



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ایک دیہائی جی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی خدمت میں حاضر ہو اور کہا آپ لوگ بچوں کو بوسہ دیتے ہیں، ہم تو انہیں بوسہ نہیں دیتے۔ جی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اگر اللہ نے تمہارے دل سے رحم نکال دیا ہے تو میں کیا کر سکتا ہوں۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5998)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Development budget cut to half in 4 years: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal says the development budget plays an important role in the development of any country. PML-N had left the volume of development budget in 2017 at 1000 billion rupees while today it is at less than 500 billion rupees. The country is facing extraordinary financial crises in the economic arena at present and therefore, special focus should be given while using the fund as amount for development budget are borrowed money.



PTI's long march 'Fall of Imran at D-Chowk': Marriyam

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyam Aurangzeb says Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) long march was "Fall of Imran at D-Chowk" by terming him a fugitive from D-Chowk. PTI violated the orders from Supreme Court and committed contempt of judiciary. Now, what are they demanding from the apex court? Evil conspiracy of Imran to use the judicial shoulder will also fail like failed riot march.

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Red carpet welcome

Minister of National Defence Turkey Hulusi Akar, receives Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his arrival at Esenbiga Airport Ankara, Turkey, on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Gwadar Port to promote regional progress: Miftah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail here on Tuesday termed the development of Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone area as important node of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), having huge potential for economic development and progress of the region. The minister was talking to Chairman China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd, Zhang Baozhong who called on him at Finance Division. The minister extended warm welcome to Zhang Baozhong and highlighted deep-rooted friendly ties between Pakistan and China, according to statement issued by finance ministry. He lauded the technical support provided by the Chinese company for development of region's most strategically well located port of Pakistan.

Kashmir or N.Cyprus

Pak & Turkey support each other on all core issues: PM

Says both countries enjoy close collaboration on bilateral, regional forums

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan and Turkey support each other on all issues of core national interest - whether it is Jammu and Kashmir or Northern Cyprus. Prime minister said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoy close collaboration on bilateral, regional and multilateral forums.

In an interview with Turkish news agency, he said both Pakistan and Turkey have a similarity of views on regional and international issues. The Prime Minister said this year both countries are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. He said in these seven and a half decades, the two sides have always stood by each other in the face of all changes. Shehbaz Sharif said we are

now focusing on economic cooperation. He vowed to boost Pak-Turkey bilateral ties in trade.

PM Shehbaz arrives in Turkey on a three-day official visit

"Both Pakistan and Turkey have a similarity of views on regional and international issues and enjoy close collaboration on bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums," Sharif said ahead of his three-day official visit to Turkey. Terming the Pak-Turkey relations as "exemplary", the prime minister said historical relations were grounded firmly in common religious, cultural, and linguistic links and transcend political changes on either side.

"In these seven and a half decades, the two sides have always stood by each other in the face of all changes," he said, adding that people-to-people and cultural contacts were on an upward trajectory. PM Sharif said Pakistan was now focusing on economic cooperation with Turkey as the current level of bilateral trade still was not a true reflection of the excellent state of the relationship. "This is also an area where immense opportunities exist for both countries," he said. During the visit, the prime

minister said he would be meeting leading Turkish business companies to encourage them to utilize the immense opportunities existing in Pakistan in various fields, including energy, infrastructure, e-commerce, municipal agro-based industry and IT sectors, etc. He said with a population of over 220 million, Pakistan offered its investors a strong and large consumer market with an ever-expanding middle class. On Pakistan's role in US policy in the region, he said Pakistan and the US had a longstanding and broad-based relationship in various areas of mutual interest. He hoped that the continued constructive engagement could promote peace, security, and development in the region.

Water talks

Pak objects on Indian power projects on Western rivers

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan highlighted its objections on India's hydroelectric projects on the Western rivers. Under the relevant provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) 1960, the meeting takes place alternatively in Pakistan and India annually. The 6-member Pakistani delegation was led by Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters, Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah, while the Indian delegation was headed by the Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters A K Pal, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday said. As 118th meeting of the Pakistan-India Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was held in New Delhi, a wide range of water-related issues between Pakistan

and India were discussed which included the advance sharing of flood information, the program of tours/ inspections and signing of the report of the Permanent Indus Commission for the year ending March 31, 2022. Response to Pakistan's objections on Indian projects including Pakal Dul was also sought. The Indian side was also urged to communicate advance flood-flow information as per the provisions of the Treaty and the practice in vogue since 1989 until 2018. Indian side assured to arrange tours/inspections after the coming flood season. Indian side also assured that Pakistan's outstanding objections would be discussed in the next meeting as the Indian side was still in the process of examining the details.

7,000 MW shortfall

Govt hikes power tariff by Rs3.99 per unit

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday approved an increase of Rs3.99 per unit in the power tariff on account of fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for the month of April 2022. According to the details, this decision will place an additional burden of Rs51 billion on the power consumers while the price hike will not apply to K-electric and lifeline users. A hearing was held in NEPRA over the proposal to raise the price of power tariff by Rs 4.5 per unit. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPA), while applying for the April fuel price adjustment, stated that 12.55 billion units of electricity were generated last month. The power crisis in the country has worsened as the electricity shortfall peaked at 7,000 megawatts (MW) in the country.

According to sources in the power division, the overall demand for electricity in the

country stands at 28,350 MW against the supply of 21,350 MW, causing a shortfall of 7,000 MW. The shortfall has also increased the duration of load shedding in the country as different cities are facing 10 to 12 hours of load shedding. Similarly, the shortfall of LESCO has reached 8,000 MW, according to sources within power division. The sources said several power plants running on gas, diesel and coal-run are closed due to technical faults. South Asia has been in the grip of an extreme heat wave since last month, with parts of Pakistan reaching a temperature of 50 degrees Celsius as officials warned of acute water shortages and a health threat. Swathes of Pakistan have been smothered by high temperatures since April in extreme weather that the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has warned is consistent with climate change.

PTI govt was pressurized to recognize Israel: Imran Khan

Terms amendments to NAB bill as "NRO"

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has rejected reports of contacting Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari for an "alleged patch-up" ahead of no-confidence vote. Speaking to digital media representatives in Peshawar, the former premier denied contacting Asif Zardari during the no-confidence motion while led to the ouster of his government in April.

While accusing the lobbies under the influence of the US for pressurizing the Muslim world to recognize Israel he said that the PTI government was also pressurized to recognize Israel. In a meeting with digital media representatives, Imran Khan revealed that a message was conveyed urging his government to accept the proposed stance considering Pakistan's betterment. While the PTI Chairman was reluctant to name the senders saying

that he cannot reveal at the time that who was behind it. He completely rejected the audio leak conversation between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and business tycoon Malik Riaz and further made it clear that

Imran rejects reports of approaching Zardari

there were no such efforts from his side amid the no-confidence move. The former Prime Minister also mentioned that he has been saying for 26 years that the former Premier Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N leaderships are not separate. There was no deal behind calling off the long march, he said. He explained that if the long march wasn't called off it could have led to bloodshed. The PTI Chairman said PTI does not need to go to National Assembly for confirmation of resignations, after the party members have resigned from NA. He added that the party members announced their resignation on the floor of the National Assembly and going back would mean accepting the imported government. There is no need for any PTI member to individually visit the assembly, said Imran Khan.

Imran Khan has called the amendments to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance by the federal government an NRO. Taking to Twitter, the former premier wrote: "The NAB bill amendment is basically an NRO and will destroy the anti corruption drive in Pakistan for all times to come." "All cases against Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari will be closed and a new round of mega corruption will commence," the PTI Chairman added. Imran Khan suggested that the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) must take suo motu notice to ensure fair trial by appointing a monitoring judge to oversee all mega cases of politicians.

Govt exempts more items from import ban

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has lifted the ban on import of raw materials, inter-mediatary goods, industrial equipment, and foreign grants in aid projects. According to Office Memorandum (OM), clarified that the SRO (598) (I) 2022 dated May 19, 2022, shall not apply on raw material, inter-mediatary goods, and industrial equipment/machinery required by industrial/manufacturing concerns and foreign grant in aid projects.

"It is hereby clarified that the SRO (598) (I) 2022 dated May 19, 2022 shall not apply to raw material, inter-mediatary goods, and industrial equipment/machinery required by industrial/manufacturing concerns and foreign grant in aid projects," read the notification. Earlier, the government had allowed import of animal feed other than dog and cat food as well as energy savers. On May 19, the Ministry of Commerce notified ban on the import of 38 non-essential luxury items under an "emergency economic plan".

Imran Khan more dangerous than terrorists: Maryam

Maryam asks courts to not take part in IK's politics of chaos

Bureau Report

MURREE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz claimed Tuesday former prime minister Imran Khan is "more dangerous than terrorists", as she slammed the party's recent riots in Islamabad. While criticizing PTI's political approach she requested the courts to maintain distance from Imran Khan's chaos inciting politics. In an address after meeting the PML-N's social media team members in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the PML-N Vice President said that my country is in great difficulty. She pointed out that the country has suffered a lot in terms of economy during the past years, Pakistan's economic condition is the worst.

Maryam lashed out at the previous PTI-led government for pushing the country into such difficult times saying that the poor cannot even manage to get medicines. The previous government has done nothing but revenge politics. The country that was moving towards prosperity in 2018 is now facing decline in every field. Imran Khan signed an agreement with IMF for raising the price of petrol, she added. Maryam further added that the PTI Chairman claims of a foreign conspiracy against him, the country and the state bank were mortgaged up to IMF by Imran Khan. She brutally criticized the former Prime Minister for



unleashing the economic chaos over the country. The PML-N Vice President exclaimed that there could be no bigger conspiracy than the aforementioned act by Imran Khan. The PML-N vice president said: "Imran Khan is a gang leader [...]" his political campaign is more dangerous than terrorism." The PML-N leader said Khan had admitted in a recent interview that his party workers were armed, whereas, in her rallies, "not a single person carries weapons." "Our goal is not to spread fitnah and fasad (anarchy and lawlessness). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's people have understood the politics of Khan, which is why they were not part of his long march and his facial expressions were enough to show that the long march failed," she added.

She went on to say that ahead of the long march, law enforcement agencies (LEAs) found weapons at the residence of a PTI leader. "If a person is openly accepting that they are involved in terrorist activities, then should we let them off the hook?" The PML-N leader asked Khan to remove the "political veil" from his face if he wants to continue committing terrorism in Pakistan, as once authorities see his real face, and then he would be dealt with like "terrorists". "Imran Khan has put up a political facade and is involved in armed terrorism under its guise [...]" and he knows that once November passes, his conspiracy will fail," she said. Maryam warned that "Operation Radd-ul-Fasad" would be launched against "fasadis" — Khan and supporters — for bringing back peace and stability to the country. The PML-N leader added that the ousted prime minister was not waging jihad, but "fasad" and the government would do everything in its power to stop this "fasad". "What difference is there between Khan and terrorists? Even terrorists attack Pakistan with weapons. Moreover, the KP chief minister has also hinted at a clash between his province and the federation." Maryam said since Khan was removed from the prime minister's office, he has set fires across the country. "These are only the goals of a terrorist."

Precautions

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah along with Minister for Communication Maulana Asad Mehmood and Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing a post cabinet meeting press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday.

