سول الله مثَلَاثَيْنَا لِمَنْ اللَّهُ فَيُ فَرِما يا كَهِ اللَّهُ نِي

فرمان رسول صلاله عليه

Barkat Rice Mills

Chinese companies to continue investment, operations in Pakistan

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Wednesday highly appreciated positive remarks by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on China-Pakistan relations and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying, the China would continue to support its companies in investing and operating in Pakistan to realise win-win results and shared development.



Ayaz hails role of UN for global peace, prosperity

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ayaz Sadic on Wednesday hailed the role of United Nations for maintaining said a press release. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed whereas the minister appreciated the development work done by the UN agencies in Pakistan.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziqa'ad 2, Thursday, June 2, 2022





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😂 Erdogan hails Shehbaz

PTI govt ruins projects out of political animosity: PM

Urges close coordination with Turkey on regional, int'l matters

ANKARA: President that Wednesday said that delegation of Turkish of Turkey Recep Tayy- out of political animosity, firm Siyahkalem headip Erdogan Wednesday the previous government ed by President Cengiz warmly received Prime ruined all the projects Minister Muhammad initiated by the preceding Shehbaz Sharif upon governments.. Unfortuhis arrival at the Pres- nately, a conspiracy was ment to encourage idential Complex. The hatched to discourage prime minister arrived the investment in Pakiat the Presidential stan. However, he said Complex to meet the that his government's Turkish president. On priority was to facilithe occasion, nation- tate all the investors by al anthems of the both addressing their issues. countries were played and the prime minister chief minister, he had inspected the guard of saved \$90 million from honour along with the contract signed the er, also met the prime president Erdogan.

The prime minister, in ment Company. separate meetings with

He said being the Punjab Lahore Waste Manage-

Turkish investors, said the prime minister, a investors.

Ozdemir expressed confidence in the measures taken by his governforeign investment in Pakistan. The delegation expressed its keen interest in the projects in the fields of solar, wind, hydel energy as well as housing construction. A delegation of Arcelic, led by Chief Commercial Officer Can Dincminister and appreciated his government's steps In a meeting with to facilitate the foreign

Economic convergence

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at Presidential Palace. Ankara, on Wednesday.



Torture on PTI workers

Court orders case registration against Rana Sanaullah

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: A Lahore district and sessions court on Wednesday ordered the registration of cases against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and others ing the hearing on the application

or minister and Punjab police officials under Section-166(1), 352 and 427 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

The learned judge after complet-

plans for the march.

against police torture on PTI work- announced the registration of crimers during party's recently held 'Azadi inal cases against Rana Sanaullah, March' towards Islamabad. Advocate CCPO Lahore and DIG Operations in the Lahore sessions court, seeking order was issued by Additional Sessions

registration of cases against the interi- Judge Mian Mudasar Umar. On May 25, A clash erupted between Lahore police and PTI workers marching to Islamabad for long march. Police resorted to tear gas shelling and batoncharged in an effort to disperse PTI activists. On the eve of the march, the government rounded up over 1,000 PTI leaders and workers in a crack-Haider Majeed had filed an application under Section-166, 352 and 427. The down designed to derail the party's

13.8%

Inflation hits two-year high in May

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The monthly inflation climbed to 13.76 per cent in May a two-andprevious month on the back 15.88pc in rural areas. of increasing food prices, released on Wednesday. in April, marking a 0.44pc

January 2020 when it was 14.6pc.

According to the PBS, inflation increased by a-half-year-high in the 12.36pc in urban areas and

The inflationary trend according to the Pakistan saw a 31.77pc rise in trans-Bureau of Statistics data port sector, followed by food at 17.25pc. Prices of perish-Inflation, as measured by able food items increased the Consumer Price Index by 26.37pc and non-per-(CPI), accelerated from ishable items by 15.94pc, compared to 8.83% in are now taxed by the govern-13.37pc year-on-year (YoY) according to the PBS data. 11MFY21. The CPI-based Other categories that saw a inflation rate jumped 12.4% month-on-month (MoM) double-digit increase includ- in urban areas and 15.9% in and 19% in villages and rise in May. This is the edfurnishing and household villages and towns, accord-

highest CPI inflation since equipment maintenance ing to PBS. The inflation rate (16.11pc), restaurants and hotels (15.98pc), miscellaneous goods and services (13.32pc), recreation and culture (12.28pc), cloth-

ing and footwear (11.29pc),

health (10.59pc) and alco-

(10.13pc).Cumulatively, 11MFY22 average inflation reached year-on-year

was below the market expectation of 14.3%.

An increase came on the back of three sectors — food, transport, and housing and electricity.

inflation rate holic beverages and tobacco remained in double-digit — which has eroded the people's purchasing power due to an increase in the prices of food items, which ment. The pace of food inflation surged 15.5% in cities

Budget session

President summons NA on **Monday**

Development budget likely to be reduced for FY 2022-23

Market Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has summoned the budget session of the National Assembly on June 6 (Monday), the President House said Wednesday. The session will be held at 4 pm at the Parliament House. The federal budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 will be presented in the session on June 10 (Friday). The session has been convened under Article 54(1) of the Constitution. The federal government has proposed a steep reduction in the development budget for the fiscal year

The sources say the development budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 has been proposed at Rs700 billion against the Rs900 bn allocation for the current ongoing fiscal year of 2021-22. The government has issued indicative budget ceilings to dozens of federal government divisions for the fiscal year 2022-23 along with instructions not to make any allocation for various ongoing projects due to the limited fiscal space. It has been proposed to allocate Rs50 billion for the power division in the budget of 2022-23 while a Rs120 billion allocation has been proposed for the National Highway Authority (NHA), the sources said.

PTI signals conditional return to NA

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which resigned from the National Assembly after a successful no-confidence motion against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, hinted at a conditional return to the Lower House of the Parliament. In a statement on Wednesday, former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the return of PTI to the national assembly possible only if the election date is announced. He said that the PTI is ready to go to the House and talk about the election framework if government announces election date.

He said that elections

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan cannot be held under the Election Commission nominated by Raja Riaz and the Election Commission has to be made an independent institution. He said the electoral reform bill is still pending and it can also be discussed as discussion on all these issues and dialogue and coordination between the political parties is necessary. The former information minister said that the first condition is to announce the date of general elections and on what date the assembly be dissolved, adding that if the Prime Minister announces this then everything else is possible

Pervaiz Elahi reveals MPAs' plan against police torture

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has elaborated the action plan of the members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) against police torture. Pervaiz Elahi said that the Punjab MPAs will take action against police torture and the inspector general (IG) and chief secretary will be summoned before the privilege committee to penalise them. He made the statement while talking to a lawyers' delegation led by Advocate of the Supreme Court Jahangir A Jhoia – the former president of Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA).

PM wants to promote Pak-Turkish bilateral trade: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan sincerely wanted to work with Turkish business fraternity to transform brotherhood into promoting bilateral trade, investment and culture. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb in a tweet,

quoting the PM as saying, We genuinely and sincerely want to work with Turkish business fraternity to transform our brotherhood into promoting our bilat eral trade, investment and

Foreign funding case

ECP rejects PTI's request to postpone hearing

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday rejected the request of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer to postpone hearing of foreign funding case against the party.

CEC said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will not let the case to be delayed anymore. CEC while questioning the PTI lawyer said that you promised to submit the balance sheet of the funds, adding that we are ready to hear but PTI is continuously raising questions on the funds.

ECP chief further questioned that how much time your financial expert wants to submit the balance sheet? Replying on the question, PTI adjourned the date of hearing lawyer Anwar Mansoor said till 12:30 pm on Thursday.

that the case in ECP is affecting the case of Islamabad High Court (IHC) and till the verdict of IHC, ECP must postpone the process of scrutiny. On PTI lawyer's arguments, CEC said that ECP and IHC work on different grounds and the case is already delayed which is also picturing a bad image of PTI internationally.

Anwar Mansoor said that he will let ECP know after consulting with PTI's financial expert that how much time they want to submit their reply. On which CEC said that this a work of 5 minutes and we remember your record verbally. While CEC directed the PTI lawyer to inform today that how much time they want to complete their arguments. ECP Chief

PTI to announce long march date after SC verdict: Imran Khan

Discloses reason for staying in Peshawar

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said he will announce the long march date after Supreme Court's verdict. "We have moved SC for the protection of long march," Imran Khan said while addressing the social media workers in kill 14 people in the Model Town. Rana Peshawar. The court has been asked how come 'criminals' be allowed to do shelling over the marchers, Khan said. Imran colleague. They are trying to harass the Khan said those who are facing corruppeople again. He appreciated the rule of tion cases of billions of rupees are ruling Pakistan again.

government, Imran Khan said and asked the participants to carry on the moment against the incumbent governemnt as they are participating in Jihad. Recalling the Model Town massacre, the ousted prime minister said Shehbaz Sharif and Rana Sanaullah should have been behind the bars for allegedly passing orders to Sanaullah is being held responsible for the murder of 22 people by his own party social media workers for covering the Azadi Long March and thanked fami-We will never accept this 'imported' lies for attending the march. Imran Khan

regretted that the shells that should have been used against terrorists were fired upon the peaceful marchers.

Imran Khan said that Pakistan will prosper when the alleged ruling corrupts will be defeated. The former prime minister said the date for a long march towards Islamabad will be announced after the verdict of the Supreme Court as PTI has moved to the top court for the protection of the marchers. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) has approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan against arrests and blockades during the long march led by party chairman Imran Khan and asked the apex court to provide protec-



tion against these tactics in future. The PTI in its plea asked the apex court to direct federal and provincial governments against violent measures against the peaceful marchers in future besides also issuing directives to the inspector generals of police (IGs) against the arrest of leaders and activists of the PTI.

Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan disclosed the reason for staying at Peshwar in his meeting with his social media team. The former Premier said that the government wants to house-arrest him at the Bani gala to sabotage their long march, which is why he decided to stay in Peshawar instead.

The Spokesman

Principled stance

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing during "All Parties Consultative Conference on Kashmir Issue" at Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council Secretarial in Federal Capital.



D-Chowk violence

SC seeks agencies' report on PTI's long march

Issues written verdict on a plea against govt decision to block PTI's march

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought reports from director-generals of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and IG Islamabad, interior secretary and others over the alleged involvement of PTI leaders in instigating party workers to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk in violation of Supreme Court's May 25 order.

"The AGP claims that the PTI workers and supporters moved forward to the D-Chowk area in response to the call made by their leader. Notwithstanding the said request by the AGP, we exercise restraint for the time being for a number of reasons. Firstly, Mr Imran Khan has called off the rally/public meeting. That gives a recess to the charged mob witnessed last night," the written order issued by majority members of larger bench led by Chief Justice managed to enter the Red Zone. "Which security fore, it added, that the prayer made by the learned of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial stated.

It said that prudence advises that tim perpetrators and of the instigators, if any. At this stage or arrested," the order said. therefore it is directed that the IGP ICT, the Chief

Commissioner ICT, the Secretary Ministry of Inte- within one week for perusal in chambers by the rior, the Director General Intelligence Bureau, and the Director General ISI shall file reports answering the questions," the order said.

The order asked the executive authorities to apprise as at what time did Imran Khan make the announcement for party workers to reach D-Chowk.

"When, where and how did the crowd cross the barricade to enter a hitherto closed area. Was the crowd entering the Red Zone organised or supervised or did it move randomly? Were there any acts of provocation or breach of assurance by the government? Was any action or treatment meted out by the ICT police against the protesters disproportionate to the actual or perceived wrong committed by the protesters," the court questioned.

The court also asked how many protesters arrangements, if any, were relaxed by the executive AGP in these proceedings is misconceived. authorities? Whether any security barrier cordons any event, facts and materials need to be collected to protestor/party worker reach the G-9/H-9 ground? establish the sequence of events, the identity of the How many civilians were injured, killed, hospitalised

The order said that the said reports shall be filed

members of this larger bench.

However, one member of the larger bench Justice Yahya Afridi dissented from the majority opinion by saying that there is sufficient material available to initiate a contempt proceeding against former prime minister Imran Khan over violation of the May 25 order.

"There is a need for verification of, inter alia, factual aspects of the events that occurred in order for the Court to evaluate and decide whether action for violation of assurances/undertaking given to the Court and recorded in our order dated 25.05.2022 ought to be initiated and against whom."

