid Safdar said here Tuesday. WMC had deployed around 3575 sanitary workers in Rawalpindi, 140 in Murree, and 337 in tehsil Taxila, Kalar Syeda and Kahutta areas to keep the areas clean during Eid-ul-Azha. The CEO added that 463 vehicles including 389 for Rawalpindi, 13 in Murree and 61 in other tehsils of the district would be part of the special drive to remove the remains from every nook and corner of the district. "17 permanent collection points and 43 mobile transfer station have been set up for the convenience of the public in the district and the residents have been directed to contact on Help line number 1139 or 051-9291108 about any complaints," Rana said. He said that four of each workers would remain present.—APP

2nd death
anniversary
of artist
Khursheed
Shahid

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd death anniversary of renowned TV and Radio artist Begum Khursheed Shahid observed on Tuesday. According to a private news channel, Khursheed Shahid began acting and singing at the age of nine from All India Radio, Delhi, she was born in 1923 in Delhi. After the Partition in 1947, she along with her family moved to Lahore in Pakistan. Station Director Radio Pakistan Mehmood Nizami introduced Begum Khursheed Shahid for the first time in Radio Pakistan. Khursheed did a lot of quality theatre plays written by Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Manto and Sadequain. She performed in various famous TV dramas including Ras Malai, Wadi-e-Purkhar, Kaanch Ka Pul, Fehmida Ki Kahani, Ustani Rahat Ki Zabani, Kiran Kahani and Dhund. In 1995 Khursheed was honoured for her contributions towards the singing, film and television industry with the Pride of Performance by government of Pakistan.—APP

CTP striving
to regulate
traffic load on
Soan bridge:
STO

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on the directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan is striving hard to regulate traffic load on Soan Bridge.

According to Senior Traffic Officer (STO), Muneer Ahmed Hashmi, one side of Soan Bridge was closed to traffic due to landslides while all the traffic arrangements were completed to regulate traffic load in the circle. Muneer Ahmad informed that senior traffic police officers were present at the spot and supervising all the arrangements finalized by the CTP to ease the traffic load. Traffic was flowing normally in the area as two-way traffic was currently being operated on the other side of the bridge to save the citizens from trouble, the STO said. Traffic going from Kutchery Chowk to Rawat and Rawat to Jhelum Road was being operated in a single line, he added. In case of heavy load, traffic going to Kutchery would be diverted to alternative routes, the STO said and informed that arrangements had also been completed to place diversions. As a precautionary measure, heavy traffic had been completely diverted from the Soan bridge to other routes, Munir Ahmad said.—APP



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US' moves belie its idea of conciliation

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen plans to visit Beijing in early July, according to a Bloomberg report. If the trip that Yellen has been planning since April materializes, it can be regarded as a positive outcome of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's two-day visit to Beijing that wrapped up on June 19, during which an agreement was reached between the two sides on re-opening bilateral communication channels. However, it would be premature to say that Blinken's trip has helped check the overall worsening trend of Sino-US relations. Not only has the US side never stopped its military provocations in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea, even during Blinken's visit to Beijing, but also some unpleasant incidents have happened over the past days, some of them unprecedented. One day after Blinken said that relations must be handled responsibly, US President Joe Biden smeared his Chinese counterpart at a campaign fundraiser in California on Tuesday last week, an act that the Chinese Foreign Ministry called "an open political provocation". Shortly after that, Biden hosted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington with the focus on strengthening their coordination to contain China militarily and economically. On the same day, two Chinese anti-corruption law enforcers taking part in fighting cross-border crime with the US by locating corrupt fugitives and recovering illegal proceeds from the country were accused of "forcibly repatriating Chinese citizens to China". Despite all these provocations by the Biden administration, Beijing has not stopped communicating with the US side, although with an unprecedentedly low level of trust, in an effort to try and get Washington to recognize that it is its misjudgment on China's rise that is the root cause of the souring relations. During his meeting with Jacob Lew, chair of the National Committee on US-China Relations, in Beijing on Monday, China's senior diplomat Wang Yi pointed out that the roots of the difficulties facing China-US relations lie in the severe deviation of the US in its position toward China, which has resulted in the implementation of a series of misguided measures. He urged Washington to respect China's legitimate right to development, and fulfill the commitments it has made to Beijing multiple times. All this indicates the opportunities for improving ties that were created by Blinken's visit risk being wasted. If its sincerity in trying to improve bilateral relations is met with only cheating and insults, Beijing will be left with no choice but to respond to Washington in the same way.



Russia should pursue peace

WAGNER Group mercenaries last week advanced on the Russian capital before their leader Yevgeny Prigozhin ordered them to turn back to "avoid bloodshed". Having seemingly ended as abruptly as it started, there has been little time to take stock of the situation. Nonetheless, the incident should serve to accelerate efforts to secure a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, which has been a contributory cause of the dramatic event. If the United States-led pro-Ukraine camp regards the incident in Moscow as a sign that it should intensify its military support to Kyiv in a bid to bring the Russian regime to its knees, it will only worsen the situation. Since the one-year anniversary of the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February, various members of the international community, including China, Brazil, Indonesia, India and a group of African countries, have all made proposals aimed at promoting talks to secure a political settlement. However, for some time, these voices for peace and related pro-peace efforts have been muffled and compromised by warmongering cries that there can only be a final victory for Ukraine, if not the US. The incident in Russia should not embolden those making those cries to act rashly in pursuit of that aim. Instead it should spur countries to further strengthen their coordination and cooperation to advance the peace agenda to prevent either side of the conflict from throwing the helve after the hatchet. If the conflict is allowed to escalate in a dangerous direction, it could lead to the nightmare scenario of nuclear war. It is to be hoped that both parties to the conflict can remain calm and exercise restraint. Other parties should refrain from escalating tensions. In particular, everything should be done to avert any possibility of nuclear weapons being used. Now is the time for all peace-loving countries in the world to rally to the cause of persuading the two belligerents to sit down and talk. The key to prevent the Ukraine crisis from happening again is to form a lasting, effective and balanced security mechanism in Europe rather than force either of the two belligerents off the map. No country is in a position to savor the experience of schadenfreude while witnessing the Moscow drama as if it is safely watching a deadly fire from across a river. China is willing to work with all parties in pursuit of a political settlement of the Ukraine crisis, and it will do all it can to facilitate the process of diplomatic negotiations, and create and accumulate the conditions for the final settlement of the crisis.

The US lacks credibility, but all is not lost

James Dorsey

"Perceptions of Western hypocrisy in the Global South, compounded by bitter memories of past interventions, have made our divided world even more polarized and have pushed old friends and partners to turn to new sources of development finance that come with less baggage and fewer strings attached, at least in theory," Messrs. Djalal and Sheldrick said. Moreover, the lack of credibility turns public criticism of human rights abuse and other illiberal and autocratic policies and actions into a liability rather than an effective policy tool. Ideally, the United States and other Western nations would align their policies with their professed values. Of course, that would require an ideal world. The demands of realpolitik and increasingly polarised domestic politics ensure it is, at best, wishful thinking