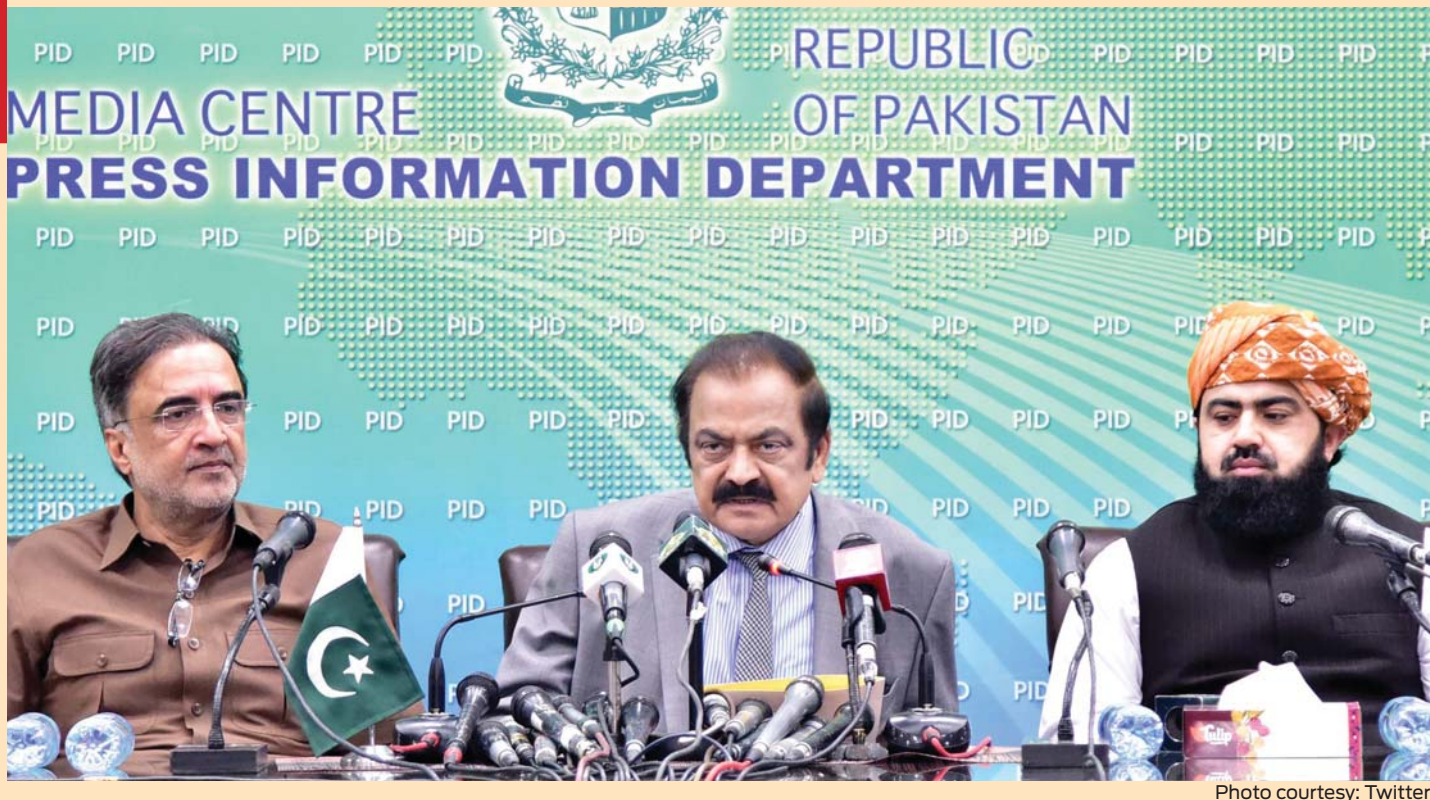


Photo courtesy: Twitter

Anti-state march' will be dealt with iron fist: Rana Sanaullah

Says no evidence needed after Imran Khan's confession regarding weapons

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday has warned that the 'anti-state march' will be dealt with iron fist, and no one would be allowed to disturb law and order. He said that there was no need for any evidence after former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan admitted that participants of the long march were carrying weapons. Addressing a press conference flanked by Adviser to PM after federal cabinet meeting on Tuesday, he said that he was 200 percent sure that Imran Khan came to Islamabad with the intention of spreading chaos and cases should be lodged against PTI leaders and workers.

In his briefing during the meeting of the federal cabinet, chaired by PM Shehbaz Sharif before departure to Turkey on a three-day visit, Rana Sanaullah said the policemen deployed to contain PTI's Azadi March from entering Islamabad were unarmed. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah alleged Long March

carried out on May 25 was an 'attempt to attack the state'. Armed men were kept at the KP house with the sources of the province, he alleged.

Attack on Centre' Interior minister warns of strict' action against PTI in case of long march

He said that the federal cabinet has also taken stern notice of KP CM Mahmood Khan's statement about using KP force against the central government. The minister alleged that the former prime minister used the financial resources of the KP government to jam

Islamabad during his launch march. Rana Sanaullah said that permission has been sought from the federal cabinet to book the elements under Criminal Act.

Rana Sanaullah said that PTI Chief Imran Khan used resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in his march. The minister said it was not a democratic march and he has proposed the Federal Cabinet to allow registration of criminal cases under Pakistan Penal Code against those responsible for violence in the march and issuing inflammatory statement against the federation. The PML-N leader assured that no one will be allowed to make a siege of the federal capital "The lawmakers deviated from their oath, law and Constitution in order to fulfil the criminal agenda of their political leader Imran Khan," he claimed, terming May 25's "Azadi March" an "anti-state conspiracy" instead of a political activity in which resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's government were used.

CM election

LHC for adding president, Punjab governor in case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Tuesday directed that President Arif Alvi and newly appointed Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman be made parties in the case challenging Hamza Shahbaz's elections as chief minister. The five-member larger bench of the LHC headed by Chief Justice Ameer Bhatti resumed the hearing on separate pleas — filed by PTI and PML-Q — against Hamza's election as CM. At the outset of today's hearing, Azhar Siddique, PTI's counsel, argued that the National Assembly speaker cannot administer the oath to a chief minister as per the Constitution. At this, the judge remarked that they wanted to hear the president and the governor. Meanwhile, the larger bench was directed to make the presi-

dent and the governor parties through their respective secretaries. The judge directed the PTI's lawyer to make a change in the petition accordingly and adjourned the hearing till tomorrow. A day earlier, Punjab CM Hamza Shahbaz told the LHC that the Supreme Court's interpretation of Article 63-A does not apply to his election as the province's chief minister.

In his 16-page written reply submitted in response to the petitions challenging the PML-N leader's election as Punjab's chief minister, Hamza Shahbaz said, "Election for the post of Punjab chief minister was held in light with the high court's orders and as per the law and the Constitution." The Punjab CM election was held before the SC's interpretation of Article 63-A, hence, the top court's judgement will not be in this matter, argued Hamza.

Hamza doubles grant for Sundas Foundation

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz approving to double the grant for the treatment of thalassemia patients, said the Punjab government would also lend a helping hand for lab equipment to the Sundas Foundation. A delegation of Sundas Foundation's office-bearers and donors, led by its president Yasin Khan and others including Sohail Warraich and Khalid Abbas Dar met with Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz here on Tuesday.

The chief minister directed to constitute a committee to extend cooperation for setting up a hospital for thalassemia patients as looking after the thalassemia-affected children was a noble cause. It was decided in principle to give a practical shape to legislation for safety from thalassemia in the province and the CM added that Punjab would take expeditious steps in this regard. He also approved expanding the scope of the anti-thalassemia program. A commendatory certificate was given to trader leader Babar Mahmood for donating 1100 bottles of blood for thalassemia patients. Provincial Minister Kh. Salman Rafiq, Ali Raza and secretary Health were also present.

Edibles' prices jacked up at USC

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has increased the prices of cooking oil and ghee, being sold at the country's utility stores. According to a report, the prices of various brands of cooking oil and ghee have witnessed a significant increase. A notification regarding the increase in prices has also been issued, as per which the new prices will be applicable from June 1. The notification stated that the price of ghee has been increased by Rs208 per kg, after which the ghee would be sold at Rs555 per kg in utility stores.

Meanwhile, the price of cooking oil has been increased by Rs213 per litre and will now be sold at Rs605 per litre, the notification added. It is pertinent to mention here that the prices of other commodities including cooking oil were increased. At utility stores, the price of Dalda oil was increased from Rs463 to Rs 483 per liter while the price of Habib Oil was hiked by Rs388 to Rs408.

As per the hike in prices, the price of tea of various brands increased by Rs45 to Rs1,099 per kg. One and a half litre bottle of Rosh Afza went up from Rs241 to Rs276 while the same litre bottle of Jam-e-Shireen hiked from Rs437 to Rs455.

PM to unveil energy conservation programme: Khurram

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir on Tuesday said a mega energy conservation programme would be placed before the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for approval and its announcement in the near future. Addressing at concluding session of inception workshop on "the Development of an SDG7 Road Map for Pakistan" organized by SDPI, the minister said goal has already been set up to switch towards 60 per cent of renewable clean energy by 2030 as imported fuel was not affordable.

National Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (NEECA) has also put forward Pakistan first energy efficiency and conservation policy 2022 highlighting interventions required to reduce energy demand. He said Pakistan committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and adopted the SDGs as part of its national develop-

ment agenda in 2016. Over the past few years Pakistan has observed a significant progress in both targets of SDGs. As per the recently published report from UNDP, 96% population of Pakistan in 2019-2020 had access to electricity which also includes 5% population that was off grid, he said.

He said among different provinces, Sindh has the highest percentage 97.5% followed by Punjab 95%, KP 92% and Balochistan with 75% electrified population in 2018-19. Similarly, population with access to clean fuel and technology, Pakistan observed an increase from 35% in 2018-19 to 37% in 2019-20. The highest percentage of clean fuels and technologies were being used in Sindh 55%, followed by Punjab 50%, Balochistan 37% and KP 32%, he said. Electricity consumption in Pakistan lags its peers and electricity access is still limited, particularly in rural areas.

He said providing electricity access to all by 2030 would require significant investments

Total electricity consumption was expected to increase by 78 percent between 2019 and 2030, reflecting population growth as well as higher per capita consumption, due to the expansion of the electricity grid to achieve universal coverage and economic growth, he said. He said to keep up with this higher consumption, Pakistan would need to invest an aggregate amount of \$24.5 billion by 2030, equivalent to spending 0.7 percent of GDP every year from 2020 to 2030.

He said under the updated National Determined Contributions (NDCs), Pakistan has mentioned the targets of 15% emission reductions by 2030 using country's own resources and 50% by 2030 based on the availability of international finance. Under these revised NDCs, Pakistan has also identified the market and non-market-based approaches to help diversify the funding sources, including Nature Performance Bonds, Green/Blue Bonds, Carbon Pricing Instruments, etc.

PTI bars MNAs from resignations' verification

Fawad Ch says PTI won't return to NA

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The PTI leadership has directed its MNAs against partaking in the process of the verification of their resignations, called for by the National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on June 6, sources within the party said Tuesday. Sources privy to the matter said that the PTI leadership has advised the lawmakers to not meet the NA speaker, who has asked them to appear in a personal capacity to confirm their resignations. They said that the PTI lawmakers have been told that they don't need to do anything else because they have already resigned.

Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday while repeating no intentions of returning to the National Assembly said that a petition will be filed in the Supreme Court



regarding long march on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad along with former minister and party leader Hamid Azhar, he said that the National Assembly Speaker has no authority to confirm our resignations and they consider the current assembly "occupied".

Fawad Chaudhry while lashing out at Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that he brutally tortured the innocent people and also insulted the women, adding that PTI chairman Imran

Khan had directed the chairman CDA to facilitate those who participated in the PPP's long march but the videos of incumbent govt trashing masses have gone viral on social media. "We have been raising voice on every forum and investigations must be carried out over threatening cipher messages," he said and added, "We want to know why Supreme Court is not holding inquiry on the request of president which is the highest constitutional office of the country."

Confession & threat

Cabinet forms body on IK, KP CM's statements

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Following the confession of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan that participants of the long march were carrying weapons and statement of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, the federal cabinet has constituted a committee. The federal cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting discussed in details PTI's May 25 long march and appreciated the masses for rejecting the long march.

The five-member committee including Rana Sanaullah and Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira will chalk out a future plan of action to deal with such anti-state activities. PM Sharif mentioned that he had directed the Interior Ministry and the law enforcement agencies not to carry any weapon at the venue of the long march.

The cabinet felicitated the nation on



rejecting Imran Khan's long march of May 25 and lauded the law enforcement agencies on performing their duties efficiently. The meeting took strong notice of Imran Khan's call for a bloody march on May 25 along with the people carrying weapons. It was highlighted that PTI utilized the resources of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government by gathering armed groups in the KP House a day ahead of the long march. Also, the Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan attacked the police personnel.

The cabinet expressed grave concern over the statement of Chief Minister KP Mahmood Khan who had announced to attack the State and the federal capital with full force. On Monday, in his interview with a private television channel, the former PM admitted that the participants of the long march were carrying weapons with them. He said that the people participating in the long march were ready and they were carrying pistols.

"There was already hatred among the

people due to raids carried out by the Punjab Police on PTI lawmakers houses a day before the march," said Khan, adding that "he was 100% sure that the situation would lead to chaos." "The decision to continue with the march would have led to hatred against the police and the army and would have created further divisions in the country." The PTI chairman said, "We want to file a petition that whether the peaceful protest is their right or not. It will be the test of the Supreme Court whether the apex court removes reservations or not."

He said that the PTI would form two different strategies for the long march after the SC ruling. "We had started receiving the videos and the situation at D Chowk was not normal. Fearing bloodshed, I decided not to move ahead. However, we will come with full preparation this time," he maintained.

Imran Khan said that the Chinese investors are not deal with properly when they visit Pakistan while the Chinese have several other countries to make their investment.

PTI MNA's urging to not accept resignations: PPP spox

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People Party (PPP) leader Shazia Marri has claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf MNAs are begging the NA speaker to not accept their resignation. Addressing media representative here, the Federal Minister said that PTI staged a similar ploy in 2014 and came back to the assemblies some months later. Their members are living in the parliament lodges and using government privileges, they do not want to resign, she added.

Shazia Marri said that the PTI members just don't attend assembly sessions otherwise they are benefiting from all government privileges. Asad Qaiser is

using a government vehicle as if it is his father's property, she added. Terming PTI a political party is a disgrace to all other political parties, Murree added. The PPP leader said using one federating unit's resources to seize the capital would be unacceptable.

The PTI chief admitted that their workers in the long march were armed, she added. All political parties reached a consensus to save the country from default while the PTI is out on the Save Gogi movement. PTI has the right to protest peacefully, not while carrying arms, Imran Khan has become a security risk, she added.

Govt committed to provide facilities to people of AJK: Tanveer Ilyas

AJK PM lays foundation stone of Manakpian-Muzaffarabad bridge

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of Manakpian-Muzaffarabad bridge that besides to providing easy access and quick transportation facilities to the residents of the area would connect surrounding various rural communities with the capital city.

The construction of this bridge will facilitate the population of 1 lakh in Manakpian and the migrant community settled in two refugee camps in the area. The construction of the bridge will cost Rs 62.2 million and the project will be completed in 15 months. Ministers Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid and Government Advisor Hafiz Hamid were also present on the occasion.

Talking to media after the inauguration of the bridge, Prime Minister



Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the Kashmiri refugees had left their home and hearth for a great cause following the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The government, he said, would use all available resources to improve their lives.