The court observed that the disregard of assurances and undertakings given to the court involves separate proceedings from the present one. There-

The court dismissed AGP's application. "For in for sanity to prevail among the stakeholders. "In were broken or breached by protestors? Did any pendent proceedings to be maintained, relevant and credible material must be presented to the court for it to assess whether there are valid grounds to justify appropriate action against the offending persons,

Hamza oath case

LHC seeks reply from President, Governor Punjab

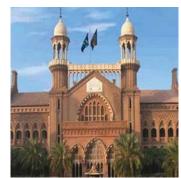
👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Larger bench of Lahore $High\,Court\,(L\bar{HC})\,sought\,reply\,from$ President and Governor Punjab in Hamza Shahbaz oath case and questioned whether the governor was bound to administer the oath taking if the election was not in accordance with the law and the speaker declared

The appeal against Hamza Shahbaz's oath as Chief Minister Punjab was heard by a larger bench headed by Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan of the

Azhar Siddique Advocate, representing 16 members of PTI Provincial Assembly, completed his arguments. The PTI counsel contended that the decision of the single bench was not in accordance with the facts and constitution.

The court remarked that the basic structure of our constitution is based ing till Thursday



on the division of powers.

The PTI lawyer took the position that if the court deems that the person on post does not play its role in accordance with the constitution on the basis of malice, it can issue an

The court directed the Chief Minister's counsel to give arguments on completion of the arguments of the PTI counsel and adjourned the hear-

Deceased 'Hajis' nominated heir to be paid Rs 01 million each as compensation

Solution Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony would pay Rs. 01 million each to the nominated heir of any deceased pilgrim of the Government Hajj Scheme and Rs.0.5 million in case of accidental disability of one limb during the Hajj in Saudi Arabia.

The said compensation policy would be regulated under Hajj Mohafiz Scheme.

According to Hajj Policy 2022, Rs.0.25 million would be paid to a pilgrim in case of his emergency evacuation from Saudi Arabia, due to genuine illness.

Ministry would continue Hajj Mohafiz Scheme for risk management under Takaful to compensate the affected Hujja or nominee of the deceased pilgrim in current year's Hajj

season. Each Haji member of Welfare Staff would be required to contribute a non-refundable amount of Rs 1,000 into the scheme. The said scheme would compensate Hujjaj/welfare staff against the

ECP will hold polls on govt's call: CEC

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Wednesday said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will hold elections whenever the government will ask for fresh elections. He said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) takes decisions fearlessly and will continue to do so. sCEC said the task of ECP is to hold unbiased polls and without census delimitations of constituencies cannot be done. He added that results of May 2021 elections were published as per the census of 2017 and ECP $\,$ started working on new delimitations of the constituencies after the results of census.

He said that everyone is our friend and it is the government who will decide when to hold elections. He further claimed that ECP works in accordance with the law and constitution. ECP Chief went on to say that special amendment was made for the 2018 elections and delimitations of constituencies. Government wants the implementation of digital census and with its results by December 2022, delimitations of constituencies can be made on time. The CEC was responding to allegations of bias against the ECP. "We don't mind if people get angry or agree with us. Everyone is our friend. The Election Commission makes decisions in accordance with the law and the Constitution," he said.

Azadi March

PTI demands UN to probe into human rights' violations

 $ISLAMABAD: The \, PTI \, on \, Wednesday \,$ demanded the United Nations (UN) to hold an "independent and impartial investigation" into the "state excesses and human rights violations" during the party's "Azadi March". The letter was written by former human rights minister Shireen Mazari to the relevant UN officials regarding the media censorship and violence during the "Azadi March" on May 24-25. In the letter, Mazari told the UN officials that Pakistan has been engulfed in a "political crisis" since the ouster of Imran Khan from the prime minister's office. She added that there has been public anger "reflected in huge rallies" after the Imran Khanled government was ousted through a "regime change scheme".



march". The UN was also told that The former human rights minister the and federal government began a also shared that the PTI government crackdown against the PTI workers was replaced by a politician who is and leaders in Sindh and Punjab that "involved in multiple money launder- were "supported by rangers". Talking were blocked, said the letter, adding ing cases and is out on bail". The letter about the raids by the government, stated that the government "backed by the former minister wrote that the the establishment" had taken "repres- government violated human rights sive measures" against the "Azadi" and "used force against unarmed and

peaceful civilians in Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad".

Rubber bullets and tear gas were used and the roads and transportation that the law enforcement agencies broke the vehicles of the party workers and attacked them and later registered several cases against them. Agencies

S Anyhow

Won't allow riot march in Islamabad: Rana Sanaullah

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said on Wednesday that the riot march will not be allowed to enter Islamabad under any circumstances as the country cannot be left at the mercy of riot groups and miscreants. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Interior Minister regarding enhancement of operational capacity of Islamabad Police and Frontier Constabulary. Home Secretary Yousuf Naseem Khokhar along with Commandant Frontier Constabulary Salahuddin Mehsud, IG Police Islamabad, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and others participated in the meeting. Rana Sanaullah said that for maintaining law and order, it has been decided to provide more financial, technical resources and legal support to Islamabad Police and Frontier Constabulary while salaries and allowances of police will be made equal to those of Punjab Police.

He said the government has decided to immediately pay the arrears of law and order as well as street crime ensuring law and order.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah chairing a meeting on the assessment of operational requirements of Islamabad Police and Frontier Constabulary, in Islamabad on Wednesday. Photo: PID

Rs 1 billion of the Police Martyrs the coverage of cameras in Islamabad Package while the Frontier Constabulary will also be provided necessary training to use it as an anti-riot force. He went on to say that for the foolproof security of the federal capital the government intends to modernize Islamabad Safe City in the style of Lahore, and to ensure for handling them professionally and

are being increased to 100 percent. The minister said the federal cabinet has strongly condemned the violence and attacks on police, Rangers and FC personnel by the miscreants of the riot march. He also paid rich tributes to the police, Rangers and FC

Govt focused on facilitating Qatari investors: Miftah

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue assures PCGA to resolve their genuine issues

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Wednesday said that Pakistan has a long-standing relationships with Qatar as present government was focused on facilitating the Qatari investors and businessmen regarding potential investment avenues in Pakistan.

Miftah Ismail expressed these views before the Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Pakistan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani, as the latter had called on him, said a press release.

The Ambassador of Qatar shared the same sentiments with the finance minister and shared that government of

projects in Pakistan.

The finance minister welcomed the investment proposal of Qatar government and assured best possible facilita-

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Wednesday assured Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) delegation to resolve their genuine issues to keep this sector vibrant and profitable for earning the foreign exchange revenue for the country.

According to the press release, the minister met with a delegation of PCGA, comprising Sohail Mahmood Harral, Qatar was interested in pursuing trade and energy related Chairman Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, Chairman



FBR and other senior officers.

The delegation shared the importance of 'white gold' in

the growth of the economy specially in the context of exports. It was shared that cotton not only has significant importance for the growth of Pakistan's textile industry but also has considerable impact on the overall export of Pakistan.

The delegation also highlighted few issues faced by this The Finance Minister appreciated the role played by this

sector in managing the Balance of Payment issue. He shared with the delegation that present government is heavily focusing on promotion of exports. APP

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Thursday, June 2, 2022

Governor Punjab urges universities to pay attention on research

Baligh-ur-Rehman seeks suggestions from universities on climate change, global warming from VCs

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has urged the universities to pay full attention to research and create awareness in the society for the betterment of the envi-

He was talking to Vice Chancellors of three universities at Governor House Lahore. Among those who called on the Governor Punjab were Vice Chancellors King Edward Medical University Khalid Masood Gondal, Vice Chancellor Punjab University Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar and Vice Chancellor National Mukhtar. Afzal was also present on the occasion. In the meeting, the Vice



expressed best wishes

Talking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman said that universities should pay special attention to research especially in the field of climate change. Governor Punjab also sought suggestions from Skills University Islamabad Prof. Dr. universities on climate change and global warming from the Vice Chancellors. He lauded the telemedicine initia-Chancellors congratulated the Gover- tive of King Edward Medical University

from the telemedicine centers.

He said that it was commendable that Pakistan was one of the five countries which had adopted an effective strategy against Corona. The Governor Punjab said that PML-N has always paid special attention to higher education and research and in its previous tenure had significantly increased the budget of the Higher Education Commission. The governor said that teachers in educational institutions should focus on moral training and character building of students as well as education.

The Governor said that King Edward Medical University is not only an ancient institution of medical educanor of Punjab on assuming office and during the Corona Outbreak and said The work that doctors and paramedics university graduates.

that thousands of people have benefited have done on the front lines during the Corona outbreak is commendable. He added that his emotional attachment to King Edward Medical University was also due to the fact that his grandfather Dr. Jameel-ur-Rehman was also a graduate of the same institution.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University Khalid Masood Gondal said that more than 100 research papers were written in King Edward during the Corona epidemic. Is coming

Vice Chancellor National Skills University Islamabad Prof. Dr. Mukhtar told Governor Punjab that technical courses are being conducted for students in National Skills University. Due to technical education, there tion but also offers quality education. are vast employment opportunities for

Naval Chief confers awards upon personnel



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Wednesday, in an impressive Investiture Ceremony held at Karachi, conferred military awards upon Pakistan Navy personnel.

The recipients of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) were Commodore Muhammad Asad Iqbal, Commodore Rehan Ali, Commodore Muhammad Ashraf, Commodore Chaudhary Haroon Ali, Commodore Muhammad Mursaleen, Commodore Abid Hussain and Captain Zeeshan Ali.

The recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) were Captain Hameed Sultan, Commander Zafar Abbas Wahla, Commander Jahanzaib Ali, Commander Muhammad Abrar Younas, Lieutenant Commander Beenish Ejaz, Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Sumair Irshad and Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Fahim.

The recipients of Tamgha-i-Basalat were Lieutenant Commander Abdul Hameed and Lieutenant Commander Arqum Naveed.

The recipients of Imtiazi Sanads were Captain Umer Hayat, Captain Kamran Jabbar, Rashid Ali INTA-IV and Muhammad Zahid İqbal

Six awards of TK(M)-I, 15 awards of TK(M)-II and 07 awards of TK(M)-III have also been conferred upon CPOs and Sailors. Letters of Commendation from Chief of the Naval Staff have been awarded to 50 Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians. Agencies

Careem, TDCP pledge to promote tourism

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP), the main wing of Punjab Tourism department aimed to promote tourism particularly in Punjab and Pakistan in general, has joined hands with Pakistan's renowned ride-hailing platform Careem. To increase the magnitude of tourism, this partnership is launching a new car type specifically for guided tours called "Safe and Secure Tourism (SST)"

In this regard, TDCP and Careem signed an agreement today at the head office of TDCP in Johar Town. According to the agreement, TDCP will train 10 Careem Captains to become certified guides for visitors to the historical and cultural city of Lahore. Additionally, Careem will also become the official partner of TDCP in mobility to facilitate local and foreign tourists visiting the country.

Talking on this occasion, Asadullah Faiz, Managing Director TDCP, said that, "Three routes have been finalized for this service initially; the first includes factual and instructive tours of Lahore Museum, National history museum, Lahore Fort, and Badshahi Masjid. The second route would facilitate the tourists to experience the visits of landmarks of Mughal Architecture like Wazir Khan Masjid, Shahi Hamam, Shalimar Gardens where they will get to see the craft work and traditional skills. The third route will take the tourists to Wahgah Border."

This collaboration will significantly promote and accelerate foreign and local visitors as it is providing a good package to know, learn and enjoy a fun-filled trip of this wonderful city", he added.
Feroz Jaleel, Country Head of Careem Pakistan, added that "This

agreement will definitely boost the scope of tourism and is intended to open new doors for tourists especially who are interested to see the culture and beautiful architecture of Lahore."

Impact on Policymaking

Public Opinion & its

ublic Opinion consists

of the desires, wants and

thinking of the majori-

ty of the people. It is the

collective opinion of the

people of a society or state on an issue

or problem. It is confused, incoher-

ent, amorphous, varying from day to

day and week to week. It is the sum

of individuals' opinions and as opin-

ion of individuals changes over time

due to various factors like experience,

knowledge, age and environment

similarly public opinion also change

with time. It must be kept in mind

that the basic distinction between

modern and earlier states lies in the

influence and effect of public opin-

ion. A modern democracy is called a

Acute Water Shortage

DERA ALLAH YAR: Children holding water canes are on their way in search of water due to the water shortage in City.



RYK sub-campus playing key role in socio-eco dev, says VC IUB

Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Engr Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob Vice Chancellor Islamia Media & Publications and Director University Bahawalpur said that Rahim Yar Khan Sub-Campus is playing an ent on the occasion. excellent role in the social and economic development of the area.