A RECENT poll of Arab public opinion suggests US credibility has taken a hit, but all is not lost. That is if the United States realizes that Middle Easterners judge the US on glaring inconsistencies in its domestic and foreign policies rather than on its cultural, technological, and economic attributes. The discrepancy between US policies and professed values has always existed. However, it's become more evident and relevant and more of a liability in the past 22 years as a result of the War on Terror, rising Islamophobia, the war in Iraq, US reluctance to confront Israel head-on, and most recently the war in Ukraine. In addition, China loomed less large in the past in the competition for influence in the Middle East. Arab nations were on the defensive in the years after the 11 September 2001 Al Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington. The United States' credibility problem is compounded by what former Indonesian ambassador in Washington Dino Patti Djalal and Michael Sheldrick, co-founder of Global Witness, see as more broad resentment in the Global South against the West. "The West is perceived to perpetuate double standards on issues ranging from climate action and responsibility to trade and accountability for human rights violations... They called for global solidarity during the pandemic while instead often pursuing vaccine nationalism. Western nations preach free trade but increasingly engage in protectionism," Messrs. Djalal and Sheldrick said in an op-ed. "While Westerners may see public criticism as a regular diplomatic practice, it is seen by many (in the Global South) as false righteousness, devoid of genuine partnership," they added. Against that backdrop, the latest Arab Youth Survey conducted by public relations agency Asda's BCW indicates the credibility problem the Biden administration needs to address to narrow the gap. A healthy 72 per cent of the survey's respondents identified the United States as an ally. Even so, the US ranked seventh as an ally behind Turkey, China, Britain, Germany, France, and India. That does not mean that the US is perceived to

have lost influence in the region. Thirty-three per cent named the US as the most influential power in the Arab world, followed in second place by 11 per cent pointing to the United Arab Emirates. It also means that only some youths want the US to retain its influence. Sixty-one per cent of respondents said they would support US disengagement, even if more than 60 per cent believe the US will be a more important ally than Russia or China in the next five years. Similarly, the US ranks at 19 per cent second, behind the UAE's 24 per cent as the country Arab youth prefer to live in. The same is true for which country youth would like their country to emulate. In other words, often unexplained contradictions in policy are catching up with the United States, but it retains sufficient ground to bridge the gap if officials recognise that credibility has become far more critical in a world of competing powers. "Perceptions of Western hypocrisy in the Global South, compounded by bitter memories of past interventions, have made our divided world even more polarized and have pushed old friends and partners to turn to new sources of development finance that come with less baggage and fewer strings attached, at least in theory," Messrs. Djalal and Sheldrick said. Moreover, the lack of credibility turns public criticism of human rights abuse and other illiberal and autocratic policies and actions into a liability rather than an effective policy tool. Ideally, the United States and other Western nations would align their policies with their professed values. Of course, that would require an ideal world. The demands of realpolitik and increasingly polarised domestic politics ensure it is, at best, wishful thinking. But there are things the United States and others can do, at home and abroad, some of which are low hanging fruit. The Biden administration could take heed of this week's United Nations recommendations to end in Guantanamo Bay prison "cruel, inhuman, and degrading" violations of detainees' fundamental rights and freedoms, including constant surveillance, grueling isolation, and limited family access. Guantanamo, home to the last 30 men

detained as military combatants in the War on Terror since the 2001 Al Qaeda attacks, long symbolised to many the perceived hypocrisy of US advocacy to adherence to human rights. Fionnuala Ni Aolain, the UN's special rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, made her recommendations following the first visit to the prison by UN experts in more than two decades. In addition, the United States together with its Western allies could enhance its credibility by living up to promises like the pledge to provide \$100 billion in climate financing to developing nations and ensuring that countries from the Global South have a seat at the table. Western leaders have begun to acknowledge that the ball is in their court. French President Emmanuel Macron told the Munich Security Conference in February that he was "shocked by how much credibility we are losing in the Global South." Joseph Borrel, the European Union's foreign policy chief, echoed Mr. Macron at the same event. "We cannot think about European security without looking at the global scene and engaging with other partners. I see how powerful the Russian narrative is, its accusations of double standards. We have to dismantle that narrative, cooperate with other countries, accept that the UN structure must be adapted," Mr. Borrel said, referring to demands that the Global South has a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The United States' key allies, the EU and Japan, appear to have taken the lead in attempting to regain credibility and trust. So far, they have taken small steps, but, by and large, they have yet to put their mouth where their mouth is. For the effort to gain momentum and for the United States to benefit, it needs to not only get on board with what Messrs. Djalal and Sheldrick describe as "a thousand-mile journey" but get in the driver's seat. It takes only a glance at the Arab Youth survey to conclude that the stakes are high in the Middle East and across the globe. Credibility matters, perhaps more than ever since World War Two.

'Om-washing': Why Modi's yoga day pose is deceptive

Sheena Sood

Modi has also suggested that a yogic lifestyle can reverse the devastating impact of global warming and promote environmental sustainability. Calling for a mass movement against climate change, Modi has pledged India's commitment to net zero emissions by 2070 while urging everyday climate yogis to do their part by changing their behaviours. While yoga can certainly be used to combat climate change, Modi's continued investment in the fossil-fuel industry and military spending indicates his pledge to curb emissions...

IN 2014, when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi first addressed the United Nations General Assembly, he arrived with a mission: to propose a resolution that recognises June 21 as the International Day of Yoga and India as the spiritual birthplace of yoga. To a gathering of nearly 200 political leaders, Modi enthusiastically framed yoga as "an invaluable gift of [India's] ancient tradition". He suggested that honouring yoga could help foster world peace, mitigate the consequences of climate change and combat armed violence. The following year, the world celebrated its first yoga day. And on Wednesday, the UN welcomed Modi back to its headquarters to lead this year's event. But what version of India did Modi showcase to the world? It was the one that builds on the mainstream portrayal of India as the world's largest secular democracy and home to a growing economy. Not the version that acknowledges a wrecked democracy - signalled by the rise of an authoritarian, Hindu nationalist and caste supremacist agenda - in Modi's India. Since becoming the leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Modi and his spiritual allies have appropriated yoga as propaganda for Hindu nationalism and right-wing policies; to rewrite India's history; and divert public attention away from their Hindu supremacist political agenda. Simply put, Modi has weaponised yoga to conceal the political and systemic violence he has advanced against oppressed minorities in India. That's what he did before world leaders and yoga followers on UN Yoga Day - it was a spectacle of what I call om-washing, used to mask a radical agenda of ethno-nationalist state violence. None of this must be confused with any genuine conviction to use yoga to build a more just, unified and liberated world. In insisting that ancient Indian

culture "sees the world as one family", Modi often suggests that yogic philosophy guides his efforts to promote democracy and peace within India's borders and with global partners. However, democracy is in steep decline in Modi's India. The nation has seen a surge in state-sponsored and vigilante attacks on Muslims, Christians, Dalits and other oppressed minorities since Modi has taken office. Not only has Modi legitimised Hindu nationalists to be more emboldened in attacking marginalised populations, but his administration has also weakened independent institutions of Indian democracy, including the judiciary. Globally, he has strengthened military partnerships with states like Israel, France and the United States - nations that are invested in the politics of Islamophobia and war-making. Modi's touting of yoga as lending itself toward peaceful and democratic principles masks his dedicated investment in militarism and war. Modi has also suggested that a yogic lifestyle can reverse the devastating impact of global warming and promote environmental sustainability. Calling for a mass movement against climate change, Modi has pledged India's commitment to net zero emissions by 2070 while urging everyday climate yogis to do their part by changing their behaviours. While yoga can certainly be used to combat climate change, Modi's continued investment in the fossil-fuel industry and military spending indicates his pledge to curb emissions is an empty promise - especially when military emissions are consistently excluded from climate change agreements. Climate scientists and environmental activists have argued that responding to the ever-threatening climate catastrophe will require radical divestment from a consumer-driven capitalist economy. But Modi remains committed to individualised solu-

tions that make no radical changes in the structure of the economy and serve his ultimate agenda of feigning support for "green" policies while advancing programmes that actively destroy our planet. In his 2014 speech to the UN, Modi also spoke of the need for world leaders to jointly combat "terrorism and extremism". However, Modi uses the Islamophobic discourse of the "War on Terror" to invisibilise state-sanctioned militarism. In August 2019, Modi's government revoked the semi-autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir, which India's only Muslim-majority state had enjoyed since it acceded to a newly independent India in 1947. That was followed by a crackdown - political activity was banned, politicians were placed under house arrest and the internet was choked, as India deployed additional troops to one of the most militarised zones in the world. Meanwhile, the Indian army posts photos of its soldiers in yoga poses. Contrast that with the human rights abuses the Indian military is accused of in Kashmir, and it becomes apparent how Modi and his allies also use om-washing to sanitise India's brutal track record in Kashmir. With Modi's yoga day performance live-streamed at Times Square and on social media platforms, I imagine thousands of politically neutral attendees might have joined in too. After all, what's the harm in doing yoga with Modi, right? It's not like doing yoga with him and thousands of others is in itself any endorsement of a political agenda. But I encourage those on the fence to recognise how participating in such events legitimises Modi's attempts at om-washing - this agenda of using yoga to conceal his Hindu supremacist ideology. It's time to reclaim yoga by rejecting Modi's appropriation of this ancient practice.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Decision on IMF loan in 'a day or two'