He said that the provision of basic amenities in other refugee camps

all across Azad Kashmir would be ensured. Kashmir and Pakistan, he said are inseparable. Regarding the slashing of AJK's development budget, the PM while referring to former PM Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan's speech in the assembly said, "PML-N president said it on the floor of Assembly today that when he was the Prime

Minister, Nawaz Sharif and Imran Khan both assured him that they will not allow the budget of Azad Kashmir be slashed by any means".

"I think the cut in AJK's development budget is the result of a misunderstanding, which has to be realized to and removed accordingly", the PM said. The PM said that he has come to power with the mission of public service. "There will be uniform development in all constituencies of Azad Kashmir and no area will be left behind", the PM said. The government, he said, would promote tourism by upgrading the infrastructure so as to increase the revenue of the state and provide employment to the people at local level. He said that the government was also working for the promotion of small scale industries. "No effort will be spared to alleviate the suffering of the common man", he maintained.

FTO nominates Kashif Anwar Lahore Coordinator



Our Special Correspondent

LAHORE: The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Asif Mehmood Jah has nominated Kashif Anwar President, Friends of Economic & Business Reforms (FEBR) the Honorary Coordinator (Business Liaison) from Corporate Sector, for FTO, Lahore region.

FEBR president Kashif Anwar has expressed his gratitude to the FTO for vesting his trust in him and resolved to serve the community and the national interest.

He said that he would do his utmost to do justice with the responsibility and come to the expectation of the business community and the FTO.

BOK, Telenor Pakistan sign MOU



Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz—MD/ CEO—The Bank of Khyber, and Irfan Wahab Khan—CEO—Telenor Pakistan signed MOU for integration of Mobile Top Up, Bundles subscription and postpaid billing.

BOK has partnered with Telenor Pakistan being a market leader in KP in bringing about ultimate experience nurtured with most demanded bundles via bank of Khyber internet banking/ mobile application platform, BOK's with its extensive branch network and unique customer base will fully capitalize this opportunity in making further in roads in its digital transformation journey.

APTMA urges govt to continue with RCETs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Exports of textiles and apparel increased by 23% year on year to \$15.4 billion in 2020-21, up from \$12.5 billion in 2019-20. Textile exports grew by 26% in the first 10 months of this fiscal year, from \$ 12.7 billion to \$ 16 billion. Furthermore, by the end of the fiscal year in June 2021-22, clothing and textile exports are expected to earn \$ 21 billion significant contribution to supporting the Balance of Payments deficit.

Textile exports are expected to increase to \$ 27 billion next financial year as a consequence of the new capacity installed through TERF & LITF over the last year.

Furthermore, there are speculations that the Government is considering Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) through a voucher scheme to curtail raw material imports. The impact of any non-tariff barrier on raw material imports would be disastrous.

Changing/ discarding a winning formula can lead to extremely negative outcomes. Regionally Competitive Energy Tariffs (RCETs) across the value chain, as well as an unrestricted import of raw materials and spare parts for exports are essential for a rapidly the growing textile exports.

APTMA urges the government to continue with the Regionally Competitive Tariffs for the entire value chain and not to impose any non-tariff barrier on raw material or spare parts for the industry.

DC Attock for timely completion of dev schemes

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A meeting of the DDC (District Development Committee) was held chaired by Deputy Commissioner Attock Muhammad Zulqarnain. All the concerned officers were present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner Attock emphasized upon the officers to ensure quality of the work on under completion 117 development schemes which are being completed, ensure timely completion of the scheme without compromising on quality of the work.

He directed the officers to closely monitor the under completion schemes so that people could be benefitted in real means. Deputy Director Development Muhammad Zameer while briefing the participants about the development schemes said that 17 schemes of building department at the cost of Rs 3517.921 million, 04 scheme of sports at the cost of Rs 313.289 million, 42 schemes of highways department at the cost of Rs 8009.422 million, 18 scheme of public health at the cost of Rs 1744.570 million, 03 schemes of local govt at the cost of 125.41 million, 03 schemes of small dams at the cost of Rs 1868.900 million and different other schemes are under completion and so far 86 percent schemes have been completed while the remaining scheme will be completed by the end of coming June.

ANF raid yield 6 kilos of drugs, 4 smugglers in Attock

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The joint operation carried out by intelligence wing and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) at Hazro town of Attock, 6.7 kilogram of ice was recovered besides arrest of four drugs smugglers. Acting on a tip off, the operation was carried out near a hotel on Tarbela Road Ghazi road in Hazro town in Attock district. In this joint operation, ANF team recovered 6.67 ice was impregnated with clothing being carried in two different cars. Four drugs smugglers identified as Tahir Mehmood, Aabid Hussain, Yasir and Shahzad Khan- all natives of Attock were arrested during the successful raid. The spokesman has said that a case has been registered against all the four suspects under the Anti-Narcotics Act. They have been shifted to ANF Police Station for further investigation.

Summer Vacations

LAHORE: Girls students are leaving to their homes after school timing on very last day as Government of Punjab announced summer vacations from 01 June till 31st July across the Punjab.



Photo: Online

Muqam urges SC, PHC to take notice of CM KP's statement

SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Tuesday urged the Supreme Court of Pakistan and Peshawar High Court to take serious notice of the irresponsible statement made by the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regarding use of the province's forces against the Federal Government.

Addressing a press-conference here at Swat Press Club, Amir Muqam said that it was a serious statement by the CM KP and the apex court should take suo moto notice of it.

"The forces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are not the personal employees of Mahmood Khan rather they are the servants to the state of Pakistan."

He said the main duty of KP's forces was implementation of law rather than protection of an individual's personal interests and wishes.

Muqam said the entire nation had seen the misuse of KP official resources including its helicopter and storming of a province against the centre during PTT's conspiracy march on May 25.

He claimed that despite use of KP resources, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan's resources, the march was



completely flopped as was evident from a few hundreds' protestors against tall claims of bringing two million people, forcing Imran to quickly wind it up.

He said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was responsible for the killing of PTI worker of Mardan during long march.

"Imran Khan seems impressed by Modi Government's foreign policy as he praises it in every public meeting", he said adding that it created feelings of anger among people of Pakistan as they considered Modi as the butcher of Muslims of Gujrat and murderer of Kashmiris.

He said Imran was a king of U turns and not interested in early election. "I question why Imran is not dissolving

KP assembly and verifying his MNAs resignations if he wanted early election," Muqam said.

He said PTI Chairman had broken all election promises whether it was construction of five million houses or 10 million jobs to youth.

He said Imran was ousted from power after allied parties left him for his unfulfilled promises and not through foreign conspiracy.

Muqam said it seemed as if Imran had lost senses after losing power and was now making failed attempts to drag national institutions into politics in a bid to get power back. He added that he would never be able to come into power again as his double standard politics stood exposed before the nation.

Mahmood Bhatti appeals to CJF to hear cases against him

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: International fashion designer Mahmood Bhatti has appealed to chief Justice of Pakistan to hear the cases against him and summon him to the Supreme Court.

Addressing a press conference at his residence in Lahore with his lawyer Adnan Rame "I am interested in building an orphanage. I have a square of land on Multan Road. I gave my authority letter to a senior lawyer and he got the land in his and his wife's name," said Bhatti. It would have happened. Everything has to stay here. This lawyer has registered 12 false cases against me. In Pakistan, the courts open at midnight and the verdict is given at 12:30 pm. I was also given justice and if building an orphanage is a crime then I should be sentenced to death for it. He said that I have been facing cases for a year now. If I come to Pakistan with tickets worth lakhs of rupees, if there are no cases against me, I will give the same money to the orphans.

Tech can accelerate financial inclusion for persons with disabilities: finds Mastercard study

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A compassionate approach to the financial needs of persons with disabilities, supported by innovative technology solutions, has the potential to address the needs of the most vulnerable members of society across the Middle East and Africa, according to the latest white paper from Mastercard.

The study, Bridging the Disability Gap: An Opportunity to Make a Positive Impact, reveals that digital inclusion is the pathway to financial inclusion for persons with disabilities. As governments adopt and prioritize policies to improve accessibility of services, this paves the way for public and private sector financial institutions, mobile network operators (MNO),

fintech providers, and other organizations to develop and apply solutions.

Umar Hashmi, Vice President, Global Product and Engineering, Mastercard, said: "At Mastercard, we are a purpose-driven organization and put into practice our belief in 'doing well by doing good'. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of who we are, and we bring this to life by deploying products, services, and partnerships that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on 'leaving no-one behind'."

According to the latest available data, one billion people, or 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability, constituting the largest minority group in the world.

Types of disabilities include visual, hearing, speech, mobility, cognitive, and psycho-social.

A combination of physical constraints in accessing financial institutions and services prevents many persons with disabilities from banking independently. Depending on the type of disability, this includes being unable to travel to and enter a financial institution, branch, or ATM, not perceiving and understanding what is written on paper or electronic devices, being unable to hear, understand, and communicate with banking service providers, and being unable to access paper or digital content.

The paper includes real-life case studies of persons with disabilities having to depend on others to perform simple financial tasks. One interview-

ee said: "You should be able to access financial services in privacy; no one should know the details of your banking transactions, your balance, and how much you are spending." Others spoke about how access to services digitally would make a significant difference to their financial independence.

A 2019 UN report cites data that show persons with disabilities consider 28% of banks in developed countries, and between 8% and 64% banks in some emerging economies, to be inaccessible.

According to the Mastercard white paper, in the Middle East and Africa, using digital inclusion as the pathway to financial inclusion for persons with disabilities must involve reducing the gap in smartphone ownership, mobile internet usage, and digital literacy.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:18 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	5:04 pm
Maghrib	7:12 pm
Isha	8:54 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-12, H-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

NHMP will be launching new campaign called #NoMore

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Under the direction of Inspector General Khalid Mahmood, NHMP will be launching a new campaign called '#NoMore', which will inform the public about new initiatives and tools being deployed to ensure commuter safety and enforcement of the law. A pilot project using technological innovations and an enforcement regime with zero tolerance has been launched on select motorways.

Pakistan faces two fundamental educational challenges: Rana Tanveer

First, too many children are out of school, secondly, too many children who are in school are not learning

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain addressed the Virtual Arab Region and Western Asia Regional Consultation for the Transforming Education Summit, hosted by the State of Qatar on Tuesday. The Summit arranged by the State of Qatar is in pursuance of Transforming Education Summit which will be organized by HE Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations in New York in September, 2022. The purpose of the Virtual Regional Consultation was to discuss the region's priority action areas in the lead-up to the Transforming Education Summit.

Rana Tanveer Hussain while addressing the summit said that Pakistan faces two fundamental educational challenges: First, too many children are out of school, the figure roughly stands at 22.8 million. Secondly, too many children who are in school are not learning (4 out of 5 children cannot read by age 10). He continued that in future, Pakistan's educational challenges include: Finan-



ing of education amid global economic challenges, Challenge of educating marginalised groups, including girls, disabled and children in poverty.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pakistan's high population growth is 2% a year which implies that the enrolment must increase by 1.6% each year to enrol all children in school by 2050. Additionally, Pakistan is the 8th most climate vulnerable country in the world making education vulnerable to disruption.

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain said that use of data for accountability and monitoring in education is one of the most effective tools to overcome the challenges, this tool has been a success in Paki-

stan particularly in the provinces of Sindh and Punjab. Moreover, Pakistan has seen the growth of a successful low-cost private school market which has enhanced access to education across society.

Rana Tanveer said that in the context of Covid-19, Pakistan's emergency education technology response was laudable: Technology formed an important part of Mo FE & PT's Covid-19 education response, including "Teleschool" (education learning on TV), National Radio School Programme on Radio Pakistan & E-Taleem (Education) Portal including all the contents available for TV lessons.

In conclusion Rana Tanveer said that there are some fundamental perspectives which

need to be considered for transforming Education in region for example there is a need to not only address access to schools, but also the quality of learning once children are in schools. There is a need to look beyond primary school enrolment to focus on secondary schools as in Pakistan nearly 25% of children do not reach secondary school.

Federal Minister said that teachers are the biggest aspect of a quality education. Reforms are needed to improve teacher's professional development and school leadership. Similarly, early Childhood Education is a fundamental but neglected realm of education which requires more investment, regulation and coordination.

Rana Tanveer at the end thanked HE Mrs Buthaina Bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, Minister of Education and Higher Education of the State of Qatar and HE Mrs. Amina J Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of United Nations for extending him an invitation to be a keynote speaker in the "Virtual Arab Region and Western Asia Regional Consultation for the Transforming Education Summit.

Redressal of complaints

Wafaqi Mohtasib office's working enhanced

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Office of Wafaqi Mohtasib having 15 Regional Offices in all the provincial capitals and other important cities of Pakistan is working day and night for resolution of public complaints against federal agencies throughout Pakistan; and new initiatives are being taken to increase the scope of activities of the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat (WMS) for this purpose. This was stated by the Wafaqi Mohtasib Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi while addressing Khuli Katchery during his visit to Mansehra on 31st May, 2022.

