



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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RAWALPINDI

Govt seeks ISI's role as SVA is 'surprising': Raza Rabbani

PPP Senator Raza Rabbani says he is surprised over the federal government's decision to ask the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to act as the Special Vetting Agency (SVA) for verifying and screening all public officials before they are inducted, posted, appointed, or promoted.



Higher inflation is incompetence of the govt: Moonis Elahi

Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Moonis Elahi says sharp rise in inflation is incompetence of the government. Petrol is the most expensive in history, electricity is the most expensive in history, dollar is the most expensive in history, and gas is the most expensive in history, the fastest increase in the speed of poverty, unemployment and inflation in Pakistan's history. This is Shahbaz Speed!

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Energy Shortfall

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on resolving the issue of load-shedding and policy measures for energy conservation here on Saturday.



Photo: PID

PM to revive ruined economy: Marriyum

Says prime minister will also bring investment back to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would put the national economy, ruined by the Imran Khan led regime, back on track and also end the chaos created by the last ruler in the country. The minister, in a statement, said the former prime minister should better wait till 2023 elections, but he was afraid of Shehbaz Sharif's performance. He (Imran) knew very well that the latter through his sheer diligence and hard work would revive the economy, particularly bringing down the inflation, besides mending Pakistan's strained relations with all the countries.



in their four years misrule, were demanding accountability of the new government, she added.

PM Shehbaz Sharif would also bring back investment in Pakistan and would provide jobs to the youth, she added. Marriyum noted that as all his narratives of accountability, State of Madinah and foreign conspiracy had lost credence, Imran Khan had started criticising the performance of new government, which took charge only one and a half months ago. Ironically, the PTI leaders, who had brought economic catastrophe

The minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief should tell the people of his own incompetence, inefficiency, corruption and hypocrisy before giving lectures to them, she added. The minister recalled that since his 'container' days in 2014, Imran had been suffering from dread hallucinations because of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, and that was why he always targeted the two leaders after being brought into power.

Imran Khan was again back on the container, and was talking only about Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, she added. Marriyum reminded Imran Khan that PM Shehbaz

Power crisis

Load shedding over two hours a day 'unacceptable': PM

Says development of Pakistan is linked with progress of Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that load shedding of over two hours in not acceptable and directed to officials to take steps to end power shortage in the country. According to details, PM Shehbaz Sharif chaired an emergency meeting over load shedding in the country. The premier lashed out at officials in the meeting and said no explanation will be accepted as people are suffering due to prolonged power outages. Do whatever needs to be done to end misery of masses, he added. Chairing a meeting to address the issue of hours-long unannounced load shedding in the country, Shehbaz Sharif asked the power division officials and federal ministers to do whatever was necessary

to minimize the load shedding to two hours in a day.

Shehbaz Sharif while rejecting explanations over the load shedding duration said that the officials should minimize the miseries of the masses rather than giving explanations. "I only wanted to provide relief to the masses and will not accept the ongoing situation of load shedding," a defiant PM said and added that he would not compromise on it and will not let any minister and official rest until the situation improves. He directed the officials to work day and night to restore power supply to businesses. The prime minister also directed the finance minister to arrange all necessary resources for dealing with the issue.

PM Shehbaz on Saturday said that despite wasting billions of rupees and precious time, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government could not complete any project for resolution of water

PTI govt. miserably failed to complete any project in Gwadar: PM

and electricity issues for the locals who rendered great sacrifices for Gwadar Port. In a series of tweets, the prime minister referred to his previous day visit to Gwadar and said that he was convinced

more than ever before that development of Pakistan was linked with peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

He said the coalition government was determined to assist Balochistan by working with the provincial government and local elders to chart the way forward. The prime minister, during his visit to the area, also issued a number of directions for the completion of different projects. "During my visit to Gwadar, I witnessed how PTI government miserably failed the people of Gwadar. Despite wasting billions of rupees and precious time, it could not complete any project for resolution of water and electricity issues for the locals who gave great sacrifices for Gwadar

port," the prime minister posted in a tweet.