FROM PAGE 01
Ishaq Dar and his team's efforts for attempting to revive the loan – after policy matters were discussed in Paris. PM Shehbaz expressed hope that coordination on the points of the bailout programme would lead to a decision from the Washington-based lender in a day or two. "The prime minister also reiterated his determination to achieve the goals of improving the economic situation through joint efforts," the statement read. The statement added that while hoping Pakistan's economic situation would improve, the IMF chief appreciated the prime minister's determination. The South Asian nation is going through its worst economic crisis amid record inflation and interest rates, but it has seen prospects for its IMF loan take a positive turn before it expires at the end of the week. In a dramatic final attempt to appease the lender, the nation agreed to raise taxes by \$750 million and cut spending in its annual budget over the weekend.

US acknowledges 'important...'

FROM PAGE 01
"The US Deputy Chief of Mission was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening and a demarche was made to him regarding the US-India Joint Statement," the Foreign Office said. The FO said Pakistan's concerns and disappointment at the "unwarranted, one-sided and misleading references to it in the Joint Statement were conveyed to the US side". It was stressed that the US should refrain from issuing statements that may be construed as encouragement of India's baseless and politically motivated narrative against Pakistan, it added.

PM orders preparation for...

FROM PAGE 01
The administration should particularly remain alert during Eid-ul-Azha and formulate an emergency plan to deal with the possible situation caused by the rains, he added. He said the issues related to the procurement of machinery for water drainage in the city should be resolved on an urgent basis. He also directed the relevant authorities to carry out strict monitoring of hides collection across the province to keep the proscribed outfits away from the activity. Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the administrations to make arrangements for sanitation as well as for the disposal of offals on Eid. He said the special complaint centres and control rooms must work round the clock for public facilitation keeping in view the Eid-ul-Azha and monsoon season.

'PPP, PML-N busy in...'

FROM PAGE 01
"Finance Minister Ishaq Dar sahib had to kneel. Everyone has seen the budget that was passed." The citizens of Pakistan want to know whether anyone is concerned with the economic situation improving, he said, adding that the PTI is trying to talk about the future. Referring to ISPR Director General Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry's press conference, Qureshi said that the matter of military trials is before the courts so it would be premature to speak on it. "He [DG ISPR] did not name anyone. You know that I don't comment on assumptions." Meanwhile, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore extended former federal minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's interim bail till July 7 in three cases pertaining to May 9 on Tuesday. The ATC was hearing Qureshi's bail plea related to cases registered against him at Sarwar Road, Gulberg and Race Course police stations. He is accused of involvement in vandalism at Jinnah House and Gulberg Plaza.

ICC, BCCI succumb to PCB's demand regarding WC match

Pakistan's history of security-related incidents in India, including pitch vandalism, has contributed to their reservations

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has successfully convinced the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to meet their demands concerning the World Cup semi-final match. Due to security concerns, Pakistan had expressed their unwillingness to play a World Cup match in Mumbai. This decision was communicated to the ICC officials during their recent visit to Lahore. On Tuesday, the ICC announced the schedule for the 2023 World Cup, designating Mumbai and Kolkata as the venues for the semi-final matches. However, if the Indian cricket team qualifies for the semi-finals, their match will be held in Mumbai, whereas if Pakistan

qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Kolkata. In the case of an India-Pakistan semi-final, the match will take place at Eden Gardens in Kolkata instead of Mumbai. The roots of these concerns trace back to incidents in the past. In 1991, the Shiv Sena party, led by the late Hindu leader Bal Thackeray, vandalized the pitch at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium just two days before Pakistan's scheduled one-day series in India. This resulted in Pakistan canceling the tour, as well as two subsequent tours in 1993 and 1994, due



to security fears. Another incident occurred in 1999 when a group of approximately 25 Shiv Sena supporters stormed New Delhi's Feroze Shah Kotla stadium, where Pakistan was playing their first Test series on Indian soil in 12 years, and dug up the pitch. Meanwhile, the PCB has disclosed its official position regarding the World Cup 2023 schedule unveiled by the ICC on Tuesday. "The board requires the Government of Pakistan's clearance for any tour to India, including the match venues," PCB spokes-

person said. "We are liaising with our government for guidance, and as soon as we hear something from them, we will update the Event Authority [ICC]. This position is consistent to what we had told the ICC a couple of weeks ago when they shared with us the draft schedule and sought our feedback," he added. Apart from Mumbai, Pakistan had also expressed concerns about playing in Ahmedabad for security reasons. However, after extensive discussions and negotiations between the BCCI and the PCB, a resolution was reached. The BCCI agreed to accept the PCB's proposed hybrid model for the Asia Cup, leading to the decision to resolve the issue. Consequently, the highly anticipated India-Pakistan match will now take place at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.

Pakistan's schedule for ICC World Cup 2023 confirmed

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the schedule for this year's World Cup in India on Tuesday. Pakistan's first two matches in the event will be against qualifiers on October 6 and 12, respectively. The Men in Green will face arch-rivals India on October 15 in Ahmedabad. 10 teams will fight for the elusive title across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19, with the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad hosting the tournament opener and the final.

The day matches which will start at 10:00am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures starting at 01:30pm (PST). Eight teams have qualified for the event through the Cricket World Cup Super League while the final two spots will be taken by the finalists of the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier taking place in Zimbabwe. If the West Indies qualify, they will be Q1 irrespective of where they finish in the Qualifiers. If Sri Lanka qualify, they will be Q2

Here is Pakistan's schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023:

October 6 - vs Qualifier 1 in Hyderabad

October 12 - vs Qualifier 2 in Hyderabad

October 15 - vs India in Ahmedabad

October 20 - vs Australia in Bengaluru

October 23 - vs Afghanistan in Chennai

October 27 - vs South Africa in Chennai

October 31 - vs Bangladesh in Kolkata

November 4 - vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)

November 12 - vs England in Kolkata

irrespective of where they finish in the Qualifiers.

If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Kolkata. If India qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Mumbai unless playing against Pakistan, in which case they will play in Kolkata.

The tournament will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches.

The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-

nals and the final will have reserve days. "We are delighted to release the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 schedule which is always a huge occasion ahead of any global event," ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice, said.