Club Rahim Yar Khan Chaudhary been registered in it and Rahim Yar Javed Iqbal, Secretary General Bilal Khan also has a significant number of Habib-ur-Rehman Sig. Razash Liaquat graduates of Islamia University Baha-

Puri Senior Journalist, Social Media walpur who want to build and develop Expert Khawaja Shoaib Al Hassan, Shehzad Ahmed Khalid Director Press Alumni Dr. Azhar Hussain were pres-

The Vice Chancellor said that thanks to the Alumni Network, alumni of the The Vice Chancellor expressed these university are being contacted across views while talking to President Press Pakistan and so far 14,000 alumni have

their mother of knowledge and want to work for it.

The Vice Chancellor said that the sub-campus of Islamia University Bahawalpur Rahim Yar Khan was established in 2005 and in 2019 there were 1000 students in this campus but today this number has increased to 6000. The number of academic programs has also been increased and about 30 programs are being taught.

Punjab Govt to give relief to masses: Jahangir Khanzada

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Chairman District Price Control Committee Attock MPA Jahangir Khanzada has said that Punjab govt wants to give maximum relief to be given to the people of Punjab and for the purpose all efforts will be made to control price hike and

illegal profiteering. Provincial Minister Former Chaudhry Sher Ali Khan, Deputy Commissioner Attock Muhammad Zulgarnain, District President PML-N Attock Saleem Shahzad, Meer Naveed Akhtar, Malik Nadeem Khan, Assistant Commissioners, President Traders Union and other officers were pres-

The participants were informed that District Price Control Committee has been reconstituted and the role of public representatives has been made important. The meeting of this committee will be held regularly to review the prices of the edibles and will be implemented as per the acts of 1958

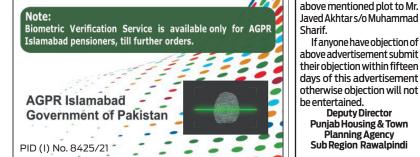




BIOMETRIC VERIFICATION SERVICE (BVS)

As 'Proof of Life' for pensioners

- 1. The Government of Pakistan has launched Biometric Verification Service (BVS) to facilitate pensioners
- netric Verification Service has established a link between the Bank
- 3. Now the pensioners shall provide proof of life after every six months through Biometric Verification on National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) system from any branch of a bank maintaining his/her pension account
- 4. However, a life certificate signed by an authorized officer is required in bank as previous practice only if he /she is unable to undergo biometric verification due to incapacitation by bodily illness, infirmity or if his fingerprints have faded due to old age or a genetic condition
- 5. To avail this facility, all pensioners are advised to contact their concerned
- 6. In case of any query, please contact concerned NADRA Centre or AGPR Islamabad on following Phone numbers Ph#: 051-9260623 / Ph#: 051 9107323 or visit website www.agpr.gov.pk



PITB, Faysal Bank sign MoÜ

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In a special ceremony held at Arfa Technology Park, Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Faysal Bank Limited (FBL)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s (1), Bano (2).

Haider Ali (3). Khalid Khan

(4). Shakeela Begum (5).

Jamila Bibi (6). Fareeda Asif

(7). Mussarat, allottees of

plot No. 293-E, Sector-4/A,

Area Development Scheme-I,

Rawalpindi executed Gener-

al Power of Attorney in the

name of Mr. Safdar Ali s/o

Abdul Waris and the same was registered in the Sub

Registrar (U-I), Rawalpin-

di No. 153/4 dated 19-01-

2022. The General Power of

attorney wish to transfer the

If anyone have objection of

Deputy Director

signed an MoU to facilitate freelancers across Pakistan. The MoU was signed by PITB DG e-Governance Sajid Latif and FBL Head CIBG Ali Wagar on behalf of their respective organizations.

investment in KP essential

Capital Office were also present during a meeting at FPCCI Capital Office.

He said development of trade **Punjab Housing & Town** industry & the promotion of Planning Agency investment in Khyber Pakh-Sub Region Rawalpindi tunkhwa, especially in Pesha-

war is very essential.

All participants agreed to take joint steps to provide facilities to the business community especially the small traders. All Participants mutually stated that the business community & Government and institutions need to work together to tion of Pakistan. The governrelief to the business community to promote trade and industrial activities. He said that government's cooperation with the private sector is essential step for strengthening and development of the Pakistan's economy.

government by public opinion. How is Public opinion formed? According to Lord Bryce there are three classes of persons who have to do with making of public opinion.

跨 Umaira Khan

First class is thinkers and public leaders. Those are people who seriously occupy themselves with public affairs and devote their lives mostly in the study and solutions of national problems and public affairs. They may be professional politicians, legislators, or journalists. Their number is always small but their importance is great. As it they who make public opinion and they know the real facts. They think out by word of mouth or pen, the arguments meant to influence the public. They use the press and other platforms to communicate their views and opinions to others.

Second class consists of those who also take interest in politics. They read the daily newspaper and political literature; listen to public speeches and to radio and TV show; use social media. They form judgments upon the facts and arguments presented to them. Their judgment corrects and modifies the views of the first class. Most of the persons of this class are not partisans. They are ready to listen to eh views and opinions of opposite parties and considers fairly both sides of the question. Due to their impartiality and non partisanship, their opinion is the public opinion at its best.

Third class includes all the remaining masses of people who are generally indifferent to public affairs, reading little and thinking less about them. They simply borrow or adopt their opinions from the other two classes or from the place or social class to which they belong. Man of this class will now and then be attracted by the personality of a leader or fascinated by a movement. They will follow a leader not because they understand his politics or performance but because they like some of his qualities or because they are sentimentally attached to his personality or movement. This group is usually very large in number. In a parliamentary democracy, it is at least as large as the electorate. This is one of the weakness of democracy as well as majority of people give their votes based on their sentiments and emotions and not on performance or policy. A clever demagogue can easily fool the majority by using emotions of public cleverly.

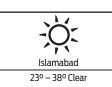
Why it important to measure public opinion? All modern governments seek to measure public opinion as they want to know the popularity of their decisions in public. Public opinion enables them to formulate their policies. Beside this, political parties want to know public opinion on various public issues so that they base their narrative on public sentiments and desires as their end goal is to get as many votes as possible in elections.

Opponents and Enemies especially from foreign governments carefully study public opinion with a view to judge and influence the chances of a revolt or revolutions. They use social media and other such sources to influence the public opinion.

Fifth generation war is a special term used for such acts. Fake social media trends are made using fake social media accounts, propaganda videos are upload on various social media accounts and many such acts are performed in order to influence public opinion. Commercial firms, corporations, banks and marketing companies study public opinion for marketing their good, and to judge consumer preferences.

Development of trade industry, promotion of Mayor Peshawar visits FPCCI Office Staff Reporter ISLAMABAD: Haji Zubair Ali, Mayor Peshawar discussed the problem being faced by the business community of Peshawar during his visit to FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice President SAARC Chamber and increase the economic condi-Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination, FPCCI ment should provide special





Namaz Timings

.. 8:54 pm **EMERGENCY**

Maghrib

EMENORIA I
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
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Women Police Stations

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Rawalpindi	9270601-20
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Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
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HOSPITALS

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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	/9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Intern	ational4603666

DEPARTMENTS

Pak's growing climate vulnerability to be raised at Stockholm +50

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman will highlight the country's rising climate vulnerability due to massive environmental degradation impacts at the international Stockholm +50 meeting to be jointly hosted by Sweden and

The Federal Minister for Climate Change was in Sweden to attend the Stockholm +50 meeting held under the theme "A healthy planet for the prosperity of all -our responsibility, our opportunity", said a news release.

The Federal Minister will attend the High Level Meeting on Climate Change at the United Nations from June 1 to June 3, 2022. Senator Sherry Rehman will present official position on behalf of the G77 and China in Stockholm +50 meeting.

Ahsan calls for boosting exports

Minister says private sector is driver of economic growth, govt would facilitate them

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning & Special Initiatives said that Pakistan needed a big jump in exports to cope with economic challenges and urged that the business community should play a role to boost exports. He said that the private sector was the driver of economic growth and the government would facilitate them in promoting business activities that would help in reviving the economy. He said that the government was working hard to turn around the economy and hoped that the rupee would stabilize after the deal with

He said this after inaugurating an Environment Expo along with Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in its premises to promote the concept of environmental sustainability and conservation. He appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing the Environment Expo, which was a good effort to highlight the environmental challenges and find out

Ms. Seeme Ezdi Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Paulo Neves Pocinho Ambassador of Portugal, Ulanbek Totuiaev Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan, Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Ismatullo Nasredin Ambassador of Tajikistan, Nguyen Tien Phong Ambassador of Vietnam, Abi oye Muhammad Bello Ambassador of Nigeria Nurlan Smagulov Deputy Head of Mission of Kazakhstan, Ms. Dil ad Senol Chief of Mission of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Pramudya Sulakfono Minister Counsellor of Indonesia, U.L. Niyaz Counsellor of Sri Lanka, also visited the Expo and took great interest in the stalls.



The students of various universities change and improve our environment. including RIPHA International, Shifa College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Fatima Jinnah, UET Taxila, Arid Agriculture, Bahria, NUML, Preston, Shifa Tameere-Millat, CUST, National Defence, COMSATS, Hitech and reputable organizations working in different areas of environment displayed their stalls in the Expo.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that as per the Global Risks Report 2020 of the World Economic Forum, the top five threats to our lives and the earth were related to the environment, therefore, it was very important to create maximum awareness about the measures in masses that would help in controlling the climate change phenomenon and improving the environment for healthy and sustainable lives. He said that the Environment Expo was organized to raise awareness about taking the initiatives that were important to reduce the effects of climate

Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps said that the first World Environment Day titled "Only One Earth" was organized in 1974 and since then, every year it was celebrated by more than 100 countries in an effort to recognize the importance of our environment. He lauded ICCI for organizing the Environment Expo to promote the concept of a clean and healthy environment.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Igbal Malik Chairman Founder Group, former Presidents ICCI including Mian Akram Farid, Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawari, Baser Daud, ICCI Executive Members, former SVP Muhammad Naveed Malik and members of business community were also present on the occasion. President ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir presented certificate to the students at the conclu-

Locals swarm utility stores

ISLAMABAD: A view of the hustle and bustle of the customers at Utility Store in Karachi Company area as they are waiting for their turn to buy grocery especially sugar and flour on subsidized prices.



Condolence reference in memory of Sajjad Kishwar held

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized a condory of veteran film and TV actor was presided over by Director in hundreds of films, TV and role easily, she added.

ipated exclusively.

Naheed Manzoor said on young artists. During his long Arts Council Waqar Ahmed theater dramas. The govern-

of Distinction in appreciation of Sajjad Kishwar work. the occasion that Sajjad had Punctuality was his specialty. lences reference in the memo- the status of an academy for Always arriving at the set on time for shooting, Sajjad Kish-Sajjad Kishwar. The reference career of 60 years, he has acted war played the most difficult

Director Arts Council Waqar Abbas in his reference said that

was one of the artists who made a name for himself in the film industry with his best performances. His role in Pakistan's famous drama Waris was also outstanding.

Sajjad Kishwar's son Masood

while Naheed Manzoor partic- ment awarded him the Medal Ahmed said that Sajjad Kishore he was more of a friend than my father. He always had a smile on his face. Sajjad Kishwar, who was seen in films and dramas with a strong temperament, was in fact a gentle temperament and a good talker. He always raised his voice for the welfare of the artists.

Health

Diabetes may weaken teeth, promote tooth decay

ISLAMABAD: People with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes are prone to tooth decay, and a new study from Rutgers may explain why: reduced strength and durability of enamel and dentin, the hard substance under enamel that gives structure to teeth.

Researchers induced Type 1 diabetes in 35 mice and used a Vickers microhardness tester to compare their teeth with those of 35 healthy controls over 28 weeks. Although the two groups started with comparable teeth, enamel grew significantly softer in the diabetic mice after

12 weeks, and the gap continued to widen throughout the study. Significant differences in dentin microhardness arose by week 28.

"We've long seen elevated rates of cavity formation and tooth loss in patients with diabetes, and we've long known that treatments such as fillings do not last as long in such



patients, but we did not know exactly why," said Mohammad Ali Saghiri, an assistant professor of restorative dentistry at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine.