"The same holds true for Gwadar seaport and construction of Gwadar airport. No dredging was carried out at seaport and thus no large cargo ship can be anchored. Have ordered quick completion of Gwadar University, airport and installation of desalination plant for clean drinking water," he said in another tweet. "I am convinced more than ever before that development of Pakistan is linked with peace, stability & progress of Balochistan. The coalition govt aims to assist Balochistan by working with the provincial govt & local elders to chart the way forward," the prime minister posted in a related tweet.

Power crisis deepens as shortfall exceeds 7,000mw

LAHORE: The power crisis in Pakistan has deepened as the electricity shortfall widened to over 7,000 megawatts. According to power division sources, the demand in the country for electricity has surged to 27,200 megawatts amid the sweltering weather conditions. The duration of unannounced loadshedding nationwide also remained increased to 14 hours. "There is a nationwide power production of 20,000MW, resulting in a shortfall of 7200 MW," they added. Currently, the country is obtaining 4,635 megawatts of electricity from hydropower, 1,060 megawatts from thermal power plants and 9,677 from the IPPs, the well-placed sources said.

plants - including Tarbela and Jamshoro - due to mismanagement in the supply of furnace oil. The LESCO is also facing a shortfall of 1200 MW after its demand peaked at 5200MW as compared to a power supply of 4000MW. Lahore is facing power outages between six to eight hours.

It is learnt that three major power companies have shut down 16 power plants in Pakistan due to a non-supply of fuel. The Hub Power Company (HUBCO), Lalpir Power Limited and PakGen Power have shut down 16 power

LESCO has recommended the government close markets and malls at sundown to curb the energy crisis in the country. According to details, LESCO has recommended the government close markets early to save energy and curb the ongoing energy crisis in the country. The closure of markets at sundown would enable the company to provide 1MW of electricity for domestic use, LESCO said.

It is to be noted that the energy shortfall in the country has exceeded 7000MW which has resulted in unannounced load-shedding of 8 to 12 hours in urban and rural areas of the country.

PM's Turkey trip

IHC moved against 'misuse' of public funds on ads

ISLAMABAD: A petition has been filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for "misusing" public funds for political advertisements. The petition was filed by advocate Naseem Abbas Nasir. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PM Office, PEMRA, PID and others have been made respondents in the plea. The petitioner cited PM Shehbaz's recent widely-advertised visit to Turkey and contended that Shehbaz Sharif government was squandering money on newspaper advertisements. He pleaded with the court to direct the government to deposit the expenses incurred on the exchequer back to the treasury within 55 days.

Budget 2022-23

Govt sets PSDP outlay at Rs800b: Ahsan

Says GDP growth has been set at 5%

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said the size of the federal development budget under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) has been set at Rs 800 billion for the upcoming fiscal year 2022-23. He said the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth target for the upcoming fiscal year has been fixed at 5% while in the previous year it was 4.8%. Briefing media here after chairing the meeting of the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC), Ahsan Iqbal said the growth numbers in the current fiscal year were nothing to do with the targets because the target was set as per the old base year, however, the re-basing jacked up the growth to 6%.

Ahsan Iqbal said out of the total outlay, Rs 100 billion would be utilized through the Private Public



Partnership (PPP). He said the meeting reviewed the recommendation for the development budget 2022-23 presented by various concerned stakeholders of the federal as well as provincial governments. "Under the feedback of those recommendations, we will present the proposals for the federal PSDP 2022-23 with a total outlay of Rs 800 billion to the National Economic Council (NEC) on June 07, 2022", he added. This year, preparing the PSDP was a very challenging task because, for the first time in 75 years, no releases were

made in the last quarter of the fiscal year 2021-22 due to the non-availability of funds in the national kitty.

Due to this, he said the government's portfolio was badly affected and for the next fiscal year, the minister could manage Rs 700 billion. He said when the PML-N left the government in 2017-18, the federal PSDP size was Rs 1000 billion, however, despite a lapse of five years, the budget cut halved to only Rs 500 billion in the year 2021-22. "We were expecting that keeping in view the country's increasing requirements, the PSDP would have increased up to Rs 2 trillion", he added. He said the next year's development budget strategy had been kept prudent to make the budget as per the country's needs. He said this year, the government was going to allocate 90% of funds for the ongoing schemes while new schemes would get only 10% of the total size.