"Hundreds of millions of fans around the world will be part of what we hope will be the greatest ever Men's Cricket World Cup and we know in India the teams will enjoy a unique electric atmosphere concluding with the winners lifting the trophy in the biggest cricket stadium in the world in Ahmedabad." - DNA

Nepal beat Pak in SAFF Championship

KATHMANDU: Nepal defeated Pakistan 1-0 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Tuesday during the ongoing SAFF Championship. The match was a dead rubber since both teams were already out of the race for the semis after losing their first two matches, against India and Kuwait, in Group A. It seemed as if the match was heading towards a draw but Nepal's Aashish Chaudhary scored the winner in the 80th minute of the match. Pakistan football team lost all three matches during the group stage, without getting on the scoresheet, and conceded nine goals in the process. They finished at the bottom of the points table in Group A. It must be noted that India, Lebanon, Kuwait, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Pakistan are competing for the title in the 14th edition of the SAFF Championship. Lebanon and Kuwait, who are members of the West Asian Football Federation (WAFF), are participating in the event as guest teams. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals, which will be played on July 1. The final will be held on July 4. Later today, India will face Kuwait in the second match of the day at the same venue. India and Kuwait are level on points (6) and goal difference (+6) and have already qualified for the semi-finals. The winner of today's clash will determine who tops the group and takes on the second-placed side from Group B in the last four. For India, only a win will earn them top spot since they trail Kuwait on goals scored. - Agencies

England announce playing XI for second Ashes Test

LONDON: England have included seamer Josh Tongue in their team for the second Ashes Test against Australia at Lord's which starts on Wednesday. Tongue will replace injured spinner Moeen Ali, the country's cricket board (ECB) said on Tuesday. Ali was nursing a finger injury in the first match at Edgbaston and could only bowl 14 overs in the second innings. The inclusion of the 25-year-old Tongue, who claimed figures of 5-66 in the second innings of his Test debut against Ireland at Lord's this month, means that England will field an all-seam attack.

Tongue got the nod ahead of Mark Wood, who was earlier likely to be selected for the second Test, with Joe Root expected to continue to play the role of the part-time spinner. Earlier in the first Test, Australia cricket team defeated England by two wickets on the fifth day after a nail-biting finish in Edgbaston on Tuesday (June 20). While chasing the target of 281 runs, Australia were 54 runs short to the target with just two wickets in hand when their skipper Pat Cummins walked in to bat. The right-handed pulled off a stunning contest by scoring a match-winning knock of 44 runs including four boundaries and two maximums. Usman Khawaja was named player of the match for his heroics in both the first and the second innings. He scored a remarkable knock of 141 runs in the first innings and helped the Aussies avoid a collapse. In the second innings, he was once again top scored with 65 off 197.

England XI for second Test

Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jonathan Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Ollie Robinson, Josh Tongue, James Anderson
Schedule of remaining Ashes Tests
Second Test (Lord's) - Wednesday June 28 - Sunday July 2
Third Test (Clean Slate Headingley) - Thursday July 6 - Monday July 10, Fourth Test (Emirates Old Trafford) - Wednesday July 19 - Sunday July 23, Fifth Test (The Kia Oval) - Thursday July 27 - Monday July 31. - Agencies



Ten-man Martinique edges El Salvador in Gold Cup

FORT LAUDERDALE: Ten-man Martinique, sparked by nine saves from goalkeeper Yannis Clementia, held off El Salvador for a 2-1 Group C victory in the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Monday. Martinique, eliminated in the group stage in the team's past five Gold Cup appearances, had goals from Patrick Burner in the 11th minute and Kevin Fortune in the 16th, plus a late penalty-shot save by Clementia. After Jonathan Rivierez was sent off with a red card in the 48th minute, the Caribbean side tightened defensively and denied the Salvadorans a goal until the dying seconds of extra time.

In a later match, Panama defeated Costa Rica 2-1 at the home stadium of Major League Soccer's Inter Miami, soon to be the club of Argentine star Lionel Messi. Panama opened the scoring in the 23rd minute on Jose Fajardo's header off a centering pass from Eric Davis. The Ticos were denied in the 25th when Panama keeper Orlando Mosquera was caught well away from the woodwork but still able to deny a chip from Costa Rican teen Josimar Alcocer. Unmarked Edgar Barcenav gave Panama a 2-0 lead in the 68th minute

when he took a centering pass in the heart of the penalty area from Michael Murillo and nodded in a header off the left post. Costa Rica scored in the first of three minutes of stoppage time on a give-and-go goal from a steep angle off the left foot of Aaron Suarez. It will be a fight for the group lead when Panama and Martinique meet Friday in Harrison, New Jersey. Salvadoran turnovers set up both Martinique goals, the first after a cross-field pass found onrushing full back Burner, who fired a left-footed shot over a sliding defender and just inside the far post. - Agencies

Philippe Troussier backs World Cup expansion

Troussier has been tasked with changing that as he looks to build on the work done by Korean Park Hang-seo, who took Vietnam through to the final phase of Asian qualifying for the first time in 2021.

HONG KONG: Philippe Troussier, the well-travelled French coach who has been in charge of eight mostly minor national teams over his long career, has thrown his weight behind the expansion of the World Cup finals to 48 sides from 2026. The 68-year-old Parisian, who earned the nickname the 'White Witch Doctor' while working with teams in Africa before leading Japan at the 2002 World Cup finals, believes the move will bring positive benefits far beyond the confines of the game. "It will create a big impact, not only for the countries that are able to go to the World Cup, but it will develop the country," Troussier, who was recently appointed as Vietnam coach, told Reuters. "When you know your country has no hope, even less than 1% to go to the World

Cup, why develop the pitches? Why pay a foreign coach? Why start a technical programme for the youth? You have no dream. And we have to dream. We have to hope." Plenty of traditionalists are unhappy at the increase in the size of the tournament from the 32 teams that have contested every World Cup since 1998, arguing the quality of the competition will be diluted as a result. For the likes of Troussier, who has coached mainly in Africa and Asia over the last 35 years, the prospect of more nations from outside Europe and South America qualifying for the finals is a major positive.

"With 48 teams, eight in Asia and especially in Southeast Asia, then teams can dream," he said. "Personally I support this project." Despite the huge popularity of football in the region, no Southeast Asian nation has qualified for the World Cup since Indonesia - then the Dutch East Indies - made an appearance at the finals in 1938.

Troussier has been tasked with changing that as he looks to build on the work done by Korean Park Hang-seo, who took Vietnam through to the final phase of Asian qualifying for the first time in 2021.

"That's why the Vietnam Football Federation have created a special budget and frankly I have all the facilities to complete my job and they believe in me," he said. "They provide to the national team all my requests. I really have enjoyed my moment here and I feel like I did when I was in Japan." Troussier believes the enlarged format, which begins with the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, could also work to the advantage of traditionally powerful nations, many of whom have stumbled during the group phase at the tournament. "I understand when people ask why you would want the World Cup to go to 48 teams," he said. "But in this case we have to consider the real World Cup will not start at the first stage, be-

cause how many big teams will go out like they did in the old format?" Troussier points out that defending champions France were eliminated in the group phase in 2002 while Spain and Germany were knocked out early in 2014 and 2018 respectively having won the trophy four years earlier.

"At the beginning of the process the high-level teams need time," he added. "In this format they can make it a warm-up and that's why we can consider the real World Cup will start after two weeks. "Every four years it is a big festival and if you're a small country you can work a lot and have a lot of hope. For me this process is important to develop youth, to develop football infrastructure, coaches. I think it is important." - Agencies

FROM PAGE 01
May 9 riots after the arrest of the party chairman. The cases had been registered under sections of Pakistan Penal Code and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Meanwhile, the court also extended the interim bail of the PTI chairman till July 7 in another two cases lodged against the PTI leadership and workers for Zaman Park vandalism. Racecourse Police had registered the cases against the PTI chief and other party leaders and workers on charges of attacking the police teams and burning official property and vehicles outside the Zaman Park residence. - APP