Besides general public, the investigating officers of the Office of Wafaqi Mohtasib, Regional Heads of the feder-

al agencies such as PESCO, SNGPL, NADRA, etc. were also present during the address of Wafaqi Mohtasib. The Wafaqi Mohtasib informed that he has chosen Mansehra as his first ever Khuli Katchery and similar katcheries will also be held shortly at various districts / tehsils to ascertain the serious problems faced by the general public and ensure redress of those problems by the respective agencies. He informed that in Hazara region, a regional office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib having four Advisors / Investigating Officers has been functioning effectively to redress the grievances of the general public; and a new regional office in Swat will be inaugurated soon. Similarly, another regional office

to cover the tribal areas and the merged districts of FATA is proposed to be established in the near future so that the people of those areas could also benefit from the services being offered by the Office of Wafaqi Mohtasib. The Wafaqi Mohtasib also informed the audience that by virtue of the mandate available to him under the law, he has introduced a system of inspection of the offices of federal agencies. Under this initiative, the Advisors of the WMS visit those federal agencies against which the number of complaints are relatively higher, so as to evaluate their service delivery on-the-spot and to suggest short and long term measures to improve their working. The inspection reports

IIUI holds job fair

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), H.E. Dr. Hathal Homoud Al-Otaibi, saying that higher education in Pakistan is evolving rapidly and expectations of society are also rising accordingly, stressed upon academia to come forward and play its progressive role to make the education truly relevant.

He shared his views during the inaugural ceremony of Job Fair organized by Faculty of Management Sciences (FMS) held at Quaid-i-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus of the university. He said that producing all round graduates along with professional development and preparing them to display true image of Islam is our main focus in the university. He opined that maintaining the quality of higher education in institutions must be the top priority to achieve sustainability and progress in the country. Dr. Hathal inaugurated the Job Fair along with Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, Dr. Abdul Raheman. The event was attended by as many as 25 organizations set-up their stalls for interviews of the students.

Health Corner

Protein supplement helps control Type 2 diabetes



ISLAMABAD: Drinking a small amount of whey protein before meals has been shown to help people with type 2 diabetes control their blood sugars.

In a study, which holds potential for dietary management of the condition, people with type 2 diabetes drank a pre-made shot before meals which contained a low dose of whey protein. They were monitored for a week as they went about normal daily life.

To compare the potential benefits of whey protein, the same participants also spent a week drinking a control shot that contained no protein in order to measure the results against each other.

Results from continuous glucose monitoring revealed that glucose levels were much better controlled when taking the whey supplement before meals. On average, they had two hours extra per day of normal blood sugar levels compared to the no protein week. In addition, their daily blood glucose levels were 0.6 mmol/L lower compared to when they consumed the supplement without any protein.

Dr Daniel West, Senior Lecturer and Principal Investigator working within the Human Nutrition Research Centre and Diabetes Research Group at Newcastle University, UK said: "While previous studies for a few hours in the lab have shown the potential for this dietary intervention, this is the first time that people have been monitored as they go about normal life.

"We believe the whey protein works in two ways, firstly, by slowing down how quickly food passes through the digestive system and secondly, by stimulating a number of important hormones that prevent the blood sugars climbing so high.

"As we see growing numbers of people around the world developing diabetes, investigating the potential of alternatives to drugs such as food supplements becomes more important." (Courtesy: Science Daily)



ISLAMABAD: Qamar Bashir, Officer of the Information Group, has joined President's Secretariat as Press Secretary to the President.

Preview of online activities of China Cultural Center in Pakistan in June

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Time flies. Now we are in June. The 1st day of June marks the International Children's Day. We wish all the children in the world luck and happy.

On June 3rd, it is an important traditional Chinese holiday—Dragon Boat Festival. As usual, we will introduce some story about this holiday. In June, there will be two traditional 24 Chinese solar terms: "Grain in Ear" and "Summer Solstice". For this reason, China Cultural Center in Pakistan will continue to launch online events introducing these two solar terms.

In addition, the center will launch an 8-episode documentary series reflecting China's intangible cultural heritage crafts filmed by Chinese post-80s and post-90s generation in China. The film takes the production of Chinese traditional handicrafts as the starting point, and takes 12 months and travels tens of thousands of kilometers to more than ten provinces and cities in China including Hangzhou and Longquan in Zhejiang, Suzhou in Jiangsu, Ningde and Fuzhou in Fujian, Zhengzhou in

Henan, Shigatse, Lhasa and the Mount Everest in Xizang, Beijing, Shanghai and Antarctica...to truly record more than ten national intangible cultural heritage inheritors and family heirs.

Here is our schedule of the online activities in June. See you online!

- June 01: Children's Day in Stamps
- June 03: Festive China: Dragon Boat Festival
- June 06: 24 Chinese Solar Terms - Grain in Ear
- June 08: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 1)
- June 10: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 2)
- June 13: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 3)
- June 15: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 4)
- June 17: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 5)
- June 21: 24 Chinese Solar Terms: Summer Solstice
- June 23: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 6)
- June 27: Poetic Life-Handmade in China (Episode 7)
- June 29: Poetic Life - Handmade in China (Episode 8)

PANAH organizes walk on "World No Tobacco Day"

Children and teachers appealed to the government to take effective measures to curb tobacco products

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Students call tobacco products a poison on the occasion of "World No Tobacco Day", And appealed to the government to protect us from the harmful effects of tobacco products. They said that this is not our priority, we have to study and make Pakistan a bright future. Tobacco use is the first step towards addiction, we are travelers on the bright paths, but our fellow students due to lack of awareness start using tobacco products and move away from education.

Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) General Secretary and Director Operations Sanaullah Ghumman presided over a walk with students and teachers from different educational institutions on the occasion of "World No Tobacco Day", which was attended by hundreds of boys and girls. Teachers and staff members were



also present.

Sanaullah Ghumman, General Secretary and Director Operations of Pakistan National Heart Association (Panah) said that Panah has been educating the people for 39 years about many deadly diseases including heart diseases and their causes. On World No Tobacco Day, I want to send a message to our young generation that tobacco is the first step towards addiction, it is not a necessity of life, but we are buying diseases by paying money, stop tobacco products from your life, so that you can all be part of healthy society.

He urged the government to increase the tax on tobacco products by 30% in accordance with the recommendations of the World Bank, so that we can keep children safe from tobacco use. This will be a win-win situation for us, it will reduce the health burden and also significantly increase the revenue.

Nepal keen to enhance cooperation in tourism, mountain adventure: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, Tapas Adhikari on Tuesday said that there are vast opportunities between Pakistan and Nepal in various fields of tourism including mountain adventure which should be tapped on priority.

Pakistan and Nepal have the highest mountain peaks in the world, including Mount Everest and K2, where mountaineers, who come every year and get international fame by demonstrating their skills in this sport, he said.

Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad organized a programme here on Tuesday to commemorate the first ascent to the Mt. Everest by Tenzing Norgay

Sherpa and Edmund Hillary on 29 May 1953.

Tapas Adhikari, Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, welcomed the guests to the programme and congratulated Abdul Joshi on his recent ascent to the Mt. Everest on May 16, 2022.

On the occasion, the Ambassador said that there are vast opportunities between Pakistan and Nepal in this field, which would require further cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Ambassador said that Pakistan and Nepal are the countries connected to the Himalayan region, where there are many opportunities for tourism and

other adventures.

He said that 2 million tourists visit Nepal every year, where the government is committed to provide all kinds of facilities to them.

Ambassador said that direct air flight was essential for economic, trade and other cooperation between the two countries.

He said that both the countries have beautiful views of nature and tourist destinations, so a direct air link is essential for the promotion of tourism in both the countries.

He said that transportation and logistics was an essential sector in both the countries for the movement and



promotion of international mountaineering adventurers on both sides.

In response to a question, he said that many issues of transit trade in Nepal and Pakistan still need to be

resolved for the promotion of bilateral trade.

On the occasion, Ambassador Adhikari expressed his confidence that his expedition will inspire many

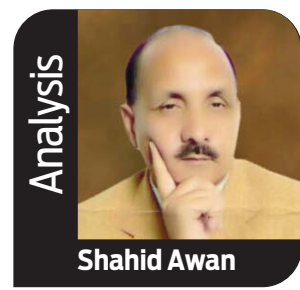
young Pakistanis for mountaineering and adventure tourism and increase people-to-people contacts between Nepal and Pakistan.

He also highlighted the impacts of climate change on the mountains and urged for collectively addressing the negative consequences.

During the programme, Mountaineer Joshi shared his interesting expedition experience, while scaling the summit. He also drew many parallels between Nepal and Pakistan, particularly in the field of trekking and tourism. The programme was attended by alpinists and media persons from Pakistan and Embassy officials.

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Balawal Bhutto's first visit to America



Analysis
Shahid Awan

A study of political houses by American intellectuals and analysts many years ago reveals that the current situation in Pakistan was predicted almost two decades ago. According to these analysts, Pakistan will become a state where a game of fire and blood will be played everywhere where no one will know which bullet will come from where and to whom. A state with terrorist bases in every part of it and which will be a symbol of terror for the whole world. The question is that when the American think tanks made these predictions, then the internal situation of Pakistan was not as it is today. Although we were still facing many crises on the internal and external fronts, this was not the case at all. That every drop of ammunition and blood could be seen inside Pakistan and the Holy Land should become the center of terrorism for the

whole world. Considering that these predictions of the Americans were actually based on a thought, a wish and a plan, they knew where to take the world in the coming years and to prove Pakistan a failed state.

In such a situation, the responsibilities of Pakistani politicians must also be taken into account as to what significant steps they have taken to save their country from such a situation.

During his visit to the United States, Foreign Minister Balawal Bhutto strongly defended the visit of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan Russia visit, but here in Pakistan, only a word of thanks from the top leadership of the PTI may have been uttered, from which it is not difficult to gauge the capacity and attitude of both the personalities. However, his achievements during Balawal Bhutto's visit to the United States have certainly raised a high profile figure in serious and credible circles. His diplomacy is well remembered by intellectuals, anchorpersons, senior journalists, analysts and positive thinkers. Saleem Safi wrote in his tutor message: "Imran Khan stood on American soil and called his opposition leaders thieves and put them in jail, while Balawal defended his Russia visit.

Despite a million differences with Balawal Bhutto, it is

welcome that unlike Imran Khan, he understands the difference between the state and the government, well done Balawal." Well known columnist and analyst Hassan Nisar said in a TV program "Well done Balawal, keep it up". He advised all the young political leaders including Hamza Shahbaz, Maryam Nawaz and others that the style of discourse and politics adopted by Bilawal should be adopted by all of you. People of our age have done what we had to do, now the future belongs to you so change your culture and adopt new ways of politics". Hamid Mir said, "Neither Imran's arrogance nor Nawaz Sharif's bigotry and confusion. Unlike Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Bilawal Bhutto has scored 100 marks out of 100 in his first major exam due to his present brain and homework." Hafizullah Khan Niazi says, "in an hour-long press conference in New York, Balawal answered the half-hearted questions of Israeli and Indian lobby journalists and did not blow a single whistle.

Imran had called Osama a martyr in front of same journalists and the Pakistani Army the founder of Al-Qaida, the consequences of which Pakistan is still suffering. Balawal Bhutto has paid homage to being the son of Benazir Bhutto". Kamran Yousuf said, "Bilawal's stand on

American soil and defending his worst political opponent Imran Khan's visit to Russia proves that some people do not have a life time of 'Grace' while some people get this feature an early age." Nawabzada Iftikhar Ahmad Khan after posting clips of the two political leaders on social media; said, "Let the viewers and readers judge for themselves the mental maturity of the two leaders, one is defending his political opponent outside the country and the other is declaring revenge on his political opponents. The foreign minister is not the minister of any one party but the prime minister of the state."

Bilawal Bhutto's first visit reminded me that when B.B Shaheed returned to Lahore in 1986, she wrote in her book "Benazir, from Daughter to Leader": Benazir Bhutto's leadership skills came to the fore when the politics of struggle and protest flourished, she fought the basic tactics bravely and courageously. Despite her inexperience, Benazir Bhutto worked tirelessly for the success of the movements and bravely and decisively resisted the basic tactics, demonstrating the role of a resourceful, tolerant and public servant." This is what Balawal is doing today. When Benazir Bhutto returned home, she was greeted not by a head

of state but by a young exiled female leader who was not yet well acquainted with the political codes and who had not even tasted power. The fact is that no head of state in the history of Pakistan has received such a rare reception as Benazir Bhutto. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Z.A Bhutto himself was never as warmly received as his daughter was during the martial law era.

B.B Shaheed herself writes, "We announced our return and set a course, the whole world was watching some people will come to Lahore to welcome us." I asked the President of Punjab Jahangir Badar, how many people will be in my reception? There will be 5 lac people? So she replied, "This is a very large number." Then the world saw that the number of people arriving at the reception was really millions." Balawal Bhutto is once again getting a chance to repeat the history of his visionary grandfather Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and great mother Benazir Bhutto. He will prove by his actions and character that he is second to none in politics and values. May Allah grant success to this young politician and may he carry forward the mission of Shaheed Bhutto and see Pakistan shining like a bright star on the map of the world and may the nefarious intentions of the enemies of the country be reduced to dust.

IT & Agri, livestock sectors

Pakistan needs to empower the agriculture and livestock producers with increased use of technology to ensure broader adaption of climate-smart agriculture. Improved focus and efficiency in government expenditures are also essential to adjust the food system to higher food and energy prices. Pakistan needs to encourage greater use of digital technologies in both rural and urban areas to make the food system more responsive, resilient and, efficient. Collaboration across government actors, private sector, civil society, and charitable organizations, is necessary for improving identification of vulnerable households, targeting beneficiaries of social safety nets, and monitoring effectiveness of different food security support instruments.