Phase-wise

Govt to accept resignations of PTI MNAs

ISLAMABAD: The PML-N-led govt has agreed to issue phase-wise approval of resignations tendered by PTI MNAs. According to details, the ruling coalition has formulated a strategy on the issue of the resignation of the PTI MNAs. The government coalition has agreed to accept phase-wise resignations of the PTI lawmakers. Sources said that formal action is likely to be taken on the issue of resignations from June 6 and attempts are underway to convince 25 to 30 PTI MNAs to take back their resignations.

Sources said that three PTI members former federal ministers including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and Shireen Mazari had announced their resignations on the floor of the NA, therefore, their resignations will be accepted.

PTI leaders granted interim bails

Asad says PML-N approaching courts to delay elections

ISLAMABAD: District and sessions court Islamabad on Saturday granted interim bails to former federal minister Asad Umar and other PTI leaders in a vandalism case during Azadi Long March towards the federal government. PTI leaders Asad Umar, Sadaqat Abbasi, Raja Khurram and Ali Awan appeared before the district and sessions court of judge Kamran Basharat Mufi. The court while approving interim bails of Asad Umar, Sadaqat Abbasi and other PTI leaders directed them to submit surety bonds of Rs5000 each. The further hearing of the case was adjourned until June 20.

It is to be noted that several PTI leaders including former prime minister Imran Khan, Asad Umar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and others had been booked by

police in various FIRs related to Azadi March. Former federal minister and PTI general secretary Asad Umar said that segments within PML-N have realized that their politics is in danger after a recent hike in prices of fuel, gas and electricity. Speaking to the media at Islamabad Katchery, Asad Umar said that after the realization, the PML-N is approaching courts to halt local bodies and general elections in the country.

"Our party has not witnessed mobilization that it went through last two months and despite the police crackdown, the party workers stood their ground during the long march," he said. He also lauded the legal fraternity for standing alongside the PTI in testing times and said that all of them are ready for real independence soon.

Audit Report

ISLAMABAD: Auditor General of Pakistan, Muhamamd Ajmal Gondal, presenting the Annual Report on the Accounts of Federal Government (Civil) to President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Saturday.



Photo: Online

NAB, Election (amendment)

President returns bills to PM for reconsideration

Says bills passed in haste and without due diligence.

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Saturday returned National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Election (amendment) Bills to the Prime Minister for reconsideration. Refusing to approve the bills, the President directed the federal government to review the NAB and Election Amendment Bills. The President has returned the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill to the Prime Minister while observing that Article 46 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan had been violated as he was not informed about this legislative proposal before bringing the bill to the parliament.

It is pertinent to mention that the President's approval is required for the implementation of both laws. However, after the President's decision, the government will present the two bills in a joint sitting

of Parliament. The federal government will introduce bills under Article 75 of the Constitution. It may be recalled that the Parliament had recently abolished electronic voting machine (EVM) and overseas voting under the Election Amendment Bill 2022 while reducing the powers of NAB through the NAB Amendment Bill.

The Article 46 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides that "the Prime Minister shall keep the President informed on all legislative proposals the Federal Government intends to bring before Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)" President's Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release on Saturday. President Alvi said the legislation having far-reaching impact on the society should have been discussed in details in consultation with the legal

fraternity and civil society. While dilating on the proposed amendments, the president said that by this amendment the burden of proof has been shifted to the persecution

President Alvi contests that Article 46 was violated

which has made NAB Law similar to (CrPC) 1898.

This, he said, would make it impossible for the prosecution to prove cases of corruption and misuse of official authority by the state persons and would bury the process of accountability in Pakistan.

He emphasized the amendment would make the tracing money trail for the acquisition of illegal assets almost

impossible especially when the records of the property/assets/wealth were neither digitized nor could be traced especially in Benami properties by the investigators. He said that if the amendments were enacted as proposed, the ongoing mega corruption cases in the courts would be rendered infructuous, therefore, the proposed amendment which should have strengthened the accountability mechanism to eliminate corruption and political engineering to ensure good governance in the country had been rendered a toothless entity.