The study advances a multiyear effort by Saghiri and other researchers to understand how diabetes affects dental health and to develop treatments that counter its negative impact. Previous studies have established that people with both types of diabetes have significantly elevated rates of most oral health issues, both in the teeth and the soft tissues that surround them. Saghiri and other researchers also have demonstrated that diabetes can interfere with the ongoing process of adding minerals to teeth as they wear away from normal usage.

"This is a particular focus of mine because the population of people with diabetes continues to grow rapidly," Saghiri said. "There is a great need for treatments that will allow patients to keep their teeth healthy, but it has not been a major area for research." (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Services in Education

Beaconhouse Founder honoured with SDPI's Living Legend Award



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a ceremony held at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad, Mrs. Nasreen Mahmud Kasuri, Founder and Chairperson of Beaconhouse Group, has been presented with the honorary Living Legend Award by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in recognition of her invaluable role towards the development of the education sector in Pakistan over four and a half decades.

The award ceremony was moderated by Abid Qaiyum Suleri utive Director at SDPI and hosted a panel of distinguished speakers, including Shahid Hafeez Kardar, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan and Vice-Chancellor of Beaconhouse National University (BNU); Salima Hashmi, art curator, and former Dean of the National College of Arts; Dr Feriha Peracha, Director and Supervising Psychologist at Sabaoon Project; Sartaj Aziz, former Federal Minister and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of Pakistan; Dr Ishrat Hussain, former Dean and Director Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and Chairman of the National Commission of Government Reforms; Dr Salman Shah, former Finance Minister of Pakistan and advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab and Ambassador (retired) Shafqat Kakakhel, former UN Assistant Secretary General and Chairperson of SDPI. The award ceremony was attended by prominent diplomats, media persons, and representatives from the education sector.

On behalf of the Institute, Ambassador (retd) Shafqat Kakakhel, the former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Chairperson of SDPI Board of Governors, presented the award to Mrs Kasuri at the event.

SDPI's Living Legend Award is bestowed upon those visionary individuals, who have achieved excellence in diverse fields, including sustainable development, educational and cultural advancement, and the promotion of democratic governance, justice and human rights. The selection of the award recipients is done without any political, ethnic, denominational or gender-based considerations.

Speaking at the occasion, Shafqat Kakakhel lauded the role of the living legend for introducing the quality learning system in Pakistan 46 years ago through the Beaconhouse School System. He said: "We have gathered here to pay tributes to Mrs. Nasreen Mahmud Kasuri in recognition of her outstanding and unique contributions to the promotion of high-quality education from primary up to the higher secondary and even university levels in Pakistan.

PANAH, IDF, NCRC, DAP, FTO, experts call for increasing FED on SSBs

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A pre-budget seminar "Importance of Fiscal Policies to curb Sugar Sweet Beverages" was held at a local hotel in Islamabad. The seminar was organized by Pakistan National oration with Diabetic Association of representatives, journalists and media General Secretary Panah Sanaullah Ghumman. On the occasion, Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Prof. Abdul Basit, the Finance Minister, Chairman FBR of Pakistan, Mr. Mubarak Ali Sarwar, CEO AGHAHE, National Professional ages. He said that all these organ-Aleem Nishtar, Chairperson Heart File from UNICEF, Chairperson Nation Development Organization Tehseen

Nusrat, Former Commissioner Income SSBs including Sodas, Juices, energy Tax Abdul Hameed ,Roohi Hashmi ,A drinks, flavored milk, iced teas and large number of people belonging to other sugary drinks. different schools of thought and journalists participated.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary PANAH Sanaullah Ghum-Heart Association (PANAH) in collab- man said that an increase in excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages could Pakistan. The seminar was attend- help Pakistan to fight non-communied by a large number of civil society cable diseases and keep people healthy and alive. We are thankful to the Interpersonnels. The event was hosted by national Diabetes Federation, Diabetic Association of Pakistan, National Commission on the Rights of Children, Federal Tax Ombudsman and all those who sent recommendations to General Secretary Diabetic Association and other policy makers to increase excise tax on sugar sweetened bever-Officer Nutrition, WH and Dr. Noreen izations sent letters to the Finance Minister, Chairman FBR and other Dr. Saba Amjad, Dr. Noreen Arshad policy makers during the months of April and May 2022. I urge Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Shahbaz Fawad, Vice President Panah Squad- Sharif and Finance Minister to considron Leader Ghulam Abbas, Tanveer er increasing tax on a wide range of

Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consult-

ant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that Fiscal policies have an important role in setting priorities for public health and nutrition. He said that increasing taxes on sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods is an evidence based strategy to reduce their consumption, obesity, diabetes and other NCDs. He mentioned that the World Bank has recently concluded the impact modelling of SSB tax in Pakistan. The study indicates that progressively increased excise taxes on a wide range of sugar sweetened beverages including sodas, energy drinks, juices, flavored milk and iced teas will mainly reduce diabetes in the country. The decrease in heart disease will also be significant. The study indicates that the government can collect significantly high tax for next 10 years if FED is progressively increased on SSBs. He urged Finance

Minister Mr. Miftah Ismael to consid- this realize to policy makers for adopter increasing tax on a wide range of sugar sweetened beverages.

Prof. Abdul Basit Secretary General Diabetic Association of Pakistan (DAP) said that more than 400,000 people are dying every year due to diabetes or its complications in Pakistan. Our Pakistanis spent more than 2640 million USD on diabetes during the year 2021 which is a significant threat to our economy. DAP, PANAH, WHO and other expert organizations are trying to make

ing emergency measures to curb the diabetes in the country.

He said that International Diabetes Federation's President Andrew Boulton and President Elect Dr. Akhtar Hussain sent letter during first half of the May to Finance Minister, Chairman FBR and other policy makers for increasing excise tax to minimum of 20% on all type of sugary drinks to cut down the consumption and help dealing with

said that Prof. Jamal Belkhadir, Chairman of IDF MENA region also sent recommendations to Minister Finance and other key policy makers for increasing FED on sugar sweetened beverages in Pakistan.

The civil society and health experts expressed their hope the government will increase Federal Excise duty on a wide range of sugar sweetened beverages in the upcoming budget of year 2022-23 scheduled to be presented in diabetic emergency in the country. He the national assembly on 10th of June.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman: Managing Editor:

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Bureau Chief Lahore:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Saleem Zaman Khan. (mszk786@gmail.com Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz. Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11. Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Email:

Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Afghanistan-based terrorists

new United Nations report has once again highlighted the threat posed to Pakistan by the Afghanistan-based Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the terrorist group which has conducted numerous deadly cross-border attacks and operations. TTP remains focused on long-term campaign against the Pakistani state with its several thousand fighters in Afghanistan. TTP constitutes the largest component of foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan, with their number estimated to be several thousand. TTP has arguably benefited the most of all the foreign extremist groups in Afghanistan from the Taliban takeover. It has conducted numerous attacks and operations in Pakistan. The presence of 'several thousand' TTP fighters in Afghanistan, as stated in the latest UN report, quite understandably poses a serious and credible threat from Pakistan's perspective.

On its part, Pakistan had shared a dossier with the UN Security Council, containing evidence of financial and material support provided by Indian intelligence agencies to TTP to conduct cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets. TTP was also responsible for the heinous attack against the Army Public School in Peshawar in which over 150 children were killed. Separately, quoting information provided by a Member State, the Monitoring Team report mentions the presence of defunct Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Afghanistan, something its several previous reports did not have. However, ever since becoming a member of the UN Security Council in January 2021, India has been repeatedly criticizing the UN Monitoring Team in public as well as reportedly in the closed meetings of the UN for not including specific references to these groups in the UN reports. On 14 February 2022, during a public meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), which India currently chairs, its representative publicly slammed the UN Monitoring Team on the same issue, stating that the UN reporting mechanism was plagued by political biases. While the reference to LeT and JeM in the latest report appears to be an attempt to respond to the Indian pressure and criticism, diplomatic observers say that the Monitoring Team has apparently steered clear of owing any evidence of the presence of these defunct groups in Afghanistan by ascribing the information to a certain Member State. At the same time, there is no evidence of the presence of LeT and JeM in the region. According to diplomats familiar with the work of the UN Security Council sanction committees, India's efforts to push its domestic political agenda in the technical work of the committees, including by pressurizing members of the UN Monitoring Team, is a cause of concern for many Council members, including India's close allies.

Such politicized measures, according to these diplomats, are undermining the credibility of the UN bodies, impacting their work, and diverting attention from the real terrorist threats being faced by the region. Some analysts also say that Indian tactics were part of a broader strategy to deflect increasing criticism aimed at India's atrocities, and gross violations of human rights abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIO-JK) as well as mainstreaming of Islamophobia in its political discourse. India has repeatedly used the bogey of terrorism to divert attention away from its domestic persecution of Muslims as well as state terrorism in IIOJK, it was pointed out.

Jerusalem's Arabs & Statesanctioned hate

Chris Doyle

sraeli extremists on Sunday marched through Jerusalem shouting vile chants "Death to Arabs," "A good Arab is a dead Arab," "The second Nakba is coming soon," "You will end up in refugee camps," and "May your village burn." This was one of the most blatant exhibitions of institutionalized racism in the city's history. Of course, if marchers were screaming "Death to Jews" or "Death to Blacks," we might have seen more of this in the media and condemnations from major political figures. But Arabs tend not to count. The Jerusalem Day flag march celebrates the Israeli occupation of the eastern part of the city in 1967. To the marchers, it is about Jerusalem's unification — a myth given its bitter divisions. The level of brutality Israeli forces mete out to Palestinians demonstrates this is the only way they can hold on to

Given that the 2021 version triggered the 11-day war on Gaza, one has to wonder about an Israeli coalition government that permits a repeat; allow-

alist religious Jews to march through East Jerusalem, including through the Muslim quarter of the Old City, in what was a deliberately provocative act. The Israeli police do not just stand by. A video circulated of police arresting and beating up a Palestinian girl at the Damascus Gate. Even before the march started, tensions were high. One of these charming racists at the Damascus Gate clapped his hands and shouted out in celebration, "This is not Shireen. Shireen is dead," referring to the murdered Al Jazeera Arabic journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Palestinians needed no reminding that the "voice of Palestine" would not be covering the march this year, as she had so many times before.

The march highlighted Israeli Jewish supremacy. Palestinians were forced to leave the Damascus Gate area, Israeli police checked Palestinians and only allowed residents of the Old City to enter. Of course, any Israeli Jew can go anywhere they like. They are protected, while Palestinians are punished. Israeli police beat up Palestinians, but then this is the same police force that beat up mourners at Abu Akleh's funeral just Al-Sharif, where Israeli authorities violate the status quo at will. This happened again as Palestinian Muslims were denied entry while 2,600 Jews, including Kahanist Knesset member Itamar Ben-Gvir, entered the compound and started praying, videoing themselves while doing so. The Supreme Court has confirmed this is illegal but, despite thousands of police officers being in the Old City, none of those praying got arrested. Instead, the police facilitated their entry. Palestinians protested and, once again, Israeli forces fired rubber bullets, desecrating this sacred site.