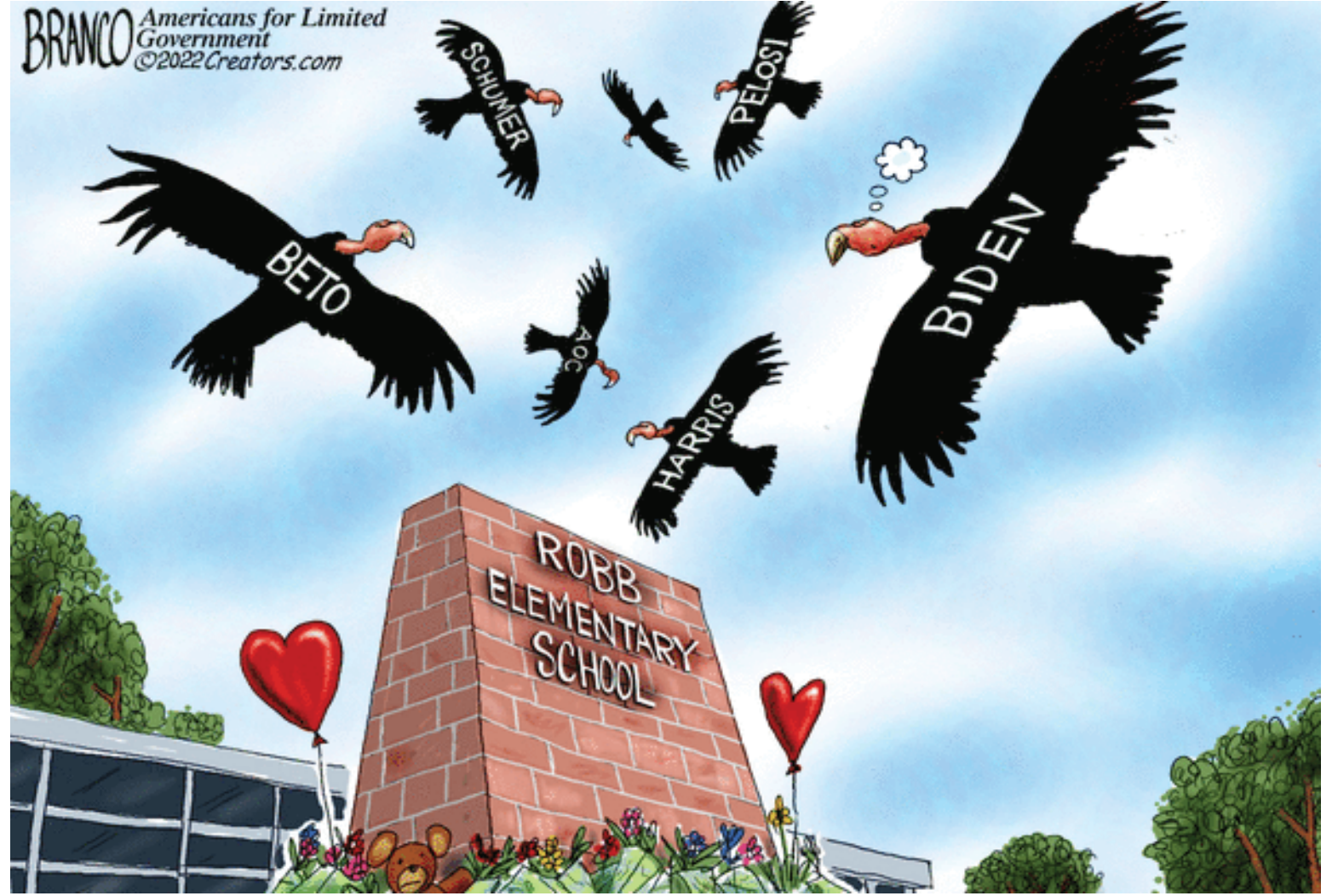
Pakistan also needs to address food insecurity in both rural and urban areas via multi-sectoral interventions that improve production, processing, transport, storage, and marketing. It also needs to make markets more accessible to both producers and consumers. It's important to prioritize work on legislation, guidelines and regulations for enhanced quality control, better payments systems, and consumer protection regulations. The COVID pandemic highlighted the risk and impact of disease transmissions from animals to humans. Pakistan has a large stock of livestock with a substantial viral and bacterial load.

This makes it particularly important for the government to take concrete steps such as enhancing vaccination campaigns against common livestock diseases, formulating improved regulations for the establishment and operations of livestock colonies, and developing institutional capacities and protocols for surveillance, monitoring, and reporting system in both rural and urban areas. The "One Health" approach launched by Government provides an excellent opportunity to take a more holistic and integrated approach to human, animal, and plant health.

The article added that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic was particularly severe on daily wage earners and others with no employment protection. The lockdowns imposed and disruption in economic activities increased food insecurity. An estimated 50% of the population ate less or switched to lower quality food. Some 40% of the population faced moderate to severe food insecurity during April to July 2020.

The agriculture sector was also affected by lockdowns and disruptions in markets. Higher imports helped ensure consumers had ready access to key staples. For example, wheat imports reached 3.6 million tons in 2020 – a level not seen for several decades. However, markets for nutritious and perishable products such as meat, milk, fruits and vegetables proved more fragile with both producers and consumers facing difficulties. The food system in Pakistan was able to meet the bulk of food needs during the pandemic. However, as COVID-19 retreats, conditions have not returned to normal as expected.

The pandemic hit milk producers very hard, as demand dropped, transport was disrupted, and input costs increased. Milk prices remained capped, and we got limited support from Government. Many small to medium commercial producers closed and sold off their animals, while owners of one or two animals, who sell surplus milk to meet their family cash needs could no longer do so and had to cut down expenses. The dairy herd has been cut down and will take time to rebuild.



Special Technology Zones – A New Engine for Pakistan's Economic Growth-I



Analysis
Dr. Mohammad Ali Mohammad

A Special Technology Zone (STZ) is a knowledge ecosystem designed on the triple helix model of innovation where the government offers special incentives to catalyze the development, promotion, and proliferation of the latest technologies. It is a zone where innovation is the primary driver of all core and peripheral activities. The enterprises and individuals working to develop and proliferate technologies are themselves immersed in a smart city lifestyle. The government supports and incentivizes enterprises to help them to thrive and create wealth and avail opportunities for others at a fast pace. People and technology enterprises, from near and afar, are attracted to these ecosystems. Gradually, the zones expand beyond their originally intended boundaries and form townships and eventually cities. In this way, any given STZ helps the supporting government to ultimately execute a broad-

er reform agenda and deliver socioeconomic progress to their constituents.

The Silicon Valley in California (USA) and Research Triangle Park in North Carolina (USA) are the earliest examples of such zones from the 1950s; however, at the time these were referred to as Research Parks and catalyzed by universities which hosted cutting edge technology firms. The budding Asian economies emulated the model and therefore created the Zhongguancun Science Park (Z-Park) in Beijing (China), Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in Shenzhen (China) and Daedeok Innopolis in Daejeon (South Korea) in the 1970s. The Asian zones were catalyzed by massive government intervention as their local academia and industry were not mature enough at the time. Examples of technology giants which emerged from such zones include Apple, Google, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Cisco, Huawei, Lenovo, Baidu, Tencent, and Xiaomi. These giants now boast revenues larger than many sovereign nations and human resource headcounts equivalent to many small cities. From the 2000s and onward, a new phenomenon was seen where entire zones were developed by private enterprises, such as the Samsung Digital City and the LG Science City (both in South Korea).

Industry-Academia collaboration has been discussed in Pakistan for several decades; however, none of the proposed models provided a true and workable solution to harnessing local academia and industry for the broader socio-economic benefit of the country. These solutions never really enabled industry, and in particular, the technology industry, to truly play their role in national development. The missing part was a specifically tailored and holistic incentives package. Whereas the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) model provided the closest set of incentives, however, in the Pakistani context, the SEZs were far away from urban centers and academia. In other words, we can say that the needs of the technology sector and the SEZ model had a mismatch of the factors of production.

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) Act 2021 has changed this mismatch – the technology industry has now been given the driving seat through unparalleled incentives and technology-specific programming in policy and systems development. A true pivot, in letter and spirit, has taken place to shift the industry to the forefront in the triple helix. In support of all of this, the Authority STZA is the architect, the facilitator, as well as the regulator of the ecosystem. STZA, since becoming a legislated body,

has not only obtained major incentives (10-year corporate tax and custom duty waivers, special forex provisions, subsidized land, and much more) but also created a system of rules, regulations, and other statutory provisions which will enable it to support the technology industry in a specialized way. Relationships with other government agencies (OGAs) in all units of the federation and national and international support entities have also been forged.

Outreach to local and foreign technology entities has been fruitful and several technological giants have been engaged in discussions to enter the STZs, which will form anchors for other enterprises. Applications for Zone Developer (ZD) and Zone Enterprise (ZE) licenses have been opened and a large number of applications have been received in diverse technological fields which will bring in sizeable investment and contribute to the strategic objectives of the Authority. The strategic objectives include the transfer of technology, technology exports, import substitution, job creation, human capital development, R&D, and innovation.

To be concluded
 The writer works at the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) in the capacity of Director Research & Market Intelligence.

Fighting the big lies

Noëlle Lenoir

Western democracies had a wake-up call in 2016, when Russia interfered in the US presidential election on Donald Trump's behalf, and in the United Kingdom's Brexit referendum in support of Leave. These two shocks alerted the world's democracies to the fact that authoritarian states are unleashing a new kind of information warfare against them. The objective is to destabilise, divide, and weaken democratic societies, politics, and institutions – starting with the European Union. Until recently, we in France had hardly considered the threat of foreign interference in our politics. But that changed with the 2017 presidential election, when emails stolen from Emmanuel Macron's campaign were dumped online just days before voters cast their ballots. Mixed in with real emails were fake ones designed to suggest, falsely, that Macron had offshore bank accounts. In 2019, similar hack-and-leak attacks were launched against German Chancellor Angela Merkel and hundreds of other German politicians.

By the time the 2019 European Parliament elections were held, Russian attempts at meddling had become a foregone conclusion, and the European Commission responded by setting out an Action Plan against Disinformation and additional measures to protect the electoral process. Nonetheless, democracies remain doubly disadvantaged in the face of electoral interference, manipulation, and information warfare. For starters, democracies cannot respond with their own counter-propaganda, lest they lose credibility in the eyes of an already distrustful public. As such, they are confined to fact-checking, which has only limited effects.

Platforms will also be obligated to inform law enforcement about information that may constitute criminal offences or indicate a serious threat to people's lives or security. And companies that fail to comply with the DSA will face penalties of up to 6% of their annual global revenue.

But the text of the law does not really regulate

"disinformation," which is a term coined by the Soviets in the 1920s to describe their preferred instrument of propaganda and destabilisation. Rather, the EU is concerned with "verifiably false or misleading information created, presented, and disseminated for economic gain or to intentionally deceive the public," or more precisely: "coercive and deceptive efforts to disrupt the free formation and expression of individuals' political will by a foreign state actor or its agents."

In practice, the text of the DSA leaves disinformation to be dealt with through online platforms' own codes of conduct. The past few years have shown that approach to be far from satisfactory. Lawmakers must be more creative and direct. Though we do not want to create anything like a thought police, we should be treating big lies for what they are: deliberate attacks on our societies. Signaling a step in the right direction, the EU General Court recently rejected an appeal by RT following the suspension of its broadcasting license in France. The court found that the balance of interests between the Kremlin-controlled broadcaster and the EU clearly fell in the EU's favour. The EU's interests, it ruled, "aim to protect Member States against campaigns of disinformation and destabilisation that would be carried out by the media under the control of the Russian leadership and that would threaten public order and security of the Union, in a context marked by military aggression against Ukraine."

This reasoning should not be limited to the context of a military invasion. Sanctions against anyone peddling fake news should be designed on the same basis. Now that the EU-US Trade and Technology Council has agreed to pursue co-ordinated measures against disinformation, it has an opportunity to craft a more effective response to the threat of authoritarian information warfare. To paraphrase Clausewitz, the world's democracies must recognise that disinformation is nothing but the continuation of war by other means. Defending against such threats will require not just stronger logistical means, but also stronger legal tools.

The writer is a former member of France's Conseil Constitutionnel, the Conseil d'Etat, and a former minister for Europe. Courtesy GulfTimes

Russian forces seize half of Sievierodonetsk

Ukrainian President says situation in Donbas remains “extremely difficult”

SLOVIANSK: Russian forces in a “frenzied push” have seized half of the eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk that is key to Moscow’s efforts to quickly complete the capture of the industrial Donbas region, the mayor told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

“The city is essentially being destroyed ruthlessly block by block,” Oleksandr Striuk said. He said heavy street fighting continues and artillery bombardments threaten the lives of the estimated 13,000 civilians still sheltering in the ruined city that once was home to more than 100,000.



Sievierodonetsk is important to Russian efforts to capture the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine’s defense. Moscow-backed separatists already held territory in the region and have been fighting Ukrainian troops for eight years.

Military analysts described the fight for Sievierodonetsk as part of a race against time for the Kremlin. The city

which is 145 kilometers (90 miles) south of the Russian border, is in an area that is the last pocket of Ukrainian government control in the Luhansk region.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the situation in the Donbas remains “extremely difficult” as Russia has put its army’s “maximum combat power”

there.