On the election amendment bill, Dr Alvi noted that overseas Pakistanis have been deprived of voting rights despite commitments made to them by different prime ministers and presidents during their overseas trips since the 1990s. "As a result of

constant pursuance by them, the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2018 upheld its earlier decision of 2014 on the voting rights of overseas Pakistanis and reiterated that with improving technology, efforts should be made to allow them to vote from outside of Pakistan," said the president.

The president also shared that the Supreme Court had expressed its regret about the system not being used despite its judgment in 2014. "Objections on the possibility of hacking the I-voting have no ground as the amount of digital financial transactions taking place are to the tune of approximately \$5 trillion daily which has been increasing to almost \$8.5 trillion every day. The probability of a plane crash is thousands of times higher than the probability of hacking of a digital transaction today," said the president.

Austerity

Punjab cancels ministers' fuel quota: Ata

LAHORE: Punjab Government spokesperson Ata Tarar on Saturday announced that provincial government has cancelled fuel quota for its ministers. Talking to media persons here, Attaullah Tarar said that all ministers will buy petrol themselves for their cars even for official use. He further said that Punjab government has also decided to strictly monitor border of the province to curb smuggling of wheat. He added that Punjab has achieved procurement target of 5 million tons of wheat and vowed that other federating units which are facing shortage of wheat will be helped.

The PML-N leader also said that provincial government will announce different subsidies and a massive relief package for the people in upcoming budget. Criticizing previous government, Ata Tarar said that



Imran Khan bankrupted the country while public's money was spent lavishly on residence of former CM Punjab Usman Buzdar. He added that Imran Khan is hiding in Peshawar and he is so scared of an arrest that he rushed to provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa right after abruptly ending his long march. The Punjab minister claimed that KP government is spending millions on security of Imran Khan.

Court orders action against Shehbaz, Hamza, Rana

LAHORE: The Session Court Lahore on Saturday directed Data Darbar police station to take action as per law in hearing of the case registered against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, DIG Operations Sohail Chaudhry, SP Waqar Azeem and others. Additional Sessions Judge Shahbaz Uhd Khaga heard the petition filed by Afzaal Azeem Advocate.

The lawyers as petitioners testified that on May 25, they boarded buses to participate in the peaceful Azadi March in Islamabad and reached near Data Darbar. While police had blocked the road with containers and cement blocks and Police raided our

buses, they said. The petition alleged that the windows of the buses were broken by the police officials and the men and women lawyers were dragged off the buses and dragged on the roads, adding that mobiles, cash and valuables were also snatched away and peaceful lawyers were tortured.

It was further added by the petitioners that dozens of lawyers were abducted. The court should order to register a case against more than 600 police personnel, they appealed. On this, the court directed the SP City Investigation to record the statement of the petitioner, along with directing the concerned Data Darbar police to take action as per law.

Gas closure

Textile mills shut down in Punjab

LAHORE: Textile mills across Punjab province have been shut down amid closure of gas supply to the industries, a day after it emerged that medium and large scale industries have been shut down in the province following the disconnection of power supplies to them. According to sources, the gas shortage was created owing to a delay in the purchase of imported LNG. "It may take multiple days for the restoration of the gas supply," they said. bA spokesman for the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) confirmed that gas supplied to captive power plants of the textile mills has been suspended. "Once the LNG cargo reaches port and connected to the system, the gas shortage will be overcome," he said.

Former Energy Minister and PTI leader Hammad Azhar on Friday said that the government has cut the electricity of industrial units as the country faced hours-long loadshedding after the power shortfall peaked at 7,000 MW. Azhar said that the government has disconnected power supply to medium

and large scale industries. "This will bring a wave of unemployment in the country and will cause a shortage of commodities and ultimately ruin the economy," he said.