For Palestinians, fears that Israeli groups will succeed in taking effective control of Al-Aqsa Mosque are very real. They saw this happening with the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Israel is exerting greater and greater control of Al-Haram Al-Sharif, a path that will lead to confrontation with not just Palestinians but the entire Islamic world. These racists screaming their death chants may have been marching and dancing in Jerusalem, but many of them will be wielding guns later on. Many are Israeli settlers

ing thousands of ultranation- two weeks ago. Earlier in the living on occupied territory who is incredible how potent a piece day, the focus was on Al-Haram are permitted to carry weapons and are, in effect, permitted to shoot and kill Palestinians, such is the climate of impunity. Others may serve in the reserves. Who knows what this will all lead to in 2022? Last year, Hamas responded to the flag march and violations of Al-Aqsa with six rocket attacks into Israel. Israel then started its massive bombardment of Gaza, Any responsible state would arrest such racists and ensure they are never allowed to carry weapons. Israel is no such state. This is a state-sanctioned, state-protected march. The commander of the Israeli police for the Jerusalem district just stood calmly by as the extremists chanted "death

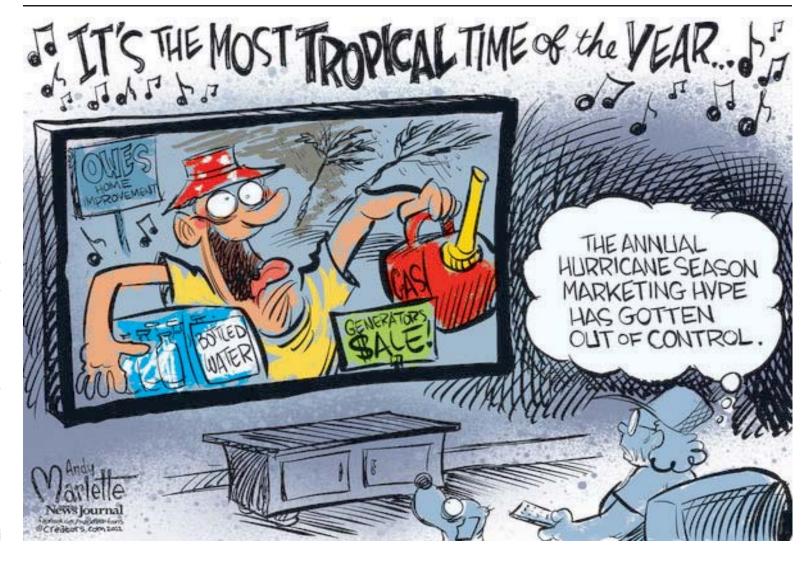
> Flag waving is part of the conflict. While Israeli ultranationalists are encouraged to march and wave Israeli flags in occupied Palestinian territory, Israeli police tear down Palestinian flags not just in East Jerusalem but elsewhere in the West Bank. The Palestinian flag is not illegal in Israel but is de facto becoming so. Elsewhere in East Jerusalem, Palestinians waving the Palestinian flag are arrested. It is the system of apartheid in action. It

of colored cloth can be. Flags can arouse emotions and reinforce dangerous nationalist and tribal tendencies. Flags are waved, flags are burned. But all this tension could have been avoided. Israeli political leaders could have forbidden the march from entering the Muslim quarter.

They could have also stuck to the status quo arrangements on Al-Haram Al-Sharif. That they did not demonstrates a recklessness that will lead to further bloodshed and increased hatred.

The international community says nothing. Genocidal anti-Arab chanting does not register any concern, let alone outrage. Anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian racism is so normalized and accepted that it does not raise an evebrow among Western politicians. Not one country has outlawed the extremist Israeli Jewish group Lehava, which orchestrates much of the racist chanting and whose flags were on display during the march. All this and more makes the international community complicit in what is going on.

The writer is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding in London. Courtesy



The Eurozone's unusual policy playbook

Jean Pisani-Ferry

he economic situation in Europe is truly disconcerting. Annual inflation in the eurozone has reached a record-high 7.4%, vet banks still lend to each other at negative rates. In April, yearon-year inflation in Estonia was a hair's breadth shy of 20%, but only 5.4% in Malta. Public debt as a share of GDP is at unprecedented levels, yet German bond yields remain significantly below their long-term average, and spreads, though rising, are still contained. Across the continent, leading economic indicators are conveving confusing messages. Governments and central bankers have been caught off guard by the sudden transition from a deflationary to an inflationary environment. The same policymakers deflation was at least as threatening as inflation now claim that we have entered an era of structural inflation.

same time. US trade protection from the EU electricity grid. and Chinese development have weakened the deflationary effect ment, but without commen-

surate offsetting investment in

renewables. Nobody knows whether these changes will prove temporary or permanent. If the US, Europe, and China simultaneously fall into recession, as Kenneth Rogoff has predicted, today's high inflation will suddenly abate. But if they do not, it may well persist. The second reason for Europe's policy confusion is that the energy-price shock exacerbates economic differences within the eurozone. Things would already be complicated even if the eurozone were a homogeneous economic area with a single fiscal policy. But domestic energy accounts for 10% of the price index in Estonia, compared to just 4% in Portugal. Moreover, reliance on natural gas (the price of which has quadrupled) is very uneven across countries. Whatever officials may proclaim, member states have a common who in September warned that energy policy on paper only. Each country has its own priorities, and Europe's energy system is in fact fragmented. Tellingly, Spain and Portugal announced in March All of that ended at about the their (temporary) withdrawal

This divergence calls for relying on tax and subsidy measures that of globalisation. A commitment help tame inflation differentials to greening the energy system and avoid the buildup of inflation has lowered fossil-fuel invest- expectations. Accordingly, high-inflation Estonia and Latvia should

aggressively rely on fiscal levers. government support schemes By contrast, France and Portugal. where inflation is lower, should keep their powder dry. This runs contrary to the usual playbook, according to which the task of controlling inflation rests with the central bank while the budgetary stance should primarily depend on the extent of fiscal sustainability risks. The third reason why European policymakers are disoriented is specific to the war: Russia's energy exports account for a large share of its revenues. Policy measures introduced by European governments to support households, such as subsidies or tax rebates, in fact indirectly finance the Kremlin's war effort. So, policymakers should consider a third objective besides income support and inflation control: the effect of domestic decisions on Russian export revenues.

As I argued in a recent paper with Blanchard, this applies especially to natural gas, because oil is a global commodity. Governments should explore ways to alleviate the financial burden of gas purchases while preserving incentives to reduce consumption. All of this suggests a radical departure from the standard policy prescription. Fiscal policy should help mitigate the de-anchoring of inflation expectations, relative fiscal efforts should be a function of relative inflation, and

should be designed in such a way that they avoid subsidising Russia's war. For such a policy mix to be implemented in today's highly uncertain environment. governments must be confident that they can take risks. Since the ECB launched quantitative easing in 2015, and even more since it initiated the pandemic emergency purchase programme (PEPP) in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 shock, eurozone governments have been protected by the central bank's de facto control of sovereign bond spreads.

True, the ECB never committed to any specific target, but it said what was needed to convince markets that speculation-driven crises would be avoided. Now that the ECB has indicated that it will stop net bond purchases, the question is whether markets will feel confident that, provided debts remain sustainable, interest-rate spreads will be contained. Since 2008, the eurozone has faced a financial crisis, a sovereign-debt crisis, and a public-health crisis. Now, with energy prices surging, it should brace for another trial: an adverse and deeply asymmetric supply shock.

The writer is holds the Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa chair at the European University Institute. Courtesy Gulf

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

he first Technology Zone to be estab- a Digital Country Partnership for cashless zones and lished is the Islamabad Technopolis – a 140-acrezone in the Chak Shehzad, Islamabad. The zone will host technology companies, advanced tech production units, R&D centers, universities and training centers, offices of science and technology support organizations, and support services.

Since the operationalization of this zone will take

the arrangements for ZE tenants in a central location in Islamabad have already been made. A 300,000 sqft tower in Blue area Islamabad will house ZEs working in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, Financial technologies, Electronics Design, Venture Capital management and deployment, amongst others. Other STZs announced include Lahore Technopolis in Lahore, Pakistan Digital City

in Haripur, and the Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IAST) in Haripur. This represents a transformative aspect where numerous S&T universities can move their R&D towards technology transfer and commercialization. Besides these five zones, over a dozen other zones are presently under consideration in

digital payment solutions for SMEs. Shorooq Partners, which is a MENAP focused venture capital firm, and STZA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with plans to have a Pakistan-specific venture capital fund to support local entrepreneurs. Through the President's initiative of engaging the USA diaspora, STZA has actively attracted enterprises from the USA. Several agreements with some time due totrunk infrastructure development, Chinese associations such as Zhongguancun Belt &

Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA) and Z-Parkhave paved the way for attracting Chinese technology companies to Pakistan. Similarly, Russian technology enterprises will be attracted via the MoU with Skolkovo Technology Park.

The above represent a watershed opportunity for the country to accelerate its scientific and technological development. As the national roll-

out of zones progresses and technology enterprises begin entering and operating from the zones, the impact of the STZA initiative will become visible. This impact will not only be restricted to one technology vertical or a particular subject, rather it will be $across\,the\,entire\,spectrum\,of$ technologies and driven by contemporary and futuristic

Concluded The writer works at the

economic needs. all provinces of Pakistan. Many of STZA's alliances and partnerships will lead to an influx of foreign tech- Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) in the nology companies. Mastercard and STZA have signed capacity of Director Research & Market Intelligence.

Dr Mohammad Ali Mohammad

Association (ZBRA) and

Z-Parkhave paved the way for

attracting Chinese technology

companies to Pakistan. Similarly,

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Skolkovo Technology Park.

Indian troops martyr 32 Kashmiris in May

 $APHC\,strongly\,condemns\,surge\,in\,Indian\,state\,terrorism$

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred 32 Kashmiris during the last month of May.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on Wednesday, of those martyred 2 youth were killed in a fake encounter. During the period, at least 26 people were injured due to the use of brute force including teargas shelling by the troops in the territory. Indian police and paramilitary personnel arrested 92 people, mostly youth, and destroyed 3 residential houses during 180 cordon and search operations in different areas of the territory.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar strongly condemned the surge in Indian state terrorism in IIOJK. He appealed to the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights situation in the occupied territory and play a role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute to save the Kashmiris from the Indian wrath.



National Conference President, Farooq Abdullah, talking to media persons in Udhampur said the killing of a woman teacher in Kulgam district has put a question mark over the claims of peace and safety of people in IIOJK by the Indian government. He said, the Kashmiris including Pandits and Muslims are being killed, but the Indian authorities are still reluctant to accept the fact and are claiming high and tall

that the peace has been achieved.

Kashmiri Pandits have threatened to undertake mass migration from the valley if the Modi-led Indian government did not relocate them to safe places. During demonstrations at various places against the killing of the woman teacher inside a school at Gopalpora in Kulgam district, yesterday, the protesters said that they were asking for temporary relocation for two to three years till

situation in the valley returns to normal. An Indian paramilitary soldier died under mysterious circumstances at District Police Lines in Pulwama district, today. A Special Police Officer of Indian police was found dead near his home in Bhaderwah area of Doda

On the other hand, Hindutva forces are now eyeing on the main Jamia Masjid in Bhopal city in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh to demolish it on the pretext that it was built on a Hindu temple. In this regard, extremist Hindu organization Sanskriti Bachao Manch has sent a memorandum to the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah demanding an archaeological survey of the historic mosque.

Meanwhile, National Conference President and Member of Indian Parliament, Farooq Abdullah has pitched for the all party meeting to discuss ways and means to put an end to the civilian killings in the occupied territory saying such issues cannot be dealt by employing paramilitary forces and police.

Turkey breaks off high-level talks with Greece

ISTANBUL: Turkey will no longer hold high-level talks with neighboring Greece, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday amid rising tensions between the traditional rivals.

Ankara resumed negotiations with Athens last year following a five-year break to address differences over a range of issues such as mineral exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and rival claims in the Aege-

"We broke off our high-level strategy council meetings with Greece," Erdogan told a meeting of his party's lawmakers in Ankara, adding: "Don't you learn any lessons from history? Don't try to dance with Turkey.'

The talks had made little headway, but were a means for the two countries to air out their grievances without resorting to a potential armed standoff as had occurred as recently as two years ago.

Erdogan's pivot on the talks appeared to have been triggered last week when he signaled his displeasure at comments made by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during a trip to the U.S.

Erdogan said Mitsotakis "no longer exists" for him after accusing the Greek leader of trying to block Turkey's acquisition of F-16 fighter

Erdogan also commented on Turkey's objection to Sweden and Finland joining NATO. Ankara has complained the Nordic states harbor terror suspects and arm a group in Syria it accuses of being an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK that has waged a 38-year insurgency inside Turkev.

"NATO is a security organization, not a support organization for terrorist organizations," he said.

The U.S. and EU have categorized

the PKK as a terror group. However, it's Syrian wing, the People's Protection Units, or YPG, has played a leading role in the U.S.-led fight against the Islamic State group.

Pak HC vows to fulfill PM's vision of economic diplomacy



Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: The High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Canada Ambassador Zaheer Aslam Janjua inaugurated the new premises of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver, official website of the Consulate General and Pakistan-Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA).

This is in line with the vision of the political leadership's focus on economic diplomacy to capitalize on the trade potential between Pakistan and Western Canada.

The High Commissioner also met and held deliberations with the community leaders with an emphasis on serving the Pakistani diaspora across Western Canada. Office bearers and members of various Associations that interacted with the High Commissioner included Pakistan Canada Association, Pakistani Canadian Cultural Association, Pakistani Canadian Women Society, Pakistan Canadian Community Association, Friends of Pakistan Canada Association and Pakistan-Western Canada Trade Association

The High Commissioner also interacted with the local media highlighting the potential of Pakistan-Canada bilateral trade and important contributions of the Pakistani diaspora based in Western Canada.