Military trials of civilians not started yet, SC told

FROM PAGE 01
AGP's statement, directing the court's attention to the matter at hand. Lawyer Bhandari then resumed his arguments pertaining to the case, contending that civilians cannot be tried in military courts. "I will not talk about the trial of soldiers and the powers of the court," he said. "However, whether a crime can come under the Army Act or not is a different question," he said, adding that it must be determined whether there can be a trial [of a civilian] in military courts for crimes related to the forces. Bhandari also submitted that Parliament could not allow civilian trials in military courts without a constitutional amendment, adding that in the 21st constitutional amendment, the principle was established that a constitutional amendment is required for trying civilians [under the Army Act]. Justice Ayesha asked: "[But] what if there is an aspect of an internal relationship, then can't the civilian be tried in the military courts?" Justice Anshu further observed: "Principles such as threats to war and defense of domestic relations are laid down in the judgment of the 21st Amendment case." Turning to the AGP, Justice Afridi asked if civilians were being linked to the forces internally. The AGP responded that the inquiry looked into accusations of facilitation from within the army. Justice Ayesha observed that civilians could be tried in a military court, according to the F B Ali case. "According to judicial precedents, if civilians have internal relations in the forces, there can be a trial in military courts," she added. However, she asked who was responsible for determining that a civilian was internally connected and, therefore, would be tried in a military court. Justice Afridi then asked the AGP under what law the cases of the accused were being transferred to army courts. AGP Mansoor responded that it was done under 2D (1). At this point, the CJP remarked: "Interestingly, we don't have an official Secret Act available." Adding that there was nothing in writing available on the matter, he asked the AGP to "assist the court" as to what offenses fell under 2D (1). Justice Anshu added that the discretionary power to allow trials of civilians in military courts should be exercised transparently, while Justice Akhtar remarked that according to the F B Ali case, civilians could be tried in military courts under the Army Act in war situations only. "If there is no war situation, a constitutional amendment is required for trying civilians in military courts."

Justice Afridi urges CJP to...

FROM PAGE 01
government is drawing close to its end and the nation is gearing up for fresh elections, the political murmurings against the composition of the present bench could be palatable," the top court judge said in the note. Referring to the objections raised by Senior Puisne Judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa over the legality of bench composition, Justice Afridi said he was neither "endorsing nor agreeing with the reasons recorded by the senior puisne judge in his written note". "Thus, the matter of the present composition of the bench warrants urgent attention and reconsideration by the chief justice of Pakistan, lest it may dampen public trust in the justice system," he added.

ATC extends Khan's...

FROM PAGE 01
May 9 riots after the arrest of the party chairman. The cases had been registered under sections of Pakistan Penal Code and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Meanwhile, the court also extended the interim bail of the PTI chairman till July 7 in another two cases lodged against the PTI leadership and workers for Zaman Park vandalism. Racecourse Police had registered the cases against the PTI chief and other party leaders and workers on charges of attacking the police teams and burning official property and vehicles outside the Zaman Park residence. - APP

Briefs

700 sanitary workers to remove entrails

RAWALPINDI: Over 700 sanitary workers would remove entrails of animals and offal from all cantonment areas during Eid ul Azha holidays.

According to Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) spokesman, the board on the directives of Cantonment Executive Officer, Imran Gulzar had finalized a comprehensive cleanliness plan for Eid-ul-Azha to dispose of entrails of sacrificial animals. He informed that 700 sanitary workers under the supervision of three sanitary inspectors, 22 supervisors and a public health officer would perform their duties in Cantt areas during Eid holidays. A comprehensive cleanliness plan had been formulated under which all available resources would be utilized to accomplish the task during Eid-ul-Azha holidays, he said and informed that over 118 vehicles including dumpers, mini dumpers, tractor trolleys, pick-ups, compactors, trucks, excavators, with a large number of hand-carts would be used to remove garbage, entrails of animals and offal from all Cantonment areas.

Two transfer points at old Daewoo Adda and Ghaziabad Dhoke Syedan would be set up from where entrails of the animals would be shifted to the dumping point. A special monitoring team had also been formed, he added. The staff had also been provided Tracking Sims which would be used to monitor the cleanliness operation from the control room. Cantonment Board had been divided into six sectors to make effective the cleanliness arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha while a main control room/complaint cell would also be set up in RCB office. —APP

Turkish FM attends regional summit in Montenegro

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister (FM) Hakan Fi-



dan on Tuesday attended the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) leaders' summit in Montenegro's capital Podgorica. On behalf of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Fidan will also hold some bilateral meetings in Podgorica. Ahead of the summit, the participants attended a family photo shoot. During his closed-door speech at the summit, Fidan said the SEECP has an "indispensable" role in seeking solutions to the region's problems, and Türkiye supports initiatives aiming to provide peace, welfare, and stability in the Balkans. The SEECP brings together Türkiye, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Greece, Croatia, Moldova, and Montenegro. It represents the shared desire of countries in the region to strengthen intergovernmental cooperation. —DNA

US Capitol riots
FBI, Homeland security ignored 'massive amount' of intelligence

WASHINGTON: The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security downplayed or ignored "a massive amount of intelligence information" ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, according to the chairman of a Senate panel that on Tuesday is releasing a new report on the intelligence failures ahead of the insurrection.

The report details how the agencies failed to recognize and warn of the potential for violence as some of then-President Donald Trump's supporters openly planned the siege in messages and forums online. Among the multitude of intelligence that was overlooked was a December 2020 tip to the FBI that members of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys planned to be in Washington, D.C., for the certification of Joe Biden's victory and their "plan is to literally kill people," the report said. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Committee said the agencies were also aware of many social media posts that foreshadowed violence, some calling on Trump's supporters to "come armed" and storm the Capitol, kill lawmakers or "burn the place to the ground." Michigan Sen. Gary Peters, the Democratic chairman of the Homeland panel, said the breakdown was "largely a failure of imagination to see threats that the Capitol could be breached as credible," echoing the findings of the Sept. 11 commission about intelligence failures ahead of the 2001 terrorist attacks. The report by the panel's majority staff says the intelligence community has not entirely recalibrated to focus on the threats of domestic, rather than international, terrorism. And government intelligence leaders failed to sound the alarm "in part because they could not conceive that the U.S. Capitol Building would be

overrun by rioters." Still, Peters said, the reasons for dismissing what he called a "massive" amount of intelligence "defies an easy explanation." While several other reports have examined the intelligence failures around Jan. 6 — including a bipartisan 2021 Senate report, the House Jan. 6 committee last year and several separate internal assessments by the Capitol Police and other government agencies — the latest investigation is the first congressional report to focus solely on the actions of the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis. In the wake of the attack, Peters said the committee interviewed officials at both agencies and found what was "pretty constant finger pointing" at each other. "Everybody should be accountable because everybody failed," Peters said. Using emails and interviews collected by the Sen-

ate committee and others, including from the House Jan. 6 panel, the report lays out in detail the intelligence agencies received in the weeks ahead of the attack. There was not a failure to obtain evidence, the report says, but the agencies "failed to fully and accurately assess the severity of the threat identified by that intelligence, and formally disseminate guidance to their law enforcement partners." As Trump, a Republican, falsely claimed he had won the 2020 election and tried to overturn his election defeat, telling his supporters to "fight like hell" in a speech in front of the White House that day, thousands of them marched to the Capitol. More than 2,000 rioters overran law enforcement, assaulted police officers, and caused more than \$2.7 billion in damage to the Capitol, according to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report earlier this year. Breaking through windows and doors, the rioters

sent lawmakers running for their lives and temporarily interrupted the certification of the election victory by Biden, a Democrat. Even as the attack was happening, the new report found, the FBI and Homeland Security downplayed the threat. As the Capitol Police struggled to clear the building, Homeland Security "was still struggling to assess the credibility of threats against the Capitol and to report out its intelligence." And at a 10 a.m. briefing as protesters gathered at Trump's speech and near the Capitol were "wearing ballistic helmets, body armor, carrying radio equipment and military grade backpacks," the FBI briefed that there were "no credible threats at this time." The lack of sufficient warnings meant that law enforcement were not adequately prepared and there was not a hardened perimeter established around the Capitol, as there is during events like the annual State of the Union address.