Another PTI leader Shahbaz Gill seconded Hammad Azhar and said that industrial power connections given to industry under B3 and B4 categories have been disconnected for an indefinite period. A day earlier, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has approved hiking gas prices for Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) consumers by up to 45 per cent. After jacking up the prices of electricity and petroleum products, the federal government has decided to increase the gas price.

The authority okayed jacking up the gas rate for SNGPL consumers up to 45 per cent and 44 per cent for SSGC consumers. The gas price for SNGPL was increased up to Rs266.58 per mmBtu, fixing the per mmBtu rate at Rs854.52. The new price per mmBtu gas for SSGC consumers was fixed at Rs1007 with an increase of Rs308.53.

Money laundering case

Court extends Shehbaz, Hamza's interim bail

LAHORE: A special court in Lahore extended on Saturday the interim bail of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz till June 11 in the Rs16 billion money laundering case filed against them by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). However, the presiding judge of the Special Court (Central-D), Ijaz Hassan Awan, issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Suleman Shahbaz, and two others in the case, as they were not present. The hearing was subsequently adjourned till June 11.

At the outset of the hearing today, the FIA told the

court that the agency wanted to arrest PM Shehbaz and CM Hamza. The FIA's lawyer argued that the duo was "not part of the investigation"; however, Hamza's counsel rejected the claims, accusing the agency of misleading the court as the "two had been a part of the investigations". In his arguments, the counsel for Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz, Mohammad Amjad Pervaiz said that the investigation has been going on for the last one-and-a-half year and the FIA has been unable to produce any evidence against his clients.

As Amjad Pervaiz started

presenting his arguments for the confirmation of bail in the money laundering case, both the PML-N leaders left the court.

The counsel highlighted that the FIA interrogated the father-son duo when both of them were in jail.

The judge ordered all other stakeholders to present their arguments at the next hearing; directing FIA to present a report on the non-bailable warrants against Suleman Shahbaz, Tahir Naqvi and Malik Maqsood.

Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has sought court's permission to arrest Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister of Punjab Hamza Shahbaz in money laundering case. According to details, PM Shehbaz and CM Hamza appeared before the special court hearing Rs16 billion money laundering case against them. Counsel of the PML-N leaders opposed FIA plea and argued the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government had filed the case with mala fide intent to target political opponents.

Hamza's counsel argued that there is no rationale behind seeking arrest after challan has been submitted and this move shows mala

fide intentions of the prosecutor. FIA has also submitted a supplementary challan against PM Shehbaz, CM Hamza and others in money laundering case.

During the previous hearing, the court had directed the FIA to correct the addresses and the fathers' names of the accused persons and submit a supplementary challan. It is pertinent to mention here that father's names of Salman Shehbaz, Tahir Naqvi were not mentioned while address of Maqsood Malik was incorrect in the previous challan submitted by the FIA in the court.

Economy sinking fast since Shehbaz came to power: Imran

Reiterates call for fair, transparent election

UPPER DIR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday while addressing a public rally in Upper Dir said that Pakistan's economy is sinking fast since Shehbaz Sharif came to power and global institutes have downgraded Pakistan's ranking.

Taking a dig at incumbent government, Imran Khan said that we will not accept the imported government, adding that he wanted Pakistani youth to stand up for their rights. Israel, U.S. and India helped current rulers to oust the PTI government, he added.

Addressing a public gathering here PTI Chairman further said Shehbaz Sharif himself looking very nervous and there is a strange fear on his face and current rulers came to power under conspiracy and now they should take responsibility, adding that instead of taking serious measures they are doing irrelevant things. The former PM while expressing anger over economy crisis said the rupee is downgrading constantly which will cause serious threats to national security while in just two months, coalition government crushed the people. PTI Chief said the IMF had also



pressured his government to increase fuel and electricity prices by Rs10 but he had instead decreased them by Rs10 per litre and Rs4 per unit, respectively. "I will live and die in Pakistan," Imran

Khan said. "The only way out of this crisis is clean and transparent election and Pakistan is ready for elections, the future of Pakistan will be decided by its people not by any other coun-

try. The government should be formed with the opinion of the people, no government should be imposed from outside," Imran Khan said. Imran Khan said the PTI government increased the average income of the people of Pakistan while being in power despite crunch economic conditions. Imran Khan said the PTI government was working hard to control increasing inflation and rejected the demands of IMF to increase fuel and electricity prices. Sadly the 'imported govt' has bowed down before the IMF and increased fuel, electricity and gas prices on its demand.