Australian Gov't includes 13 women ministers

CANBERRA: Australia's new government sworn in Wednesday includes a record 13 women, including the first female Muslim to serve in the role and the second Indigenous person named Indige-

The ceremony conducted by Governor-General David Hurley in the capital, Canberra, came 11 days after new Prime Minister Anthony Albanese led the center-left Labor Party to an election victory over the incumbent conservatives.

"Proud to lead an inclusive government that is as diverse as Australia itself," Albanese wrote on Twitter. "Welcome to all these new Labor members." Youth Minister Anne Aly is Australia's first female Muslim minister, while Industry and Science Minister Ed Husic is the first Muslim to serve in Cabinet.

Linda Burney became the first woman, and only the second Indigenous person, to serve as Indigenous Affairs minister.

Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong were sworn in early last week so they could fly to Tokyo for a summit with President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With some votes still to be counted from last month's election, the Labor Party has secured enough seats to hold an outright majority in the 150-seat House.

West promises Ukraine more arms to fend off Russia

KYIV: Western nations promised more and more advanced arms to bolster Ukraine's defense as its troops battled a grinding Russian offensive that was closing in on capturing a key city in the east.

Germany said Wednesday it will supply Ukraine with modern nti-aircraft missiles and radar systems, and the U.S. will unveil a new weapons package later in the day that will include high-tech, medium-range rocket systems.

The Kremlin spokesman told reporters Wednesday that the U.S. is "pouring fuel on the fire."

Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better equipped military — thwarting its initial efforts to take the capital and forcing Moscow to shift its focus instead to the eastern industrial Donbas region.

But as the war drags on and Russia bombards towns in its inching advance in the east, Ukraine has repeatedly pleaded for more and better weapons. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has occasionally criticized the West for moving too slowly in shipping arms - and military analysts have said Russia is hoping to overrun the Donbas before any weapons that might turn the tide arrive.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told lawmakers that the surface-toair IRIS-T SLM missiles it will send are the most modern air defense system the country has. They can operate at longer ranges than the Cold War-era anti-aircraft vehicles it has previously provided.

"With this, we will enable Ukraine to defend an entire city from Russian air attacks," he said. The radar systems Germany is sending will help Ukraine locate enemy artillery.

Scholz said Germany and the United States are coordinating their

In addition to the rocket systems it has promised, the U.S. package will include helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more, two senior administration officials said Tuesday. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the package before it is formally unveiled.

One official noted that the advanced rocket systems will give Ukrainian forces greater precision in targeting Russian assets inside Ukraine.

Moscow views the U.S. plans to supply more weapons "negatively," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday, saying the Kremlin doesn't trust Kyiv's assurances that the rocket systems will not be used to attack Russia.

SOFIA: Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria visited the Pakistan's defence stall at #Hemus2022 exhibition in Bulgaria. Ms. Mariam Aftab, Ambassador of Pakistan to Bulgaria presented a shield to the President on the occasion.

Uzbekistan's tourism industry holds significant development potential

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: The tourism industry in Uzbekistan has significant development potential. It is associated both with the presence of a large number of unique natural objects, and with a rich cultural and historical

On the territory of the country there are over 7,000 and civilizations, many of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Uzbekistan is famous for its mosques, mausoleums and structures erected on the Great Silk Road-the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean. On this road, the wealth and contact of cultures grew



and art from different eras ed in the Urgut district of the Samarkand region, 50 km southeast of the city. Khoja Chor-Chinor is an ancient plantation, this name is translated as "Four plane" place. Moreover, visitors are trees of Khoia". Chinars are trees, better known like

According to legend, it laid the foundation for this garden. Due to the fact that are many historical plac- first. Many people from

for repentance and healing. People come to Chor-Chinor with their problems to search of peace, and for a piece of the wisdom of this representatives of completely different faiths, regardless of their social status.

At first glance, this unusuwas four such trees that all park is just a hollow hidden by tree branches. Some plane trees are strik-In particular, Samarkand all the trees are very ancient, ing in their trunk diameter, is one of the most histori- it is no longer possible to and their crowns have intercal and beautiful cities in determine which of all the twined so tightly over a large Uzbekistan, where there plane trees were the very number of years that they seem inseparable. The trees es. One of which is Khoja all over Central Asia came are carefully guarded, on the

trunk of each of them there is an information plate with the indicated approximate age. There are specimens that are already more than 1000 years old, the youngest are about 600 years old. As you know, in these

holy places there were more than 100 plane trees, which increased in volume from the inside. 15-20 students were trained inside one tree. The diameter of one plane tree is 15 meters, and the height reaches up to 35 meters. Each such tree itself rots from the inside and expands in volume. In addition, new young roots sprout inside the plane trees and make up for the losses. There is another legend that once an unscrupulous person tried to get the holy Koran hanging inside the plane tree by throwing a stone at it, but at that moment an unprecedented force from the plane tree, like a hand, grabbed the stone and that same stone is still inside the tree.

China, Vanuatu reach 5-point consensus on bilateral ties

PORT VILA: China and Vanu- to work with Vanuatu to sum up atu reached a five-point consensus on bolstering bilateral ties and cooperation on international and regional affairs Wednesday after Vanuatu Prime Minister Bob Loughman and his key cabinet members met with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Wang said that his meeting with the Vanuatu side highlights the great importance the Pacific island country attaches to its relations with China and the high level of their cooperation.

China and Vanuatu have trust-40 years since they established diplomatic relations, and they have become a model for developing countries for their mutual respect, unity and consultation,

He noted that China is willing

their successful experience and plan for their relations for the next 40 years, so as to constantly inject new impetus to a China-Vanuatu community with a shared future. Loughman said Wang's visit to

Vanuatu, which he called a historic one, signaled China's commitment to advancing China-Vanuatu relations.

Vanuatu and China have given mutual trust and firm support to each other over the past 40 years since they established diplomatic ties, Loughman said.

He thanked China for its huge, ed and supported each other for long-standing assistance to Vanuatu in securing stability and sustainable development, which proved China as a true friend of

Loughman pledged to uphold the one-China principle as a political bedrock, take the joint build-

ing of Belt and Road as a guidance for their cooperation, and lift their comprehensive strategic partnership to a new level. The two sides had in-depth

exchanges on advancing bilateral ties and boosting cooperation on international and regional affairs, and reached a broad consensus.

Firstly, both countries agreed to strengthen political mutual trust, carry forward the tradition of mutual respect and treating each other as equals, and continue to staunchly support each other in safeguarding their core interests and national dignity. Secondly, both sides agreed

to uphold win-win cooperation with mutual benefits. They will synergize their development strategies, tap into cooperation potential, jointly advance high-quality construction of the Belt and Road, make full use of the development opportunities offered by China, and expand the export of Vanuatu's quality goods to China.

The two sides will develop a blue economy partnership, further explore cooperation highlights including new energy and digital economy, while furthering cooperation in traditional fields such as infrastructure. China will help Vanuatu strengthen its capacity for self-development and enhance its international competitiveness.

Thirdly, they agreed to enhance the friendship between the two peoples. Both sides will boost people-to-people exchanges, and consolidate the social and public foundation of bilateral relations.

Wang said China appreciates Vanuatu for including the Chinese language teaching in its national education system and stands ready to continue supporting the Chinese language teaching in



Vanuatu by dispatching Chinese health of its people. teachers and conducting two-way language and cultural exchanges, among others, to foster more friendly messengers of the two

China will continue to join hands with Vanuatu in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and dispatch more medical teams to help the island country protect the China-proposed Global Develop-

Fourthly, both sides agreed to deepen strategic coordination. The two sides pledged to uphold true multilateralism, forge unity in the fight against the pandemic and push forward the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Loughman spoke highly of the

ment Initiative and stands ready to be part in it. Wang welcomed Vanuatu's

support for China's Global Security Initiative, its practice of China's vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and its contribution to Fifthly, both sides agreed to

boost regional cooperation, calling for employing bilateral cooperation and the mechanism of China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting as twin engines for coordinated efforts to accelerate common development.

China's cooperation with Pacific island countries is aboveboard, open and transparent, Wang noted, adding that China will stay in unity and continue the mutual help with the island countries for moving forward together.

Thursday, June 2, 2022



Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 1	istan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close			
42,756.04	43,078.14			
Day's High	Day's Low:			
43,148.77	42,723.51			
Index Value	Change			
3,993,736,724	- 322.10			
Percentage	Time			
-0.75%	1 Jun, 2022 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
7,604.92	-2.74			
Percentage	Time			
-0.041%	1 Jun, 1:57 pm GMT+1			
HCA. Down James I	udustrial Average			

-0.041/0	GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
32,990.12	0.00	
Percentage	Time	
0.00%	31 May, 5:01 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	
27,457.89	+178.09	
Percentage	Time	
L 0 659/	1 Jun, 3:15 pm	

Open Market Forex Rates

GMT+9

+0.65%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	141.5	142.75
Bahrain Dinar	528.51	533.01
Canadian Dollar	155.5	156.85
China Yuan	24	24.25
Danish Krone	28.79	29.14
Euro	208	210
Hong Kong Dollar	25.32	25.67
Indian Rupee	2.56	2.64
Japanese Yen	1.47	1.52
Kuwaiti Dinar	650.4	655.4
Malaysian Ringgit	45.51	45.96
NewZealand \$	130.34	131.54
Norwegians Krone	21.15	21.45
Omani Riyal	516.83	521.33
Qatari Riyal	54.59	55.09
Saudi Riyal	52	52.5
Singapore Dollar	142.7	144
Swedish Korona	20.39	20.69
Swiss Franc	206.8	208.55
Thai Bhat	5.83	5.93
U.A.E Dirham	53.2	53.9
UK Pound Sterling	245	247.5
US Dollar	196.5	198.6

16th Int'l 3P Exhibition received over whelming response

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: 3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan. country's pioneer and biggest exhibition for Plastic, Printing and



Packaging industry organized by FAKT Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. concluded at Expo Centre Lahore. The exhibition was inaugurated by Irfan Iqbal Sheikh – President The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Saleem Khan Tanoli - CEO FAKT Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. and other renowned industry names.

3P Plas Print Pack Pakistan Exhibition showcased innovation in the Plastic, Printing and Packaging industry by offering a unique platform to forge partnerships and develop solutions for industrial and consumer needs. The three day mega exhibition received an overwhelming response, more than 150 companies participated from 15 countries.

Govt measures strengthening rupee

Mian Zahid Hussain says investors' confidence is being restored, and the IMF deal will be finalized

55 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and Former Provincial Minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said markets are responding positively to the government's decision to increase the price of oil.

The rupee is strengthening against the US dollar, the dollar is retreating, the stock market is stabilising while the confidence of investors

is getting better, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the appreciation of the dollar has increased the revenue by Rs200 billion which helped it to provide different subsidies to the poor.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government should not delay tough decisions as it will benefit the country.

He said that subsidy on petroleum products imports in ten months.



is not been reversed but reduced which is helping stabilise the economy while slapping a ban on in this regard in the national interest. unnecessary imports has reduced demand for the dollar.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that more import items should be banned to save foreign exchange and reduce the deficit as a country like Pakistan cannot afford to spend 65.5 billion dollars on

He said that the government should continue to squeeze imports and reject any pressure

Investors' confidence has been improving but some investors are awaiting the final outcome of negotiations with the IMF as the country needs at least 36 billion dollars in the upcoming fiscal.

He warned that the rupee will start losing its value again if reforms were delayed and it will hit the mark of Rs220 per dollar by the end of the upcoming financial year.

Productivity requires to achieve competitiveness: President ICCI

Maheed Khan

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Shakeel Muneer on Wednesday said that achieving competitiveness in the national economy is possible only through productivity and this requires a paradigm shift.

The public and private sectors in Pakistan, including the industrial sector, face many challenges in achieving productivity, which we can tackle to build a strong economy, he said.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the celebration of productivitv day in Islamabad followed by a productivity walk and an awareness talk at Headstart School (Gulmohar Campus) H-11/4, Islamabad on 1st June 2022. The participants from various fields of the society participated in the activities.

On this occasion Chief Guest Muhammad Shakeel Munir (President ICCI) appreciated the initiatives taken by the NPO, and contribution of PEIRA & Headstart School Gulmohar Campus, Islamabad in the best interest of the country. He also added that these type of activities will play a pivotal role to spread the awareness towards the concept of productivity which will subsequently enhance the productivity culture in our country resulting a globally competitive Pakistan.

While addressing the participant CEO NPO, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said that in this modern era of globalization, many developed countries are



moving towards Knowledge Based Economies (KBE) taking competitive edge by rapid improving their competitiveness and innovation capabilities through enabling environment for technological investment, human resource development, and business regulations covering good processes, procedures and systems.