The report contains dozens of tips about violence on Jan. 6 that the agencies received and dismissed either due to lack of coordination, bureaucratic delays or trepidation on the part of those who were collecting it. The FBI, for example, was unexpectedly hindered in its attempt to find social media posts planning for Jan. 6 protests when the contract for its third-party social media monitoring tool expired. At Homeland Security, analysts were hesitant to report open-source intelligence after criticism in 2020 for collecting intelligence on American citizens during racial justice demonstrations.

One tip received by the FBI ahead of the Jan. 6 attack was from a former Justice Department official who sent screenshots of online posts from members of the Oath Keepers extremist group: "There is only one way in. It is not signs. It's not rallies. It's f— bullets!" —Agencies

Govt will overcome snags in military court trial of civilians

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday noted that there were some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts, but added that the government would be able to remove the same. Replying to various questions regarding the May 9 mayhem and its consequences during an interview to a private TV channel, the defence minister passed these remarks as he praised the military for moving ahead with the accountability process and taking actions against the responsible persons.

Khawaja Asif also said that blocking social media platforms was always an option and the government exercise the powers whenever required. His comments were in reference to the government stance that the PTI used social media as a tool to incite hatred and violence against the state institutions in the country. —DNA

IG Islamabad tenders apology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan has apologised to the Islamabad High Court in the contempt of court case for arresting former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Shireen Mazari despite court order. Islamabad High Court conducted hearing of the contempt of court case against IG Islamabad for arresting Dr Shireen Mazari despite court order. IG Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan submitted the reply in Islamabad High Court. In his reply, the IG Islamabad said that he was ashamed of what happened and apologised for violation of the court order. To avoid such situation in future, office order had been issued. Police officers had been ordered to ensure full implementation of court orders, he said. IG Nasir Khan said sub-inspector Haider Ali, constables Sohail, Faisal and Waqas were involved in arresting Dr Mazari. Lady Constable Sundus and Marvi were also involved in arrest of the former PTI leader. He said the police did not know about the court order before arrest of Dr Mazari. The IG said disciplinary action had been initiated and the relevant officials had been served show-cause notices. In response, IG Islamabad also said that officers from Kohsar Police Station along with Rawalpindi Police had visited Dr Mazari's house to arrest her.

FIA challenges refusal to grant Elahi's physical remand

ISLAMABAD: The FIA has challenged the move of not granting the physical remand of former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi in a money laundering case in the Lahore District and Sessions Court. The judicial magistrate gave the decision against the facts, the FIA maintained the stance in its appeal. The appeal further said an investigation is required to be conducted against Parvez Elahi over money laundering. The appeal sought the court to declare the order of the judicial magistrate null and void. —DNA

In defiance of Russia, China
United States luring 'variety' of nations to join AUKUS

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Senior US officials say they are in talks with a "variety" of countries about possibly adding them to the second phase of the Indo-Pacific AUKUS security pact, amid escalating tensions between world powers. White House Indo-Pacific coordinator Kurt Campbell said the new allies and partners can take part in different areas, according to a report by ABC Australia on Tuesday. Campbell did not name the countries but said there were a "variety" of nations interested. "That might be in hyper-personics, that could be in cybersecurity, it could be in anti-submarine warfare," he told an event hosted by the Center for Strategic and Interna-

tional Studies think tank in Washington. AUKUS is a trilateral security pact announced in September 2021 between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States aimed at countering Russia and China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. Under pillar one of the deal, the US and the UK will assist Australia to obtain nuclear-powered submarines. Pillar two will see the three nations working more closely together on other types of defense capabilities, such as artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. According to Campbell, what potential allies are going to bring to the table must be "practical and operational." Canada and New Zealand have previously expressed an interest in joining Pillar Two. A recent report by

the US Congressional Research Service said that some analysts had argued that Japan should also be included to expand pillar two. The call for allies in the second phase of the agreement comes after the recent mutiny against the Russian government and rising tensions between Moscow and Washington amid the ongoing Ukraine conflict. The fleeing mutiny led by the Wagner Group against the Russian military leadership on Saturday intensified Russia-US tensions. While Russia has announced it is going to investigate the possible involvement of foreign intelligence in the failed mutiny, reports by Western media suggest that the US already knew about Wagner Group's boss Yevgeny Prigozhin's plans to order his troops

to march on Moscow. Russia has been critical of the AUKUS, saying that the trilateral security pact is fueling regional tensions by trying to counter China. China has also criticized the AUKUS countries, saying their cooperation "constituted serious nuclear proliferation risks," exacerbated the arms race, and undermined stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The International Atomic Energy Agency has warned the AUKUS security pact could trigger a race for nuclear submarines. To date, no party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) other than the five countries the treaty recognizes as weapons states — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France — has nuclear submarines.

Russia is destroying itself, says German FM

GENEVA: Russia is destroying itself with its war on Ukraine, according to the German foreign minister. "With this brutal war of aggression, Russia, Putin, is destroying its own country," Annalena Baerbock told reporters during a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Monday. The weekend's developments in Russia were about a "domestic power struggle in Russia" and Germany and the EU "did not want to interfere," Baerbock said. The whole thing was "just one act in this Russian spectacle," she added. According to Baerbock, Europe's "sole concern is to help Ukraine live in peace and freedom again." At the meeting in Luxembourg, EU foreign ministers decided to increase funding for the supply of weapons and equipment to Ukraine and other partner countries by another 3.5 billion (\$3.8 billion). According to an EU spokeswoman, this is a clear political signal of the bloc's continued commitment to military assistance to Ukraine and other partners. Specifically, Monday's decision raised the financial ceiling for the so-called European Peace Facility to about 12 billion. This EU financial instrument had been created before the start of the Ukraine war to provide military support to partner countries and was originally only allocated around 5 billion for the period 2021-2027. However, due to the Russian war on Ukraine, these funds are nowhere near sufficient. So far, around 5.6 billion has been released for aid to the Ukrainian armed forces alone. —DNA



China offers closer military cooperation with Vietnam

BEIJING: China is willing to work with Vietnam to strengthen high-level communication and cooperation between their militaries, Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu said on Tuesday as he met his Vietnamese counterpart. In their meeting in Beijing, Li said the international situation was chaotic and intertwined, and the security of the Asia-Pacific region was facing challenges, the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement. "China and Vietnam should continue to work hand in hand and closely unite in the new journey of socialism, safeguard the common strategic interests of the two countries, and make positive contributions to regional peace and stability," Li said in the talks with Vietnam's defence minister, Phan Van Giang. Li told Phan that relations between their militaries had developed well, adding that China's military was willing to push relations to a new level. Their meeting came after the USS Ronald Reagan made a stop in the Vietnamese port of Danang on Sunday — the third by a U.S. aircraft carrier since the end of the Vietnam War. The U.S. navy visit comes amid tension between China and the United States in the South China Sea, most of which China claims, as the two powers jostle for influence in the energy-rich region. In the past few weeks, Li has met South Africa's defence force commander and Thailand's army chief but he has not held talks with U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin. Both Li and Austin attended a security summit in Singapore in early June but Li declined the offer of a meeting. Li, appointed defence minister in March, is under U.S. sanctions over his role in a 2017 weapons purchase from Russia's largest arms exporter. —DNA



راولپنڈی چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری
RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) delegation headed by President Sakib Rafiq called on Sameh Ahmed El Ghamrawi, Minister Plenipotentiary / Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Egypt in Islamabad. —DNA

Indonesias Largest Halal Expo 2023 announced

It is a unique opportunity for companies worldwide to connect with the Indonesian Halal community and beyond, paving the way for business expansion and growth in the flourishing Halal market

DNA

JAKARTA, INDONESIA The organizers of the highly anticipated Halal Expo Indonesia (HEI) 2023, PT Halal Expo Indonesia, and KPMI (Indonesian Muslim Entrepreneur Community), are thrilled to announce the dates of this momentous event. The premier B2B Halal Industries exhibition and conference will take place from the 25th to the 29th of October 2023 at the prestigious Jakarta Convention Center, Indonesia. HEI, Indonesia's largest