Governor assures of taking up matter of tax on agri seeds with PM

Baligh Ur Rehman says it will help boost agriculture production in province

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman Saturday said that he will take up the matter of withdrawal of 17 percent sale tax on agriculture seeds with Prime Minister and Federal Finance Minister to help boost agriculture production in the province for meeting ever increasing food staple needs of growing population.



The Governor said that good quality hi tech hybrid seed always play a key role in enhancing the agriculture production manifolds.

He held this categorical assurance to a delegation of Pakistan Hi-Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) led by its chairman Shahzad Ali Malik, which called on him here on Saturday.

He said the use of high quality

seeds is one of the most important elements in any farming system as well as a cornerstone of any successful agriculture program.

He said this element has become more crucial than ever for providing enough food security for the rising number of population in the world which is expected to exceed nine billion by year 2050, he added.

Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman who himself has a background as a progressive agriculturist said quality seed is the fundamental element in crop production which not only

doubles and triples the yield but also decreases cost of production considerably besides preventing spread of weeds, diseases and pests.

Shahzad Ali Malik while briefing the governor said in view of importance of quality seed in agriculture sector the government must withdraw unjustified ST without loss of time to avoid shifting of its burden on poor people besides fully protecting planned Chinese investment on "China Hybrid Agriculture Model and Transfer of Technology" under phase II of CPEC. Agencies

PM AfK visits Jhelum valley, inaugurates small industry unit

Bureau Report

JHELUM VALLEY: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan during his day long visit to Jhelum valley inaugurated a small industry unit at Budhyara and inspected water rafting site at Kahow Walla Bagh here on Saturday.

After inauguration, the PM visited different sections of the industry and assured his government's full support to the industry owner. While inspecting the water rafting site at Kahow Walla Bagh, the prime minister was given a detailed briefing about the scope of the white-water rafting, canoeing, boating, angling and other water-sports opportunities in the area.

Earlier, on his arrival the Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan was accorded a warm welcome by the residents of the Jhelum valley. The jubilant PTI workers danced to the drum and Dhol beats and showered rose petals on the PM.

Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan on the occasion thanked the people of Jhelum Valley for their historic reception. The PM also received a rousing welcome from people at Saran. On the occasion, the people of the area presented their demands to the PM regarding the Kohala Hydropower Project.

At Nadol, former candidate Asif Iqbal Mughal along with the workers gave a hearty welcome and chanted slogans in favour of the prime minister.

Unjust distribution of wheat

Flour mills boycott official quota in protest

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK/RAWALPINDI: The flour crisis looms large over cities of Taxila, Rawalpindi and Islamabad as the flour millers have announced to boycott the official wheat quota to register their protest against unjust distribution of wheat to the flour millers.

A meeting of The Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) Punjab chapter which was held on Saturday announced that the over two dozen flour millers have unanimously decided to not to buy the official wheat from the Punjab food department after the newly introduced wheat quota policy by the Rawalpindi district administration.

The share of the rural population has been completely ignored in the policy, they observed. They were of the view that the share of flour products in grinding has been altered illogically. They further alleged that the food department officials rather tried to create a division among the millers "only to conceal their incompetence and follies" and demands that Punjab Chief Minister should take notice of the situation.

They were of the view that to accommodate the favorite flour mills of Rawalpindi, the wheat daily quota of flour mills of twin cities of Taxila and Wah, many of which depend on the official wheat quota for their operations, was slashed which would affect the wheat supply in the area. Therefore, they said, it has been decided that flour mills will not lift the official wheat quota from Saturday which would lead to imminent shortage of the commodity. The association warned that they could extend the boycott to the entire province if the issue was not resolved.