At least three people were killed and six more wounded overnight in a Russian missile strike on the city of Sloviansk, west of Sievierodonetsk, Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said in a Facebook post on Tuesday morning. A school was among several buildings damaged. A crater marked the road between two apartment buildings heavily pockmarked by shrapnel.

Blood smeared the floor and stairwell of one building. Resident Olena Voytenko, 59, said she knew one of the people killed, a man whose apartment caught fire in the blast. She believes he burned to death.

Another resident, Mikhaylo Samoluk, said the strike occurred roughly after 1:30 a.m.

“I was on my sofa and suddenly my sofa just jumped in the air,” he said.

In neighboring Luhansk, two people were killed and four were wounded by shelling, Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said Tuesday on Telegram. Haidai didn’t specify when or where the attack occurred.

Yasin Malik shifted to isolated cell in Delhi’s Tihar jail



NEW DELHI: The illegally detained Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Muhammad Yasin Malik, who has been awarded life sentence by an Indian kangaroo court in a sham trial, has been shifted to an isolated cell in New Delhi’s Tihar jail.

His mother and sister have been denied access to him in jail.

On the other hand, the Indian court has summoned Dr Rubiya Sayeed, the younger sister of Mehbooba Mufti, as a witness in Muhammad Yasin Malik’s case on July 15.

Interestingly, the court has summoned Dr Rubiya Sayeed in a so-called kidnap case despite the fact that she had herself acknowledged that the then JKLF chief commander Ashfaq Majeed Wani and other party activists had treated her like their sister. Her sister Mehbooba Mufti, too, has openly supported Muhammad Yasin Malik against life sentence to him by the Indian NIA court.

Now, Muhammad Yasin Malik has been shifted to an isolated cell in Tihar jail, where his activities are monitored through close circuit cameras.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front in a statement issued in Srinagar denounced the shifting of the party chief to the small isolated cell saying that New Delhi wants to make Muhammad Yasin Malik a psychological patient before pushing him to the jaws of death.

EU bans most Russia oil imports

BRUSSELS: In the most significant effort yet to punish Russia for its war in Ukraine, the European Union agreed to ban the overwhelming majority of Russian oil imports after tense negotiations that exposed the cracks in European unity.



From the moment Russia invaded on Feb. 24, the West has sought to hit Moscow’s lucrative energy sector to cut off funding for its war. But any such move is a double-edged sword, especially in Europe, which relies on the country for 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas. European countries that are even more heavily dependent on Russia have been especially reluctant to act.

In a move unthinkable just months ago, EU leaders agreed late Monday to cut around 90% of all Russian oil imports over the next six months.

Belgian Prime Minister

Alexander De Croo called the embargo a “big step forward” and Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin hailed it as “a watershed moment.” But both leaders cautioned that Europe would need time to adjust to the impact — and any further bans on Russian energy would come slowly.

The deputy head of Russia’s Security Council said Tuesday that energy sanctions against the country were intended to hurt ordi-

nary Russians by making it harder for Moscow to fund social programs.

“They hate us all! The basis for these decisions is hatred for Russia, for Russians and for all its inhabitants,” Dmitry Medvedev, who is also a former president and prime minister, wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia’s permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, appeared to shrug

the move off, though, saying Moscow would find other buyers.

Russia has also not shied away from withholding its energy supplies, despite the economic damage it could suffer as a result. Russian energy giant Gazprom said it cut natural gas supplies to Dutch trader GasTerra on Tuesday. It’s already turned the taps off to Bulgaria, Poland and Finland, and is considering doing the same to Denmark.

GasTerra said the move comes after it refused Gazprom’s “one-sided payment requirements.” That’s a reference to Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demand that European nations pay for gas in rubles — an arrangement others have also refused. GasTerra said homes would not be hit as it had bought gas elsewhere in anticipation of a shutdown.

Powerful Tunisian union announces national strike in June

TUNIS: Tunisia’s powerful UGTT union on Tuesday called a national strike in June in public services and state firms after the government refused to increase wages, an escalation that may hinder the government’s efforts to reach a deal with the International Monetary Fund.

Tunisia faces its worst financial crisis and is seeking a \$4 billion loan from the IMF seen as necessary to ward off national bankruptcy, in exchange for unpopular reforms, including food and energy subsidies cuts and wage freezes.

With more than a million members, the UGTT is Tunisia’s most powerful political force. The strike on June 16 will present the biggest challenge yet to President Kais Saied after his seizure of broad powers and moves to one-man rule.

The UGTT has rejected proposed spending cuts and instead wants wage increases for state workers

Saied, who took executive power and dissolved parliament to rule by decree, has since said he will replace the democratic 2014 constitution with a new constitution via referendum on July 25.

The president’s opponents accuse him of a coup that has undermined the democratic gains of the 2011 revolution that triggered the Arab Spring, but he says his moves were legal and needed to save Tunisia from a prolonged political crisis.

Saied’s plan to draft a new constitution met with strong opposition from political parties, which say they will not participate in unilateral political reforms and that they will boycott the referendum.

While Saied focuses on changing Tunisian politics, critics he does not pay enough attention to the North African country’s collapsing economy. He has repeatedly said that Tunisia is rich but that the political elite stole the people’s money, which his opponents describe as populism.

Lebanon’s new parliament narrowly elects longtime speaker

BEIRUT: Lebanon’s longtime parliament speaker who has held the post for 30 years, was reelected Tuesday for a seventh four-year term with the minimum number of votes required and despite multiple crises plaguing the nation.

Still, the slim majority in favor of Nabih Berri was a reflection of a significant shift in public opinion in the crumbling economy on the verge of bankruptcy. His reelection was practically guaranteed — even though more than a dozen new lawmakers won seats running on a reform platform.

The new legislature is being ushered in as Lebanon remains in the grip of the worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history, rooted in decades of corruption and mismanagement by the ruling class, which has been running the country since the end of the civil war.

To most Lebanese, Berri, an 84-year-old former warlord, is a symbol of this entrenched sectarian-based political system and ruling class, which continues to hold despite rising discontent and the newly elected, reform-minded lawmakers.

China ready to boost cooperation with UAE: Xi

BEIJING: China is ready to work with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to consolidate friendship, cement mutual trust and deepen cooperation, said Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday afternoon.

In a phone conversation with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Xi also said that the Chinese side is willing to continuously enrich the China-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership for the benefit of their people.

On the other hand, China says it attaches great importance to its relations with Zambia, and is ready to work with Zambia to consolidate and deepen their friendship and push bilateral ties to higher levels and broader areas, Chinese President Xi Jinping said Tuesday afternoon.

He made the remarks in a phone conversation with Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema.

Turkey summons French, German envoys

ANKARA: Turkey’s foreign minister said on Tuesday that his ministry has summoned France’s Ambassador Herve Magro and Germany’s Ambassador Jurgen Schulz over the demonstrations of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) staged in the two European countries.

“We summoned both ambassadors yesterday, displayed our reaction and warned them harshly. Our missions also held contacts in those countries,” Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in a televised interview with the semi-official Anadolu Agency.

“We also said that it should not be repeated. They have been formally given a protest note as well,” he said.

The minister’s remarks came amid his comments on the issue of why Turkey objected to the NATO bids of Sweden and Finland.

The two Nordic countries formally applied to join NATO following the Russia-Ukraine conflict that erupted in February. NATO allies, except for Turkey, have welcomed the Nordics’ appeal. Accession of new member states requires consensus among existing NATO members.

China’s foreign minister in Tonga on Pacific tour

WELLINGTON: China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Tonga on Tuesday.



In Tonga, Wang met with King Tupou VI and Prime Minister Siaoisi Sovaleni and signed several agreements with Sovaleni that covered everything from disaster management to a royal tomb improvement project.

Chinese Ambassador Cao Xiaolin said in a statement the two countries already had close ties in a number of areas including trade, infrastructure and clean energy. He said China had provided various training programs to about 1,200 Tongan government officials and people.

“The relationship between China and Tonga is a shining pearl,” the ambassador said in his statement.

Tonga’s government said

the two sides had “fruitful talks” and thanked China for sending two military planes and two naval ships to deliver supplies after the tsunami.

Wang’s tour is causing consternation among some Western nations that see themselves as traditional partners with the South Pacific. Australia last week sent new Foreign Minister Penny Wong

to Fiji in an attempt at counter-diplomacy.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a speech last week that China posed an even more serious long-term threat than Russia. “China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order — and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and

technological power to do it,” he said.

At a news conference Monday in Fiji, Wang said China had long championed developing nations both in the Pacific and around the world, addressing how “some have been questioning why China has been so active in supporting Pacific Island countries.”

“My advice for those people is: Don’t be too anxious and don’t be too nervous,” Wang said.

Tonga is continuing to recover from a massive volcanic eruption and tsunami in January which killed three people locally and destroyed hundreds of homes. The tsunami also cut the nation’s internet connection to the rest of the world when it severed an undersea cable which took five weeks to repair.

Indian troops martyr two more youth in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two more Kashmiri youth in Pulwama district Tuesday.

The troops martyred the youth during a cordon and search operation in Rajpora area of the district. These killings raised the number of martyred youth to 17 over the past five days in the territory. The troops also continued operations in Srinagar, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipore, Shopian, Islamabad, Kulgam, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch districts. In another incident, an Indian army officer was injured in an explosion in Sautijyan area of Poonch district.

Senior APHC leader Nayeem Ahmed Khan in his message from New Delhi’s



Tihar jail said the BJP-led Indian racist regime is using its judiciary as a weapon against the Kashmiris to further its Hindutva agenda in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said the life imprisonment to Muhammad Yasin Malik in a sham trial is one such example that shows how the BJP is using its judiciary to punish Kashmiri leaders for raising their voice for freedom.

Meanwhile, India is deploy-

ing more than 15,000 additional troops in occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the garb of security for Amarnath Yatra, which is commencing in the last week of June. Indian Home Ministry has approved the deployment of the troops. These troops are in addition to over 1.1 million Indian forces’ personnel already deployed in the occupied territory.

Indian authorities did not allow mother and sister of Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik to meet him in New Delhi’s Tihar jail. Yasin Malik has been shifted to an isolated cell in the jail after being sentenced to life imprisonment by an Indian kangaroo court in a sham trial.

On the other hand, a woman teacher was shot dead by unknown attackers inside High School Gopalpora in Kulgam district. The slain teacher was identified as Rajni, wife of Raj Kumar from Samba district.

An Indian paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force man committed suicide by hanging himself in his room in Humhama area of Bdgam district. This incident has raised the number of such deaths among Indian forces’ personnel to 544 in the occupied territory since January 2007.

Denmark holds referendum on EU defense

COPENHAGEN: Historically skeptical about European Union efforts to deepen cooperation, Danish voters on Wednesday will choose whether to abandon the country’s decision three decades ago to opt out of the bloc’s common defense policy.

The Danish referendum comes as the latest example of European countries seeking closer defense links with allies in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. It follows Sweden and Finland’s historic bids to join NATO — something to be taken up at a summit next month.

Denmark joining the EU

defense policy would have a relatively modest impact on Europe’s security architecture, particularly compared to Sweden and Finland joining NATO. But Christine Nissen, a researcher with the Danish Institute for International Studies, said both moves are “part of the same story,” and would strengthen military cooperation on a continent stunned by the war in Ukraine.

She said the main effect of abandoning the opt-out decision would be that Danish officials could stay in the room when EU colleagues discuss defense topics and Danish forces could take part in the bloc’s

military operations.

Denmark, a founding member of NATO, has stayed on the sidelines of EU efforts to build a common security and defense policy in parallel with the trans-Atlantic alliance. It was one of four opt-out moves that Danes insisted on before adopting the EU’s Maastricht Treaty, which laid the foundation for political and economic union.

The 1992 waiver means Denmark hasn’t participated in the EU’s discussions on defense policy, its development and acquisition of military capabilities and its joint military operations, such as those in Africa and Bosnia

and Herzegovina.

The Danes also opted out of EU cooperation on justice and home affairs, the common currency and citizenship. The opt-out decision on citizenship, which said European citizenship wouldn’t replace national citizenship, has since become irrelevant as other members later adopted the same position. But the other provisions remain intact despite efforts by successive governments to overturn them.

In a 2000 referendum, Danish voters decided to stay outside the eurozone, and 15 years later they voted to keep the exemption on justice and home affairs.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
43,078.14	43,040.14
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,339.22	43,018.40
Index Value	Change
6,007,615,629	+38.00
Percentage	Time
+0.09%	31 May, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,625.70	+25.64
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	31 May, 2:37 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,778.61	-434.35
Percentage	Time
-1.31%	31 May, 9:38 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,279.80	-89.63
Percentage	Time
-0.33%	31 May, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	139	140.5
Bahrain Dinar	533	537.5
Canadian Dollar	153	155
China Yuan	23.5	23.75
Danish Krone	28.79	29.14
Euro	210	212.5
Hong Kong Dollar	25.32	25.67
Indian Rupee	2.56	2.64
Japanese Yen	1.59	1.63
Kuwaiti Dinar	654.5	659.5
Malaysian Ringgit	45.51	45.96
New Zealand \$	130.34	131.54
Norwegians Krone	21.15	21.45
Omani Riyal	521	525.5
Qatari Riyal	54.59	55.09
Saudi Riyal	51.5	52
Singapore Dollar	141	142.5
Swedish Korona	20.39	20.69
Swiss Franc	207.54	209.29
Thai Bhat	5.83	5.93
U.A.E Dirham	53.25	54.75
UK Pound Sterling	247	249.5
US Dollar	197.7	199.6

foodpanda
appoints new MD
in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: foodpanda has appointed Muntaqa Peracha as Managing Director (MD) for foodpanda Pakistan, with effect from 1 June 2022. As MD, Muntaqa will oversee foodpanda's overall operations in the country, growth and expansion, as well as the launch of new verticals. Muntaqa takes the helm after serving two and a half years as Commercial Director in foodpanda Pakistan, helping make the brand a household name across the country.