CEO also said that Pakistan is also recognized globally as a high potential economy but unfortunately in past many years, the country has not been able to utilize its potential and gain competitive advantage in global and regional market. The major reasons behind country's slow growth rates of output are lack of innovation, low level of investment, technological inefficiencies and limited R&D resulting in lower productivity and non-competitiveness. These competitive weaknesses highlighted in Global Competitiveness index 2019-World Economic Forum as Pakistan

ranks 110 out of 141 countries due to low labor market efficiency (120), technology adoption (131), and higher education & training (125).

CEO also shared that the Government of Pakistan is very much committed towards improving the economic landscape of Pakistan through focusing sustainable development approaches of increasing business competitiveness, investment facilitation, value addition, export promotion and import substitution. To augment this commitment of Government of Pakistan, the role of key stakeholders i.e., Industry, Academia and Employers Federation is very important.

Productivity and quality is the only key to achieve the business excellence and competitiveness and it is the opportunity for us that we can engage our young blood to play their role in increasing productivity in their respective areas as emphasized by Ms. Zia Batool (Chairperson-PEIRA).

Arzish Azam represents Pakistan at BSV Global **Blockchain Convention**

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: After the success of Future Fest 2022 on May 13. 14, 15 in Islamabad; Arzish Azam; Pakistan's leading advocate for the Blockchain industry, was invited to represent Pakistan as a speaker at the BSV Global Blockchain Convention held at Grand Hyatt Dubai under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council-Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah.

Arzish Azam is a leading advocate for blockchain in Pakistan, and a Former Adviser to the Ministry of Science and Technology on Emerging Technologies. In collaboration with them he hosted Pakistan's first ever Blockchain Summit; Future Fest, inviting BSV Blockchain to Pakistan along with a meeting with the President, where the premier announced the call to form a National Blockchain Strategy. This led to him being invited to speak at BSV's Global Blockchain Convention.

Arzish took the stage in Dubai, explaining that as the 5th largest country in the world, Pakistan is currently housing a booming tech industry, and with a tech base as big as its current one, Pakistan cannot afford to miss out on the blockchain opportunity - especially due to Dubai which now serves stan's benefit.

as the 'crypto capital' of the

Founding President of the BSV Blockchain Jimmy Nguyen stated "Our Global BSV blockchain delegation was highly impressed by the energy and vision of Future Fest: to empower Pakistan's young generation to fulfill their and the nation's technology potential as if there are no limits upon what they can achieve. While the sentiment to support emerging industries was shared by Pakistan's Finance Minister Miftah Ismail in his keynote concluding the final session

of Future Fest on 16 May. According to some statistics, from March 2021 -2022, Pakistan alone has traded around \$18.60 billion in crypto-currency and has as many as 20 million users whereas registered investors in stock exchange are a mere

The legality of crypto trading is unclear in Pakistan, but still the crypto market has been rapidly growing. Arzish stated "There is a future for crypto everywhere and Pakistan is the same; more than 2 million people are investing in crypto and this is happening while there's no clarity on whether it's legal or illegal." In his closing remarks he reiterated that since this industry has very high public demand and can help Pakistan's economic growth, we should all figure to its geographical closeness out the way to use it for Paki-

Financial Literacy Gala

MMBL to boost financial literacy in Balochistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Ltd. (MMBL)-Pakistan's largest digital Bank, set up a financial literacy camp at the University of Balochistan. The camp was organized under the State Bank of Pakistan's National Financial Literacy Program for Youth. The gala had representatives from MMBL, SBP, RAAST, and other notable banks in attendance. MMBL strives to provide financial

knowledge and opportunities to the financially marginalized segments of society, with a prime emphasis on enhancing female participation in the financial and economic sphere. According to recent surveys, 15 million women operate mobile banking accounts in Pakistan, out of which only 3% reside in Balochistan, KPK, and Azad Kashmir combined. This shows that despite being the largest province in terms of geographical area, Balochistan is currently home to the largest unbanked population compared to other regions. MMBL aims to promote financial inclusion in this strategic province and help bridge this gap by organizing continuous financial literacy drives and providing access to convenient as well as secure digital financial products

Sharing his thoughts, Ghazanfar continue with their efforts in minimiz-



Azzam, President & CEO of MMBL, highlighted MMBL's efforts in promoting financial inclusion across the country with more concerted efforts in Balochistan going forward. He said, "MMBL operates through a unique hybrid setup with physical branches and branchless banking agents spread across the country. We are dedicated to further expanding our footprint in Balochistan and equipping our countrymen with financial knowledge, especially in underserved communities, to help them effectively manage their daily financial requirements and improve their standard of living. As an ambassador for promoting financial inclusion, MMBL and other financial institutions should

ing the huge financial gap that currently exists in Balochistan."

Through its diverse business portfolio, MMBL is expanding its outreach through the continuous introduction of innovative financial products & services to help increase the economic prosperity of Pakistanis. Events like the Financial Literacy Galas help level the playing field for underserved communities who want easy access to financial services but lack the awareness to make informed financial decisions. Through the power of digital financial services, MMBL is bridging the financial divide and promoting economic prospects with holistic and inclusive community-focused financial initiatives

SECP registers 1,906 new companies in May 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 1,906 new companies in May 2022, raising the total number of registered companies to 169,919.

This shows an increase of 19% as compared to corresponding period last year. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs3.5 billion.

Foreign investment has been reported in 51 new companies from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Korea South, Norway, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the UK and the USA.

In May, about 63 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 35 percent were registered as single member companies. Two percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). About 99.8 percent companies were registered online, while 195 foreign users were registered from overseas.

The real estate development & construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 334, trading with 282, information technology with 260, services with 172, tourism with 69, education with 65, ecommerce with 64, food & beverages, and textile with 56 each, marketing & advertisement with

FPCCI proposes KPIs for Trade Officers

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI; while welcoming the fourteen designated officers from different occupational groups posted in Overseas Pakistan Missions as Consul Generals, Ministers, Consulars and Attachés to represent trade, investment, export and import interests of Pakistan; said that FPCCI would like to provide aspects of trade and investment oppor-

tunities with respect to their country of posting. He further said that some of the officers will take charge in European Union, ECO, SCO, ICCIA-OIC, SAARC, USA and China; which are very significant for our export interests and

bilateral trade. Mr. Suleman Chawla assured the visiting overseas posted officers that we will be able to provide the officers guidance out of our practical and consolidated available inputs as how and where the trade impedes; and, what would be the solution to accelerate. Therefore, they should benefit from the inputs of private sector; for which they need to consider making communication groups

and provide the information from the country of 27 countries bloc. their posting on continuous basis; endeavoring for the possible increase in exports to their destinations of posting.

Acting FPCCI Chief further said that the foreign economic diplomacy and efficiency is important in managing the desired results and the missions; while some with peculiar situations are available as marketable destinations - which must be exploited by the designated officers in their country of posting.

He added that European Union GSP+ since 2014 needs to be retained up to 2024; and, the preferential treatment and its possible improvement through the mutually recognized positions on national standards may be a walk through for ensuring the sustainability of growth of trade

He said that EU is about a \$10 billion market; and, but only a few countries from the bloc are contributing to this figure; while EU is composed of 27 countries. Hence, the trade representatives of Pakistan must also understand as what reasons can construct the further incremental exports in

Suleman Chawla said that we can work out the weaknesses for converting into our possible strengths to increase the trade with Turkey; and, help in materializing the barter trades between Pakistan and Afghanistan by understanding the circumstances surrounding the trade conducting issues in the given geopolitical situation. He further said that we have also bilateral investment treaties with some of the countries in which the officers are being posted; therefore, the investment side can also be put to research as why we are slow in gaining the investments.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President of FPCCI, in specific informed about the slow response against the difficulties in the bilateral barter trade; and, gave examples that while other countries remain welcoming in regard of conducting bilateral trades; but, Pakistan remains full of problems from the central bank in respect of facilitating the exports. He also informed the visiting delegates that FPCCI is member of various international organizations such as CACCI, ICCIA, ECO CCI, SAARC CCI, D-8 CCI, SCO

Business Council and Commonwealth Business Council; which can be a source of providing a lot of information to the posted officers.

Talking on the occasion, Qamar uz Zaman, leading the delegation said that we are aware of the requirements of our country to be helped by all modes and means including suggestions by private sector to ensure that the targets of growth set by government are strived to be achieved with the assistance of overseas posted officers in various countries.

Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI, said that FPCCI is in process of recommending to the government that KPIs should be set for the officers being posted overseas; and, 5 percent minimum growth of exports for respective countries from Pakistan may not be a big task. He added that we also wish to recommend that exports' increase of up to 10 percent should be in the following year of the posting; and, subsequently their performance evaluation on aggregate basis should be the part history of their reports for their subsequent postings and vertical promotions. He said that since twenty years,

Pakistan is caught by 10 x 10 syndrome, i.e. 10 destinations with 10 products. He said that the visiting delegates of 14 officers posted in countries aggregate to export figure of about \$15 billion; which is approximately 45 percent of Pakistan's total exports and approximately 45 percent of Pakistan's total imports. He said that the situation of unbreakable 10 x 10 syndrome stays almost the same; which reasons for employment of hard work by the officers being posted overseas.

Commenting upon each country of the posting, he said that the representatives in Afghanistan have to bring back the trade figures to historical \$4 billion trade with Afghanistan. He also advised the officers being posted to Afghanistan to suggest the barter trade mechanism to ensure the sustainable trade; which is a challenge for the concerned officer.

On trade with Russia, he said the under the peculiar situation caught in between clarity and non-clarity of country's foreign policy, still the role of trade officer in Russia can be influencing; and, advisory to improve the mutual trade relationship between Pakistan and Russian.

№ PAK v SL, 1st ODI

Pakistan start new IWC campaign with resounding victory

Ghulam Fatima, Sidra and Bismah star in thumping win

Solution Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima produced her career-best while seasoned opener Sidra Amin and captain Bismah Maroof stroked half-centuries as Pakistan recorded a crushing eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ICC Women's Championship ODI series at the Southend Club, Karachi on Wednesday.

This was the first match in the 10-team ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 cycle, the top six sides at the end of the cycle (including the tournament hosts) will qualify for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.

Set a 170-run target, Pakistan coasted him courtesy a 143-run alliance between Sidra and Bismah - Pakistan record for the second-wicket in ODIs. The previous best was an unbeaten 133-run partnership between Javeria Khan and Nahida Khan against Ireland at Colombo in

On Wednesday afternoon, Sidra and Bismah came together after the early loss of Muneeba Ali (14), the left-hander was dismissed with the total at 28 in the 8th over. The pair produced a series



of impressive strokes while rotating the strike with great proficiency as Pakistan made light work of the paltry target.

The right-handed Sidra reached the fourth fifty of her career on the 82nd ball of her innings. Bismah registered her 16th fifty on the 84th ball of her innings. Sidra was bowled by Oshadi Ranasinghe for 76 with Pakistan mere two runs away from the target.

Sidra scored 76 off 119 balls (seven fours) while Bismah contributed 62 off 101 balls (five fours) Achini Kulasuriya and Oshadi Ranasinghe took the wickets to fall in the Pakistan innings.

Pakistan chased down the target in Omaima Sohail hit the winning run and returned unbeaten on one.

Earlier, Sri Lankan captain Chamari Friday.

Athapaththu won the toss for the fourth consecutive time on the tour and like the T20Is, decided to bat first again.

Athapaththu lost her opening partner Hasini Perera (4) to a run out with the score at seven. The left-handed Sri Lankan captain was the second wicket to fall as she perished attempting a big hit against left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal. Athapaththu scored 25.

From 96 for three in the 30th over, Sri Lanka endured a mid-innings slump as they crashed to 96 for six in a space of four balls with Ghulam Fatima accounting for two wickets off successive balls. The first two go was Prasadani Weerakkody (30 off 44 balls, three fours), Oshadhi Ranasinghe was bowled the next ball without offering a shot.

Sri Lanka only reached 169 due to a fighting unbeaten 49 off 50 balls (five fours, one six) by Kavisha Dilhari. Ghulam Fatima produced the best spell of her ODI career finishing with hugely impressive figures of 10-2-21-4.

Pacer Fatima Sana took two wickets the 42nd over with 49 balls to spare, for 24 runs while Sadia took two for 30, two Sri Lankan batters were run out.