Vice Chairman PFMA Punjab chapter Atif Nadeem Mirza has claimed that population has been made the basis for the distribution mechanism which is against the ground realities. He was of the view that being a stakeholder they should have been not taken into confidence in policy formulation. He said that the PFMA had already informed the government about the prevailing scenario and suggested possible measures to check the increasing price of flour in the market.

Kh Asif lays foundation-stone of waste water treatment plant

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khwaja Muhammad Asif laid the foundation-stone of a waste water treatment plant under the Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Programme (PICIIIP).

The plant would be constructed on 239-acre land with Rs 1,830 million and completed in two years. Sewerage water of North Zone of Sialkot city would be treated and used for farming. 68.23 cusecs waste water could be treated on a daily basis.

Members of National Assembly (MNAs) Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Nousheen Iftikhar, Ali Zahid, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Muhammad Mansha-Ullah Butt, Chaudhry Arshad Warraich, Rana Liaquat, Rana Arif Iqbal Harmah, Rana Abdul Sattar, Deputy Commissioner Maisam Abbas, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Finance) Syeda Amina Maududi, Deputy Director Development Abdul Rauf, Project Director Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Programme Hamid Mehmood Malhi, former mayor Tauheed Akhtar, former deputy mayor Chaudhry Bashir and officials of relevant departments were also present. APP

New Sindh Police Chief orders to improve performance

KARACHI: Newly appointed Inspector General of Police Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon Saturday chaired a high level meeting with senior police officers at Saleem Wahidi Auditorium, Clifton.



The IGP Sindh briefed the Additional IGP Karachi, all DIGPs and SSPs in detail about his policy and priorities and gave further necessary orders.

He directed that the operational and investigative matters and measures should be made effective through a joint strategy. Sindh Police Chief especially ordered to improve the performance of the investigation department and ensure liaison with the prosecutors in this regard.

Ghulam Nabi Memon Sindh said analysing the types of criminal activities, time of crimes etc. an anti-crime strategy and other measures including patrolling should be further improved and solidified.

IGP Sindh said controlling law and order, protection of life and property of citizens was one of the main job descriptions. Any negligence or carelessness in this regard will not be tolerated at all, he warned.

He further said Sindh Police Department "I have no capacity and such officers will not be given any important responsibility in future. Agencies

Federal Shariah Court bench inaugurates in Sukkur

SUKKUR: The Federal Shariah Court on Saturday has set up its bench in the Sindh High Court Sukkur building for the convenience of the people of Sukkur and Larkana divisions.

While inaugurating the building, acting Chief Justice of Federal Shariah Court Justice Syed Mohammad Anwar said the establishment of Federal Shariah Court in Sukkur would facilitate the people of Sukkur and Larkana region.

He said that people would not have to go to Karachi and Islamabad for Shariah and Hudood cases.

So that the cases regarding Shariah and Hudood can be transferred to these benches and the pressure on the High Courts can be lessened. Agencies

Threat to Marine Ecosystems

KARACHI: A view of the fishing boats anchored on heap of garbage and plastic bags at the harbour in Provincial Capital causing environmental pollution, for which World Environment Day commemorates annually on 05 June by United Nations around the world since 1972 to take positive environmental actions for protecting nature, and the planet Earth.



Photo: Online

Collaborative climate solutions stressed to reduce carbon footprint

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Collaborative and transformative climate solutions to measure and curb carbon emissions were stressed during a workshop hosted for the representatives of Pakistan's leading export companies at the Soorty Green Factory in Korangi. The day-long workshop was aimed at building capacity of the participants to measure their greenhouse gas emissions as well as share knowledge and expertise on carbon accounting.

The workshop held by Net Zero Pakistan and Soorty Enterprises was conducted by renowned technical trainer and Group Head EHS at Soorty Enterprises, Mustafa Ahmad.

Mustafa Ahmad, while emphasising the importance of the workshop stated, "First and most important step is to measure our impact and emission measurement can be a complicated process. It involves developing a greenhouse emissions inventory and calculating the carbon footprint at every level of production starting from raw materials to shipping them to outlets. Such workshops are crucial because they enable our industries to collaborate and learn from their peers which is essential for a growing economy heavily dependent on supply chains that are vulnerable to climate change."