During his tenure, Muntaqa oversaw the core food delivery business with a focus on building foodpanda as the preferred platform for partnering vendors, consumers and riders.



ICCI calls for withdrawal of sales tax registration notices to traders

Shakeel Munir urges that FBR should refrain from forcibly registering traders in sales tax

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the FBR is issuing notices to the traders for registration in sales tax and POS system, which has created great concerns in the business community.

He urged that FBR should refrain from forcibly registering traders in the sales tax, withdraw all such notices issued to them and intensify efforts to bring those in the tax system, who are currently out of the tax net.

He expressed these views while addressing a reception hosted by former ICCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Naveed Malik. Senior Vice President ICCI Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Faheem Khan, Baser Daud, Azharul Islam, Malik Najeeb, Nasira Ali Naina, Shazia Rizwan, Saeed Khokhar, Major (Retd) Raiz, Saima Huma and others were present on the occasion.



Mohammad Shakeel Munir said that the sales tax registration campaign of traders in the local markets of Islamabad is going on at present due to which small traders in

particular are worried and trade unions have indicated to launch strong protest against forced registration. This will not only affect business activities but also the overall economy. He, therefore, urged the FBR to immediately withdraw the sales tax registration notices issued to the traders and resolve the issue amicably in consultation with the trade associations.

Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that FBR was also issuing letters to traders to install point of sales system in shops which has created lot of concerns in them. They said that there was no justification for forcing small traders to install POS in shops. They demanded that FBR should focus on identifying new taxpayers to improve tax revenue and avoid issuing notices to traders who are already paying taxes.

FPCCI reiterates need for simplified & fixed tax regime

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: FPCCI has reminded Finance Minister on his promised position to introduce simplified taxation regime on fixed rate basis for the category of the retailers other than the tier-1 retailers, as is specified for the conditions.

Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI & Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI, who has attended the meeting with the Finance Minister regarding budgetary proposals, had also discussed the imperative need of broadening the tax net through bringing in the documentation for retailers; other than the tier-1; by providing simplified taxation regime on a fixed tax rate basis.

Suleman Chawla, while appreciating FM on the due and required offer of introducing the fixed tax regime for small retailers, has appreciated the applied mind of FM to contain the agitations, controversies, conflicts and contradictions; as being witnessed, including the small businessmen and retailers sit-in around FBR and

agitating against tax officers.

Acting President & VP FPCCI have jointly said that the first and the foremost motive and objective before the Finance minister should be to silence the conflicts arising out of forced documentation through statutes and manufactured harassment and notices at large issued by FBR functionaries in almost all over Pakistan. In this regard, FPCCI has received several complaints from its member bodies represented by small traders' associations and chambers that they would like to be documented in the non-humiliating manner; the first step of which is through a simplified tax regime.

FPCCI believes that, by initiating simplified and fixed tax regime, the present government will increase the revenues and the businesses shall be conducted in harmony; instead of amidst conflicts and contradictions. Moreover, the logical approach of broadening the tax net is highly necessary through the simplified fixed tax regime in a highly non-documented economy; wherein, the sales tax registered

entities have not even reached two hundred thousand.

To gradually put these people into the tax net will move towards increasing the documentation in a highly disproportionately taxed economy; whereas, the manufacturing sector of less than 13 percent of GDP is bearing the brunt of highest taxation of 58 percent of the total tax generation.

Suleman Chawla invited the attention of FM that two decades back the earlier government of biggest coalition partner of the present dispensation had introduced trade enrolment certificates to gradually bring the small retailers and businessmen into the tax net; which was later turned into total taxation of 0.75 percent of the turnovers - including sales tax & income tax.

He further said that the well-thought-out moves of political governance in respect of measures to bring in small retailers and businessmen into the tax net through simplified and fixed tax regime was not promoted by bureaucracy; which later on caused the agitations and sit-ins.

STZA building technology ecosystem to enable Pak Freelancers

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) is building a world-class technology ecosystem in Pakistan, to enable the small, medium as well as large scale tech organizations, said the Chairman STZA Amer Hashmi.

He was addressing the Freelance Fest 2022 organized in Karachi by the Pakistan Freelancers Association (PAFLA). According to the World Labor Organization (WLO), Pakistan is rapidly emerging as a major source of digital labour for the global freelancing market. The country ranks as the 3rd largest source of digital labour globally, a trend made possible by the burgeoning freelancing community in Pakistan.

At the fest, Hashmi gave a strategic overview of the global innovation and technology ecosystem. He encouraged the young Pakistani freelancers to accelerate their efforts and pledged

STZA's resolute support to enable and empower the freelancing community across the country.

"Despite enormous regulatory, infrastructure and financial challenges, the young Pakistani freelancers have demonstrated their prowess to disrupt the global freelancing trends in Pakistan's favour" added Hashmi.

Javid Iqbal, the Chief Commercial Officer of STZA while speaking at the forum stated that the freelancers were a critical part of the innovation and technology ecosystem in Pakistan. He said that the freelancers were not only increasing Pakistan's brand capital but also earning foreign exchange for the country and transforming the gig economy by identifying global market requirements. He called on the young freelancers to challenge barriers and accelerate their efforts, stating that they were living in a transformational era of a globally connected marketplace with infinite possibilities.

Budget 2022-23

KCCI's delegation meets Sanjrani to discuss economic crises, budget proposals

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: A high-level delegation of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) led by Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala held a meeting with Chairman Senate of Pakistan Sadiq Sanjrani in Islamabad to discuss the overall economic situation of the country and also KCCI's proposals for Federal Budget 2022-23.

KCCI's delegation, which also comprised of Vice Chairmen BMG Haroon Farooki, Anjum Nisar, Jawed Bilwani, General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil and President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, highlighted the overall challenges being faced by the business and industrial community of Karachi which continues to stay resilient in an extremely challenging economic environment.

The delegation, while presenting KCCI's Budget Proposals to Chairman Senate, hoped that the invaluable suggestions given in



this important document will be incorporated in the forthcoming budget for fiscal year 2022-23. They particularly highlighted that the industrial community of Karachi was suffering badly due to poor infrastructure along with severe gas, water and electricity shortages which were having a negative impact on the exports hence, the lawmakers have to play their due role with a view to ensure political and economic stability in the country otherwise, the ongoing crises would worsen further and may push the country to the point of no return.

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, while appreciating the efforts being made by KCCI

Ahmad Faruqui.

During the meeting of Senate Standing Committee for Gas/Petroleum, KCCI's delegation informed the Senators about the ongoing injustices being done to the industries of Karachi and particularly condemned SSGC's remarks wherein the exporters were termed as thieves.

Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala demanded that the SSGC must apologize to exporters for using such shameful remarks which was also endorsed by many senators present at the meeting.

Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala and Vice Chairman BMG Jawed Bilwani also demanded that instead of prioritizing gas to domestic sector, uninterrupted gas supply at adequate pressure to industries must be given top priority whereas the domestic sector should be provided gas via bousers/ cylinders or at least they should be charged full gas price as applicable to other sectors.

Schneider Electric launches Edge Software & Digital Services

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Schneider Electric, the global leader in the digital transformation of energy management and automation, today announces the launch of its Edge Software & Digital Services Program - a complete suite of benefits, support tools and certifications that enables IT solution providers to create a Managed Power Services practice. Formulated in response to the significant growth in edge computing, this new program enables IT solution providers to establish recurring revenue streams by offering remote monitoring and management of the physical infrastructure across

their customers' networks, utilising Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure IT Software & Digital Services. This new Edge Software & Digital Services Program is part of the award-winning mySchneider IT Solutions Partner Program, formerly known as the APC Channel Partner Program.

According to Gartner, it is estimated that by 2025, 75 percent of enterprise-generated data will be created and processed outside a traditional, centralised data centre or cloud. However, because the edge infrastructure is geographically distributed, often with no on-site IT, it invariably requires remote monitoring and management.

This paves the way for

Country facing huge economic challenges, says President ICAP

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President ICAP Ashfaq Yousof Tola highlighted that the country made a sound economic recovery from the COVID-19 induced contraction, however we are still facing greater challenges that are creating huge external sector pressures.

He was speaking during an interactive session with journalists held where accompanied by Chairman Fiscal Laws Committee M. Ali Latif and Chairman Economic Advisory Committee Zeeshan Ijaz. The President ICAP informed that the proposals and recommendations have already been submitted to the government for consideration in new Fiscal Budget 2022-23.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) initiative of preparing Model Federal Budget 2022-23, along with ICAP proposals for Federal and Provincial Budget 2022-23 and presenting it to the Ministry of Finance is a very praiseworthy professional exercise. With these proposals contributing to the budget-making process, the Ministry of Finance will be able to have an understanding of the expectations of different segments of the

economy from the next fiscal's policy.

Mr. Tola said that the trade deficit and current account deficit had already exceeded their annual targets. There is steep currency devaluation, weaker domestic demand due to monetary tightening and fiscal consolidation and global economic uncertainty. In order to mitigate these challenges, the government needs to put in efforts for interest rate controls, emphasis on meeting tax collection targets as well as curb the challenge of mainstreaming the parallel economy. The purpose of Model Federal Budget 2022-23 is to compile recommendations to the government for economic reforms that can help improve the future outlook of the country. Some of the policy measures in this document are expected to bring in fruitful results for our economy by improving our GDP and controlling the fiscal deficit. Moreover, the Model Budget has been drawn up keeping in view the impact of changing political circumstances, projections for the IMF, post-pandemic measures and global dynamics, he further added.

Zeeshan Ijaz, Chairman Economic Advisory Committee stated that in case of Pakistan, whenever, the economy grew by over 5 percent years, the current account slippages resulted

in balance of payment crisis and whenever the international commodity prices (primarily oil prices) were around or more than USD 100 mark, the twin deficit (fiscal and current) problems emerged for the country and as a result it affected the growth and increased income inequality. As of now also the country needs some economic emergency to steer it out of crises, accordingly, ICAP has submitted various proposals highlighting major areas of focus including investment in technology both in infrastructure as well as in terms of value addition and innovation, rationalization of subsidies, integration of Islamic banking and financial products at both private and federal dealings and significance of regulation in power and construction sectors.

M. Ali Latif, Chairman Fiscal Laws Committee stated that ICAP has submitted detailed Tax Proposals to FBR for consideration in the upcoming Federal Budget. He said that during discussion with FBR it was agreed that focus should be to broaden the tax base along with Ease of Doing Business instead of increasing the tax rates. He informed that Chairman FBR was also apprised on the various measures that can be taken by the tax department to reduce



taxpayers' difficulties and to ease tax compliances by addressing anomalies in direct and indirect tax laws i.e. ICAP has recommended that the FBR web portal should provide the facilities of online filing of the appeal effect applications along with the revised working which will facilitate tax payers.

He informed that Chairman FBR had lauded the role of ICAP and thanked the President ICAP and Chairman Fiscal Laws Committee for the tax proposals furnished by the Institute. M. Ali Latif informed that Broadening of tax base measures includes a proposal by ICAP to Government that the housing soci-

eties/developers/builders engaged in selling of plots should integrate their systems with FBR on same mechanism as POS integration and share real time transfer of files/plots. He further stated that the Government should seriously consider withdrawal of all discriminatory tax exemptions/ concessions provided in the Second Schedule to the ITO 2001.

He hoped that the Government would consider integration of federal and provincial revenue authorities across the country in such a way that it provides one window solution to the taxpayers without undermining the existence and independence of each authority.

Pakistan aim to carry winning momentum in ODIs

Series mark beginning of new ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 cycle

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Bismah Maroof-led Pakistan are hoping to carry forward the winning momentum gained in the T20I series as they take on Sri Lanka in the first of the three ICC Women's Championship ODIs at the Southend Club, Karachi today.

The Pakistan-Sri Lanka series marks the beginning of the new ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 cycle which is the qualification pathway for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. Two more teams (Bangladesh and Ireland) have been added to the championship taking the number of participating teams to 10.

This is the first-ever ICC Women's Championship series to be played in Pakistan. The hosts produced a quality performance last week to sweep the three-match T20I series at the same venue and after two days of intense training and practice session, Pakistan are ready to make an impression in the 50-over format in familiar playing conditions.

Sri Lanka however enjoy an historic edge over their hosts in the ODI format having won as many as 21 out of the 30 matches played between the two sides to date. Pakistan though have won the last three ODI encounters between the two



sides, the Bismah-led tourists recorded a 3-0 sweep of the 2018 series played in Dambulla.

The last time the two sides competed in an ODI in Pakistan was in December 2005 with Sri Lanka winning both Asia Cup encounters. This series is the first bilateral ODI series between the two sides in Pakistan.

Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof: "After a dominating performance in the T20Is against Sri Lanka, we are now focused on delivering our best in the ODI series which is a part of the ICC Women's Championship. I am pleased that two more teams have been added to the

championship. This step from the ICC will help promote the women's game in Bangladesh and Ireland besides providing them direct qualification opportunities.