The second ODI will be played on

₿ U-19

Women's T20 World Cup Qualification Pathway announced

DUBAI: The first ever ICC Under-19 Women's T20 ing spots, four will be deter-World Cup will take place mined by regional Qualifiin South Africa from Janu- ers, while the fifth spot has ary 2023. The qualification been automatically awarded process for the tournament to the USA on account of the begins on 3 June.

was initially set to take place under the ICC's Event Pathin 2021, was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Americas region. and rescheduled for January 2023. It will act as a offer young women across curtain-raiser for the ICC the globe a chance to show-Women's T20 World Cup, case their mettle, and will which will also be hosted by South Africa in Febru- larity of women's cricket.

Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe.

side being the only Associate The World Cup, which nation eligible to compete way Participation Criteria in

> This tournament will drive the growth and popu-

"We are thrilled to be The U19 Women's T20 able to support the devel-World Cup event will be a opment of young female

"The ICC U19 Men's main event. Cricket World Cup has

so many of the world's best male players, so we are excited to see how the inaugural U19 women's edition will drive the growth of women's cricket and improve the number of elite international playing opportunities for females at this age group in the years to come.

As many as 19 teams will battle it out for the four qualification spots across Asia, Europe, East Asia-Pacific (EAP) and Africa, with the process starting with the Asia Qualifier in Malaysia from 3 to 9 June.

16-team affair with 11 full players by holding the U19 the Asia Qualifier – Bhutan, to determine who qualimember nations – Austral- Women's T20 World Cup in Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, fies. As part of the ICC Asia ia, Bangladesh, England, South Africa on the eve of Qatar, UAE – playing 15 event legacy there will be an Ireland, New the senior event," said ICC matches, with the winner opportunity for participants Zealand, Pakistan, South Head of Events Chris Tetley. confirming a place at the to attend high-performance

Asia Regional Devel- ment.

Out of the five remain- been the stepping stone for opment Manager Aminul Islam said he was looking forward to the Qualifier in his region, and believes it will be an effective tool in identifying upcoming

> "We are embarking on a very exciting journey where we will see some of the most exciting young female talent in Asia competing in Malaysia next week," he said.

"The participating teams are all hopeful of making history by competing at the first-ever ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup, and there's no question we'll see some Six teams will compete in excellent cricket take place seminar during the tourna-

Johnson heads field for \$25m LIV Golf opener



LONDON: Former world number one Dustin Johnson will head the field for the inaugural \$25 million LIV Golf Invitational Series event in England, the new Saudibacked golf circuit said Wednesday.

The American two-time major champion said in February that he would stay loyal to the US PGA Tour, but in an apparent U-turn Johnson was one of two top-20 ranked players listed in the field for the 54-hole tournament starting on June 9.

Former British Open champion and world number 20 Louis Oosthuizen, former Masters champions Charl Schwartzel and Sergio Garcia, plus former US Open champions Graeme McDowell and Martin Kaymer are also in the field.

The US PGA Tour has refused to grant releases for its players in the LIV event, which clashes with next week's Canadian

Six-time major champion Phil Mickelson's name was absent despite previously expressing support for the money-spinning breakaway circuit.

"Dustin has been contemplating the opportunity off and on for the past couple of years," said Johnson's manager David Winkler in a statement quoted by US media.

"Ultimately, he decided it was in his and his family's best interest to pursue it."

The tournament at Centurion Club at St Albans, north of London, will have the largest purse in golf history at \$25 million, almost double that of any major, with \$4 million going to the winner.

Winkler went on to explain Johnson's apparent change of mind, a little over three months since he stated he was "committed" to the PGA Tour.

"Dustin has never had any issue with the PGA Tour and is grateful for all it has given him, but in the end felt this was too compelling to pass up."

Mickelson, who became golf's oldest major champion at last year's US PGA Championship at age 50, hasn't played since making controversial comments about LIV

Karachi to host Oman's veterans'hockey team

➢ Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui said that Oman's Veterans Hockey Team will reach in Karachi on 4th June Saturday, Oman and Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club will have three test match series at Olympian Islahuddin and Dr Mohammad Ali Shah Academy, the matches will be played in flood lights of the academy.

First match of the series will be played on Sunday night at half past seven 5th June, the second match will be played 7th may while the third on 9th June.

Two years ago, Oman's Veterans Hockey Team visited Pakistan and played three matches against Pakistan Veterans Club and Pakistan have won all the three matches with huge margin and I hope this time history will repeat again, said Islahuddin.

He said that spectators will have free admission to watch

Ali clinches Punjab Qualifying Chess title

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Syed Muhammad Ali of Gujranwala won the Punjab Qualifying Chess Championship 2022 while Nazar Hussain and Rashid Rafique of Sheikhupura bagged the second and third positions respectively.

As many as 14 top players of Punjab Chess Qualifying Championship will represent Punjab province in the National Chess Championship to be held in June.

The players who have qualified to represent Punjab team in upcoming National Chess Championship include Aqib Javed Butt (Lahore), Rashid Pervez (Sargodha), Iftikhar Ali (Gujranwala), Fauzanullah (Lahore), Shehryar Najmi (Lahore), Ali Akbar (Toba Tek Singh), Zaman Sohail (Lahore), Junaid Sohail (Lahore), Jahanzeb Sohail (Rawalpindi), Asadullah (Lahore) and Atiq Manzoor (Lahore).

More than 100 top players from all divisions participated in the Punjab Chess Qualifying Championship organized under the auspices of Sports Board Punjab and Chess Association of Punjab at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall. Some players participated in the championship through wild card entry. The top five players of the National Chess Championship to participate in the International Chess Olympiad scheduled to be staged in India in July this year.

DG Sports Punjab Javed Chohan congratulated all the winners of Punjab Qualifying Chess Championship 2022.

16-time National Champion and International Chess Master Mahmood Lodhi was the guest of honour at the closing ceremony. He distributed trophies and cash prizes among the winners and other top performers of the event.

Pulisic wants more game time at Chelsea

CINCINNATI: Christian Pulisic insists he needs more playing time at Chelsea to ensure he arrives at the World Cup in the best form possible.

Chelsea's American midfielder has failed to cement a starting slot under Thomas Tuchel at Stamford Bridge and knows he needs consistent minutes with the tournament in Qatar fast approaching.

Asked if he sees his future at the Premier League club, Pulisic stopped short of pledging his future to them but stressed he needs more time on the pitch to help Gregg Berhalter's side when the World Cup begins in November. "As far as right now, I'm obviously just focused on what I'm

doing here," Pulisic said Tuesday. "And I'm super excited to be here. And yeah, that's it. "Of course. I want to get more playing time. I want to be

on the field as much as I can and be the sharpest I can be and "And I think I still got a lot of games, but it's always some-

thing that I'm working at and trying to be regular at club level as well to put myself in the best position to be fit when I come here with the national team."

Pulisic, preparing to help the United States take on Morocco in Cincinnati on Wednesday, has fallen down the pecking order in west London and has been linked with a move away

Nadal downs Djokovic in late-night French Open epic

PARIS: Rafael Nadal edged a late-night classic against old rival Novak Djokovic in the early hours of Wednesday in four sets to reach his 15th French Open semi-final.

The 13-time Roland Garros champion won the pair's 59th career meeting 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) after a four-hour-and-12-minute quarter-final on a raucous Court Philippe Chatrier. "I'm very emotional. For me it's incredible to play here,"

"Playing against him is always an amazing challenge... To win

against Novak, there is only one way, to play your best from the first point until the last."

The 35-year-old has lost just three of his 113 matches on the Paris clay since his 2005 title-winning debut and now only trails Djokovic 30-29 in their career head-to-head.

The Spaniard, seeded fifth, remains on course for a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title after lifting this year's Australian Open, which Djokovic missed after being deported from the country over his Covid vaccination status.

Tottenham land Croatia international Perisic

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur began their squad strengthening ahead of a return to the Champions League by signing experienced Croatia international Ivan Perisic on a free transfer.

The Premier League club confirmed that the versatile 33-year-old, whose contract with Inter Milan expired at the end of the season, had signed a two-year deal. Perisic becomes manager Antonio Conte's first major close-season signing as the north London club prepare for a return to Europe's elite having finished fourth in the Premier League.

Spurs family," Perisic told the club's

"I've really wanted to come here to the Premier League since 2009 when I started in professional football in Belgium,



and I can't wait.

The move sees Perisic reunite with Conte who he played under when Inter won the Serie A title in 2020-21.

"I'm looking forward to seeing him again. He lives football, every minute, "I'm really excited to start with the every hour, every day, even when he's sleeping I think he's thinking about football. I like his character and know he's going to do a great job here."

Perisic, who can play as a left wingback or even up front, joined Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund in 2011 where he won the league and German Cup in After a move to VfL Wolfsburg he

joined Inter in 2015 for whom he played more than 200 Serie A games, scoring 49 goals. He had a season on loan with Bayern Munich in 2019-20 and won the treble of Bundesliga, Champions League and German Cup.

On his return to Inter, under Conte, Perisic won the Serie title and this season helped the club win the Coppa Italia.

Perisic will need no introduction to English fans, having scored the equaliser for Croatia in the World Cup semi-final in 2018 when England were beaten 2-1 after extra time. He also scored in the final as Croatia lost to France. Perisic has 113 caps for Croatia and has scored 32 goals.

Liverpool want apology over treatment of fans

PARIS: Liverpool chairman match, the FFF said that 110,000 supporters extra time to access Tom Werner has demanded an apology over the treatment of the club's fans after the French government blamed "massive" ticket fraud for the chaotic scenes that marred Saturday's Champions League final against Real Madrid in Paris.

and the French football federation (FFF), at a crisis meeting on Monday at the French sports ministry, estimated that 2.800 fake tickets were scanned at the final, according to a source.

The FFF weighed in further on Tuesday, releasing a statement saying that 35,000 people without tickets or with false tickets had descended on the Stade de France for the final.

Having deployed 1,650 security and ticketing staff, 25% high-

people went to the stadium "based on information collected from various public and private

The FFF concluded that around the stadium, there were "35,000 extra people in possession of counterfeit tickets or with-The demand came as UEFA out tickets" and they "caused public disorder by blocking the gates to the stadium and preventing some holders of real tickets from entering before the kickoff of the match scheduled for

The French government has faced a barrage of criticism over policing of the match, which saw thousands of Liverpool fans with tickets struggle to enter the Stade de France.

Kick-off to the match, which Real Madrid won 1-0, was er than a sold-out home France delayed by 36 minutes to allow

the stadium after being funnelled into overcrowded corridors and hit with tear gas and pepper spray from police. Werner, part of the US-based

Fenway Sports Group that owns Liverpool, said in a leaked letter sent to French Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera on Monday that he was left in "utter disbelief" at her comments about the chaos.

Oudea-Castera initially blamed Liverpool for helping to cause the mayhem, telling a French radio station that the club failed to properly organise its supporters who went to Paris.

After the crisis meeting at the sports ministry on Monday, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin defiantly insisted that ticket scams and the behaviour of Liverpool fans was to blame.

"I am writing to you today out of utter disbelief that a minister of the French government... could make a series of unproven pronouncements on a matter of such significance before a proper, formal, independent investigation process has even taken place," Werner wrote in his letter, leaked to the local Liverpool Echo newspaper.

"Your comments were irresponsible, unprofessional, and wholly disrespectful to the thousands of fans harmed physically and emotionally," the Bostonbased chairman added.

"On behalf of all the fans who experienced this nightmare I demand an apology from you, and assurance that the French Authorities and UEFA allow an independent and transparent investigation to proceed."

Oudea-Castera later said she



had not yet received any correspondence from Liverpool, but

offered up a partial apology. "We had Liverpool fans who were all above board, whose evening was ruined with some even unable to watch the match,"

"There, we clearly owe them

an apology."

European football's governing body has announced that Portuguese politician Tiago Brandao Rodrigues will head up an independent probe.

French authorities are also Oudea-Castera saying that the added.

aim was to "establish the accuracy of the facts, the volumes, traffic or no traffic, the origin of this traffic, and what happened exactly".

The chaos inevitably brought back painful memories for Liverpool, a club haunted by the 1989 Hillsborough disaster which cost the lives of 97 people in a stadium crush.

Then, as at the weekend, police initially blamed ticketless fans but they were exonerated after a lengthy legal fight.

In his letter, Werner called the events in Paris "incredibly dangerous for all who attended and urged against "a blame game strategy via press conference".

"I have received countless emails from Liverpool supporters who were frightened to death, and subject to police harassment, opening an investigation, pepper spray and tear gas," he