Halal industry exhibition, extends an exclusive invitation to professional visitors for the first three days of the event. Attendees can expect an unparalleled opportunity to engage, network, and forge meaningful collaborations in the thriving Halal industry. Over the years, KPMI's extensive network of more than 48,000 members across 45 regional coordinators, 42 city/district coordinators throughout Indonesia, and three regional coordinators abroad has been instrumental in growing the expos influence and

reach. The cooperation and participation of such a broad audience emphasize the scale and significance of this event on a national and international level. HEI 2023 boasts a list of prestigious partnerships with international halal expos and authorities, affirming its reputation as a leading global platform in the Halal sector. Our esteemed partners for this years event include: Saudi International Halal Expo Halal Expo Nigeria Halal Expo London Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) LPPOM MUI Korea Ha-

l Authority Halal Control Germany Vietnam Halal Center Japan Halal Certification Promotion Organization Cape Malay Consultant and many others This diverse and dynamic collaboration underscores HEI's commitment to bringing together the best of the Halal industry from across the globe. It is a unique opportunity for companies worldwide to connect with the Indonesian Halal community and beyond, paving the way for business expansion and growth in the flourishing Halal market.

JUNE 2023

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Briefs

NAB summons PTI chief, Bushra Bibi on July 4

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Tuesday summoned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief in Toshakhana case on July 4. The PTI chairman was summoned by the NAB Rawalpindi in this regard. On the same day, the accountability watchdog also summoned former first lady Bushra Bibi in connection with the £190 million NCA scam. Earlier, PTI chief and former first lady Bushra Bibi were separately summoned by the NAB on June 26. NAB Lahore and NAB Rawalpindi's two-member team reached Zaman Park on Friday to deliver notice to the PTI chairman and his wife. The PTI chief and his wife were required to appear before the NAB in Rawalpindi on Monday, according to the NAB.

US to defund Israeli varsities research in West Bank

WASHINGTON: The United States said it would stop funding scientific research with Israeli academic institutions in the West Bank, taking a new step away from validating the occupation of Palestinian territories. The decision by President Joe Biden's administration reverses a move made under Donald Trump that rejected the wide international consensus that Israel illegally occupies the West Bank, which it seized in the 1967 Six-Day War. New guidance to US government agencies advises that "engaging in bilateral scientific and technological cooperation with Israel in geographic areas which came under the administration of Israel after 1967 and which remain subject to final-status negotiations is inconsistent with US foreign policy," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said. — Agencies

Gold price falls by Rs 1,100 per tola

DNA

KARACHI: The gold prices in Pakistan took a fall on Tuesday following a decrease in the international market and the appreciation of the rupee against the dollar. According to the data released by All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of gold (24 carats) decreased by Rs1,100 per tola and Rs943 per 10 grams to settle at Rs214,200 and Rs183,642, respectively. Meanwhile, the price of the yellow metal also fell by \$9 and settled at \$1,922 per ounce in the international market today. The gold rate has been volatile in Pakistan recently amid continued political and economic uncertainty, and high inflation. People prefer to buy this precious commodity in such times as a safe investment and a hedge.

Putin lauds Russian troops for putting down mutiny

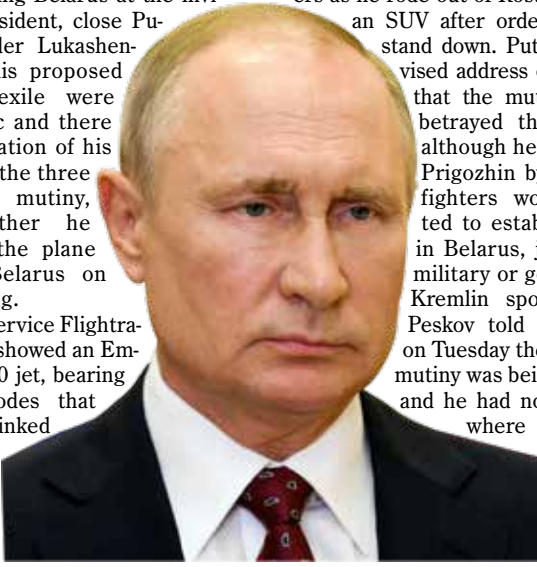
Wagner leader is in Belarus; Lukashenko says, Authorities drop a criminal case against Wagner

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin praised members of Russia's military and security forces in a ceremony on Tuesday as he sought to reassert his authority following an aborted mutiny by mercenaries led by Wagner Group chief Yevgeny Prigozhin. A jet linked to Prigozhin arrived in Belarus from Russia, believed to be carrying the mercenary boss into exile, three days after he abruptly called off his mutiny with his fighters bearing down on the capital. Authorities dropped a criminal case against Wagner, state news agency RIA reported, apparently fulfilling one condition of a deal agreed late on Saturday that defused the crisis. Putin told some 2,500 security personnel mustered on a square in the Kremlin complex that the people and the armed forces had stood together in opposition to the rebel mercenaries. He was joined by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, whose dismissal had been one of the mutineers' main demands. Putin also requested a minute of silence to honour Russian military pilots killed in the revolt. The fighters had shot down several aircraft during their run

towards Moscow, although they faced no resistance on the ground. Prigozhin, a former Putin ally and ex-convict whose mercenaries have fought the bloodiest battles of the Ukraine war and taken heavy casualties, had said he would go to neighbouring Belarus at the invitation of its president, close Putin ally Alexander Lukashenko. Details of his proposed journey into exile were not made public and there was no confirmation of his whereabouts in the three days since the mutiny, including whether he was on board the plane tracked into Belarus on Tuesday morning. Flight tracking service Flightradar24's website showed an Embraer Legacy 600 jet, bearing identification codes that match a plane linked to Prigozhin in U.S. sanctions documents, descending to landing altitude

near the Belarus capital Minsk. It first appeared on the tracking site above Rostov, the southern Russian city Prigozhin's fighters had captured during the mutiny. He was last seen in public on Saturday night, smiling and high-fiving bystanders as he rode out of Rostov in the back of an SUV after ordering his men to stand down. Putin said in a televised address on Monday night that the mutiny leaders had betrayed their motherland, although he did not mention Prigozhin by name. Wagner fighters would be permitted to establish themselves in Belarus, join the Russian military or go home, he said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a news briefing on Tuesday the deal ending the mutiny was being implemented, and he had no information on where Prigozhin was. He also said he did not know how many Wagner fighters would sign con-



tracts with the Defence Ministry. He dismissed the idea that Putin's grip on power had been shaken by the mutiny, calling such thoughts "hysteria". Prigozhin, 62, said he launched the mutiny to save his group after being ordered to place it under command of the defence ministry. His fighters had halted their campaign on Saturday to avert bloodshed after nearly reaching Moscow, and regretted being forced to shoot down aircraft on the way, he said. "We went as a demonstration of protest, not to overthrow the government of the country," Prigozhin said in an audio message on Monday. In Putin's overnight speech, his first public comments since the mutiny, he confirmed that Russian pilots had been killed, and thanked Russians for showing patriotic solidarity. Russia's enemies wanted to see the country "choke in bloody civil strife" but Russia would not succumb to "any blackmail, any attempt to create internal turmoil," Putin said. Russian leaders have tried to convey that the situation is returning to normal after the aborted mutiny. Putin met on Monday night with the heads of security services, including Defence Minister Shoigu.