"Our aim like the rest of the sides would be to earn a direct spot in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. The ODI squad for the series is a good blend of experience and youth. We have a number of experienced batters in Sidra Amin, Nida Dar, Alia Riaz and myself.

"Bowling is our traditional strength, Anam Amin did a great job for us in the T20Is and besides her we have a number of quality spin bowling options. We also have a very capable pace attack led by Fatima Sana and Diana Baig."

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu: "The performance in the T20I series was disappointing as we failed to win a match. The ICC Women's Championship fixtures are vital for all sides so we want to put behind the T20I performances and focus on winning the ODIs. This is a new format and a fresh tournament for us so we will try to execute our plans properly as gaining maximum points is each side's aim and we will be focusing on the same.

"We have to try and play positive cricket, we have some plans and hopefully we

can execute them well in the series. It is important for us to improve as we are at number 10 in the rankings so we need to gain enough points to jump up a spot or two."

Meanwhile, the three matches will begin at 9:30am with the toss at 9:00am. PTV Sports will broadcast the matches live while the series live stream will be available on the PCB YouTube channel.

Pakistan ODI squad:

Bismah Maroof (captain), Aiman Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Gull Feroza, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wicket-keeper), Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin and Sidra Nawaz (wicketkeeper).

Sri Lanka ODI squad:

Chamari Athapaththu (captain), Achini Kulasuriya, Ama Kanchana, Anushka Sanjeevani, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Hansima Karunaratne, Hasini Perera, Inoka Ranaweera, Kavisha Dilhari, Nilakshi de Silva, Oshadhi Ranasinghe, Prasadani Weerakkody, Sachini Nisansala, and Sugandika Kumari.

Series schedule:

1 Jun - First ODI
3 Jun - Second ODI
5 Jun - Third ODI

Inter-Divisional Women's Softball Championship from June 3

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: 7th Inter-Divisional Women's Softball Championship being organized by Sindh Softball Association (SSA) will be played from June 3 to June 5 at Public School in Hyderabad. Karachi, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Benazirabad, and the host Hyderabad teams will take part in this three-day event.

Muhammad Zeeshan Merchant has been named as Chairman of the Organizing Committee for this event while Murad Hussain as Secretary; Muhammad Nasir, Director; Pervez Ahmed Shaikh as Coordinator, Shahid Aftab as Chairman Umpiring Committee, and Faraz Aijaz has appointed as Chairman Technical Committee.

Addressing the kit-unveiling ceremony for this championship, the SSA Chairman



and Metropolitan Commissioner Afzal Zaidi said that SSA wants to promote softball in every district and every city of the province so that new talent can emerge and players from each province can get due representation in the national team and can win laurel for the country at national and international level.

Softball Federal Pakistan Secretary General Asif Azeem; Combax Sports GM Zubair Macha, Fruit Nation Director Faisal Khan, SSA President Syed Waseem Hashmi, Secretary Muham-

mad Zeeshan Merchant and other office-bearers were present on the occasion.

Afzal Zaidi said that this championship will not only help promote the game at grass root level in the province, but it will create an environment of healthy competition among players at the divisional level and will promote an atmosphere of harmony and also create a spirit of brotherhood through sports.

He paid special thanks to Public School Hyderabad Principal Imran Ahmed Lark for providing the

school venue for the event and said that playing host by the reputed educational institution of Hyderabad for the women's softball event is a good augury for women's sports.

Syed Waseem Hashmi said that a coaching camp will be held in Karachi soon for those players who will qualify for this championship.

He added that in this coaching camp, qualified coaches will provide training to players and will teach them laws, rules and regulations as also the modern techniques of the game.

Boehly eyes Chelsea success after sealing takeover

LONDON: Chelsea's new owner Todd Boehly promised to build on the team's "remarkable history of success" after the American completed his takeover of the Premier League club on Monday.

Boehly's consortium agreed a deal to buy Chelsea from Roman Abramovich for £4.25 billion (\$5.3 billion) on May 7 and the sale has now been officially rubber-stamped.

"We are honoured to become the new custodians of Chelsea Football Club. We're all in, 100 percent, every minute of every match," Boehly told Chelsea's website.

Boehly's takeover ends Abramovich's 19-year reign as Chelsea owner after the Russian put the club up for sale in March.

Abramovich was sanctioned by the British government for his alleged links to Russian President Vladimir Putin following the invasion of Ukraine.

Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Boehly has set his sights on emulating Chelsea's success during the Abramovich era, which included five Premier League titles and two Champions League crowns among 19 major trophies.

"Our vision as owners is clear: we want to make the fans proud," Boehly said.

"Along with our commitment to developing the youth squad and acquiring the best talent, our plan of action is to invest in the club for the long-term and build on Chelsea's remarkable history of success."

Chelsea had been operating under a special government licence which would have expired on May 31 if Boehly had been unable to seal the purchase.

That would have put Chelsea's future in doubt, but they are now able to look forward to next season as the Boehly regime takes the keys to Stamford Bridge.

Boehly's group needed approval from the Premier League, the British government and Portuguese authorities - Abramovich has Portuguese citizenship - before the sale could be completed.

"I personally want to thank ministers and officials in the British Government, and the Premier League, for all their work in making this happen," Boehly said.

Boehly fought off 11 rival bidders to buy Chelsea in what is a record sale for a sports club.

He will "share joint control and equal governance of the club" with his main partner Clearlake Capital investment firm.

Boehly is Chelsea's controlling owner, but will work closely with Clearlake co-founders Behdad Eghbali and Jose Feliciano.

Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss and US tycoon Mark Walter are the other main members of the consortium.

"We are excited to commit the resources to continue Chelsea's leading role in English and global football, and as an engine for football talent development," Eghbali and Feliciano said in a joint statement.

"We also want to thank the authorities for all their work throughout the process.

Women squad for Commonwealth Games announced

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The chief selector of the national women's team has retained the same team that recorded their maiden T20I series clean sweep against Sri Lanka for their upcoming commitments in the United Kingdom during which they will compete in a tri-series in Ireland and Commonwealth Games in England.

The squad was finalised after deliberations amongst Asmavia Iqbal, the national women team's chief selector, head coach David Hemp and captain Bismah Maroof.

Eighteen players have been announced for the two series, which include three reserve players: Ghulam Fatima, Sadaf Shamas and Umme Hani.

Pakistan will take on T20 world champions Australia and hosts Ireland in Belfast

from 16 to 24 July and play Barbados, India and Australia in Commonwealth Games on 29, 31 July and 3 August.

Ahead of their departure to the UK on 12 July, the team will undergo an extensive training session in Islamabad at House of Northern from 1 to 11 July.

Chief Selector Asmavia Iqbal: "Following a successful series against Sri Lanka, we have decided to retain the same winning combination. Not only our senior cricketers in the side displayed great cricketing acumen also our youngsters were outstanding and have raised their hands whenever the team needed them to.

"We are delighted with the start Tuba Hassan has had to her international career and feel her leg-spin will be a potent weapon for us in the days ahead. Ayesha Naseem produced a match winning

innings in the second match of the T20Is against Sri Lanka and proved her big-hitting ability.

"The tri-series in Ireland and the Birmingham Commonwealth Games will test the abilities of our players and I have all the belief in them that they will live up to the expectations and show consistent results.

Head of Women Cricket, Tania Mallick: "I want to congratulate our team for putting up a solid and dominating display in Karachi against Sri Lanka and I am sure these girls will continue their form in the ICC Women's Championship fixtures. Our team has all the potential to do well in the United Kingdom and I wish them the very best for the tri-series and Commonwealth Games.

"I want to thank the Commonwealth Games

for accepting our request to accommodate our captain Bismah Maroof's family at the games village which will allow her to focus on the task at hand without any worries about her young infant daughter."

Squad: Bismah Maroof (captain), Aiman Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Gull Feroza (wicketkeeper), Iram Javed, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wicketkeeper), Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadia Iqbal and Tuba Hassan.

Pakistan's fixtures:
Tri-series at Belfast
16 July - v Australia
19 July - v Ireland
23 July - v Australia
24 July - v Ireland
Commonwealth Games at Birmingham
29 July - v Barbados
31 July - v India
3 August - v Australia

Mane, Salah head to Africa for AFCON qualifying

JOHANNESBURG: Premier League stars Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah head to Africa for 2023 Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers weary and disappointed after a 70-match season that ended with Liverpool's Champions League final loss.

Mane-inspired defending champions Senegal host Benin and visit Rwanda in Group L and should secure maximum points in a competition where section winners and runners-up secure tournament places.

Salah-captained Egypt begin with a home match against Guinea in Group D, then travel to Malawi to face Ethiopia, none of whose grounds meet international standards.

The first three of 46 matchday one and two qualifiers are scheduled for Wednesday and the last three for June 13.

Another Premier League star, winger Riyad Mahrez from champions Manchester City, cannot lead Algeria against Uganda and Tanzania in Group F due to an

undisclosed injury.

Barcelona forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang will be a notable absentee when Gabon tackle the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mauritania in Group I having announced his retirement from international football.

But the spotlight, as always, will be on Anfield teammates Mane and Salah, the last two winners of the African Footballer of the Year title.

According to global football-

ers' union Fifpro, both forwards made 70th appearances in the 2021-2022 season when playing for Liverpool in the 1-0 Champions League final defeat by Real Madrid last Saturday.

Fifpro believe footballers should not play more than 55 matchers in a season, warning that stars like Mane and Salah are being pushed to their physical limits.

Vincent Gouttebarge, the Fifpro chief medical officer, sent a stark message: "This kind of

working environment is conducive to the development of mental health problems."

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp is sympathetic to his African stars, saying "Mane and Salah have two weeks off a year in a physically demanding job".

Short flying distances between European countries help national team stars, but Mane, Salah and hundreds of other Africans regularly face many hours in the air, punctuated by lengthy stopovers.

FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour reaches Lahore on June 7



Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistani fans can now experience football's most coveted prize, the fifth FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola.

The trophy will arrive in Lahore on June 7, 2022 and is an extraordinary opportunity for fans to see football's most coveted prize up close, adding to the excitement and anticipation of football's largest spectacle, the FIFA World Cup™.

Sports brings communities and nations together and at Coca-Cola, we are delighted to champion this spirit of unity," said Fahad Ashraf, Vice President for Coca-Cola Pakistan Afghanistan. FIFA World Cup winner and legendary footballer Christian Karembeu will accompany the trophy, providing fans in Pakistan with an opportunity to see the most recognized symbol in football. Pakistan is one of the 51 countries that this year's FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour will visit.

Together with FIFA, Coca-Cola is aiming to visit all 211 FIFA member associations by 2030.

Asian Rugby

Pakistan to take on Thailand

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan and Thailand will play the 2nd match of Asian Rugby Championship today at Punjab Stadium Lahore.

According to the Secretary of Pakistan Rugby Union, Suleman Sheikh, the chief guest for the match will be Pakistan Rugby Union President. Pakistan need more than 6 points to qualify in Division 1. Thailand team defeated Pakistan in first match by 20-15. Earlier, Thailand team spent day in practice and also visited Emporium Mall. The Captain Pakistan Rugby Team Hamad Safdar said the players are working hard for 2nd match again Thailand and we will try to win with huge margin.



Inter Milan 'regret' Perisic departure

ROME: Inter Milan confirmed Monday the departure of wing-back Ivan Perisic, who is out of contract, while expressing "hope" that they may recruit Paulo Dybala, who has been released by Juventus. Perisic, 33, has been one of the key players for Inter this season and his extra-time double won them the Italian Cup against their bitter rivals Juventus. But the Croat has been linked with a move to Tottenham Hotspur where he would reunite with former Inter manager Antonio Conte.

"It's a regret, but he wanted experience in the Premier League," said Inter's CEO Giuseppe Marotta. "We were not in a position to be able to present him with a better offer."

Perisic, who scored eight goals and made six assists this season, was reportedly demanding six million euros (\$6.3 million) a season. Inter are keen, however, to attract the 28-year-old Argentine playmaker Dybala. "Clearly, the hope is that he can play with us," said Marotta who admitted, with a smile, that he did not yet know where the "Joya" (the "Jewel" in Spanish) will play next season.

Ferrari launch probe into Monaco strategy mess

MONTE CARLO: Ferrari on Monday launched a probe into the sequence of errors that combined to undermine their hopes of winning the Monaco Grand Prix where they held pole position and led the race.

Team boss Mattia Binotto departed the Mediterranean principality determined to ensure his team carried out an honest, transparent and positive investigation of their strategic decision-making problems.

Home hero Charles Leclerc had started the rain- and crash-hit race ahead of Ferrari team-mate Carlos Sainz and the pair led the opening laps, but a series of misjudgements and bad calls cost them on a track where overtaking is almost impossible.

As they bungled their key decisions, rivals Red Bull took control with an aggressive strategy that handed an emotional maiden Monaco victory to Mexican Sergio Perez, the third win of his career.

Messi tips Benzema for 'deserved' Ballon d'Or

BUENOS AIRES: Real Madrid's France star Karim Benzema deserves to win the Ballon d'Or, according to seven-time laureate Lionel Messi. Benzema was crucial in Madrid's Champions League victory this season, culminating with a 1-0 win over Liverpool in Paris on Saturday.

Although he did not score in the final, Benzema's back-to-back hat-tricks in the knock-out rounds, starting with a 17-minute treble against Messi's Paris Saint-Germain to overturn a 2-0 aggregate deficit, were crucial to generating the momentum that swept the Spaniards to the title.