North Korea says US has 'sinister intention'

DNA

SEOUL: North Korea criticised on Tuesday the U.S. plan to rejoin the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO as a "sinister" move to use an international organisation for the purpose of "realizing the strategy for hegemony". The Paris-based U.N. agency announced this month the United States intended to rejoin in July, calling it an "act of confidence in UNESCO and in multilateralism". The move is expected to be approved by a majority of its 193 member states. The decision is in part aimed at countering China's growing sway at the agency where it is one of the largest donors, the Wall Street Journal reported this month. "Clear is the sinister intention of the U.S. hastening the reentry into the organization ... The U.S. has an inglorious background of having withdrawn not only from UNESCO but also from WHO, the UN Human Rights Council and other international organizations," a statement released by North Korea's permanent mission to UNESCO said.

Hajj sermon: Muslims urged to maintain unity, harmony



DNA

MECCA: Imam of Hajj Sheikh Dr Yousaf bin Muhammad bin Saeed has called for unity among Muslim Ummah as nearly three million faithful chant Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik in the Arafat Plain to perform the Rukn-e-Azam Waqoof-e-Arafat which marks climax of the Hajj on Tuesday. Delivering Hajj sermon at Masjid-e-Nimra at Mada'ina-e-Arafat, Sheikh Dr Yusuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed, who is also a member of the Council of Senior Scholars, called for unity among the Muslim Ummah and asked them to keep harmony and brotherhood among them. He said re-

specting and valuing humanity is compulsory for all the Muslims. "All Muslims are like part of one body when any part of the body hurts, the pain is felt in the whole body, he added. The Muslims are urged to exhibit unity and behave politely and avoid conflicts," the Imam of Hajj said. "Muslims should exhibit best of the manners as only those who will have good manners will be close to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) on the day of judgment". "The combination of the testimony that only Allah is to be worshipped, along with the testimony that Muhammad (PBUH) is Allah's final messenger." Sheikh Dr Yousaf in his Hajj sermon further said that respecting and valuing humanity is

compulsory for all Muslims. "Success lies in fear of Allah Almighty and following his orders," he added. He said Allah has ordered Muslims to keep praying and paying Zakat to the needy people. He urged the Muslims to worship in such a way that Almighty Allah is seeing them. The Hujjaj offered Zuhr and Asr prayers together and they will stay at Arafat the whole day today in supplication praying for welfare of Ummah. Then they will leave Arafat for Muzdalifah where they will offer Maghrib and Isha prayers together and spend the night under open sky and collect pebbles for stoning the devil. Meanwhile, millions of pilgrims crowded Mount Arafat on Tuesday, the climax of a potentially record-breaking Hajj pilgrimage held in fierce summer heat. As dawn broke, groups of worshippers recited Holy Quran verses on the rocky rise, where the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is believed to have given his final sermon. The ritual is the high point of the annual pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam, that officials say could be the biggest on record after three years of Covid restrictions. More than 2.5 million pilgrims were expected to join the Hajj, one of the world's largest religious gatherings and a source of legitimacy for the oil-rich country's royal rulers. Temperatures soared to 46 degrees celsius (113 Fahrenheit) on Monday as robed worshippers shielded by umbrellas journeyed from Makkah to Mina, where they slept in a giant tented city before the rites at Mount Arafat.

Daesh woman militant, nine others arrested from Punjab

DNA

MULTAN: In a major breakthrough, security forces apprehended nine terrorists across three cities in Punjab, effectively thwarting a large-scale terror plot targeting Eidul Azha festivities. Acting on undisclosed intelligence, authorities successfully carried out operations in Multan, Bahawalpur, and DG Khan, resulting in the arrest of individuals linked to a banned extremist network, including a female activist associated with Daesh, media reported. The suspects have been identified as Adnan, Abdul Halim, Shiraz, Bilqis, and Umar bin Khalid among others. The law enforcement officials also discovered a cache of weapons, including hand grenades, equipment used for making suicide vests, and a significant amount of cash. It is believed that the apprehended terrorists were part of a wider network that had been actively planning acts of terrorism during the upcoming Eidul Azha celebrations. The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) swiftly registered a case against the arrested individuals, and a comprehensive investigation is underway. The authorities are determined to gather

intelligence regarding the banned organisation's activities, as well as identify any potential accomplices or future targets. This successful operation comes as part of ongoing efforts by law enforcement agencies to curb terrorism and ensure the safety and security of citizens, particularly during religious festivities when large gatherings are expected. The CTD reported a significant increase in its efforts to combat terrorism, resulting in the arrest of a total of 11 suspects in 124 operations conducted throughout the week. These operations are part of the ongoing efforts to maintain law and order, protect innocent lives, and create an environment conducive to peace and harmony across the region. Earlier this month, the Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested six terror suspects linked to banned outfits during operations across Punjab. According to the spokesman, CTD Punjab conducted 39 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in different districts across the province to deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 40 suspects were interrogated and 6 terror suspects were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

FS holds consultations with Japanese counterpart

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan held bilateral political consultations with his Japanese counterpart Mr Shigeo Yamada in Tokyo, media quoted the FO spokesperson. Both sides reviewed all significant aspects of Pakistan-Japan relations and agreed to spare no effort to preserve, promote and diversify the longstanding robust relationship. Important regional and international issues were also discussed in depth, the FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. Foreign Secretary also called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Takei Shunsuke and National Security Advisor (NSA) Mr Takeo Akiba. He also interacted with President, Japan - Pakistan Association Mr Shun Imaizumi. All the interlocutors of the Foreign Secretary expressed goodwill and warm wishes towards the people and Government of Pakistan and underlined that the Japanese side was looking forward to the upcoming visit of the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the first week of July 2023. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will pay visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), United States (US) and Japan. After his Dubai visit, FM Bilawal will pay visits to the US and Japan from July 2 to 3. The foreign minister will attend a think tank conference in the US. In his upcoming Japan visit, FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will meet his Japanese counterpart besides holding a meeting with the business community. A few days ago, the FO spokesperson said Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will undertake an official visit to Japan on 2-3 July at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa. In Tokyo, the foreign minister will hold substantive talks with his counterpart Minister Hayashi. The two leaders will discuss bilateral trade and investment, cooperation in science & technology, education, information technology, culture and human resource development. — DNA

Trump heard on tape discussing highly secret documents

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: An audio recording in which Donald Trump appears to acknowledge keeping a classified document after leaving the White House has been obtained by US media. In the recording, the former president is heard riffling through papers and saying: "This is highly confidential." Mr Trump has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of mishandling sensitive documents. CNN was the first to publish the roughly two-minute recording, which it said came from a July 2021 meeting at Mr Trump's Bedminster, New Jersey golf club between him and several people working on the memoir of his former chief of staff Mark Meadows. Mr Trump is heard saying "these are the papers" and referring to a document about Iran which he calls "highly confidential". "This was done by the military and given to me," he says. "See as president I could have declassified it. Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret." It appears to be the same audio recording cited by federal prosecutors in their indictment of Mr Trump. It is not clear from the indictment, however, if the documents referenced in the recording were ever recovered by investigators. Prosecutors allege the former president showed classified documents to people without security clearance on two oc-

casions, including a writer and two members of staff. Mr Trump is facing 37 counts of illegally retaining classified documents and obstructing the government's efforts to get them back. He has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. He has said all the documents he took with him from the White House were declassified, but the published audio recording appears to contradict this. In an interview last week with Fox News, the former president denied that he showed secret documents to people unauthorised to view them in the Bedminster meeting. "There was no document. That was a massive amount of papers and everything else talking about Iran and other things," Mr Trump said, adding that he was presenting "newspaper stories, magazine stories and articles". The recording, however, appears to suggest that Mr Trump was referencing specific files. He was indicted alongside an aide, Walt Nauta, who had been expected to plead not guilty at a hearing on Tuesday. That hearing, however, was postponed until 6 July after his flight was cancelled due to bad weather. The former president's trial is scheduled for 14 August but that is likely to be delayed. A judge is yet to rule on a motion from prosecutors seeking to delay it until 11 December. On Monday, the federal judge overseeing the case denied a request from government prosecutors to keep the list of potential witnesses secret.

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

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