The workshop is a part of NZP's ongoing efforts to enable its 22



member companies from various sectors of Pakistan to attain net zero emissions by 2050. The coalition is establishing a roadmap and framework for reporting and reducing carbon emissions effectively.

Launched by Pakistan Environment Trust (PET) in 2021, the Net Zero Pakistan coalition is the first regional coalition from Global South to be recognised under UN's Race to Zero campaign.

The coalition serves as a national collaboration between companies, public institutions, and sectoral experts and aims to mobilise USD 1

billion towards decarbonisation 100+ companies from all sectors in Pakistan by the end of this year.

Talha Khan, Executive Director PET, finds this initiative heartening for Pakistan's future: "Climate change is perhaps the biggest challenge we are facing right now. No community or business venture can overcome this alone, but if we all can come together to share our knowledge and expertise, only then we can tackle this effectively. Everyone must come together to find solutions and we are glad that the sustainability managers of Pakistan's leading export companies doing so."

Heat wave conditions likely to continue: PMD

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Saturday warned about another heat wave in coming four to five days which will grip most parts of the country.

The day temperatures are likely to remain unusually high in most parts of the country during the next few days.

Day temperatures in Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Sindh and Eastern Balochistan are expected to rise significantly above normal.

Occasional dust storm or dust raising winds may also occur in the afternoon or evening during the period.

The heat wave is likely to be followed by the rain spell in upper and central parts of the country.

About the possible impacts of the heat wave, the met office said dry period and heat wave conditions in the country may cause water stress to the standing crops, vegetable and orchards. The met office advised the general public not to venture in the direct sunlight and adopt precautions to avoid heatstroke. All concerned authorities have been particularly advised to remain alert during the forecast period.

Railways taking several steps for trains punctuality: CEO

LAHORE: The Pakistan Railways (PR) is continuously taking several steps to improve trains punctuality.

This was said by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Pakistan Railways Farrukh Taumir Ghilzai while talking to the railway workers and common citizens in Facebook live open court (Khuli Kachehri) on Saturday.

He informed that 90 percent and 87 percent trains were running according to the schedule in April and May respectively.

He said that the passengers safety was the first priority of the administration while the PR was trying to provide best facilities to its passengers within the provided resources.

Discussing the comments posted by the public, Ghilzai said that every comment was reviewed minutely by the experts and implementable suggestions were approved while concerned officers were directed to resolve the complaints.

Media sensitized on Pakistan's water security challenges

PESHAWAR: The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan celebrated World Environment Day by organizing a media workshop from Journalists belonging from print and electronic media who were sensitized on Pakistan's water security challenges and need to protect the most vulnerable segment of society from water scarcity.

According to a press release issued here on Saturday, World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June to raise awareness for the conservation of planet earth.

The theme for this year's World Environment Day is 'Only One Earth' to call for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative Pakistan and Regional Representative Central Asia, IWMI gave a presentation on the prevailing water crisis in Pakistan and how it is taking toll on remote communities.

According to him, "Pakistan's population is increasing at 2.4% annually, which is the highest in South Asia and is adding pressure on

water resources.

Similarly, the agriculture sector receives 90% of water share and water demand from agriculture and other sectors is also increasing. This is further compounded by the fact that Pakistan is among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.

"Our increasing dependence on the Indus River for our water requirements has also made us vulnerable to climatic shocks," he added.

Having a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus approach is critical to rural livelihoods,

food and nutrition security and economies, Mohsin stressed.

He also shared the salient features of the new research for development program "NEXUS Gains for the Indus Basin: Realizing Multiple Benefits Across Water, Energy, Food and Ecosystems (Forests, Biodiversity)" which is currently being implemented across Pakistan, Ethiopia, India, and Nepal, and aims to realize gains across water, energy, food and ecosystems with a focus on forests and biodiversity for the ecosystem component. Agencies

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:16 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	5:05 pm
Maghrib	7:15 pm
Isha	8:57 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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Railway Exchange	9270831-5
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CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
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Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

NDMA issues heatwave alert

High temperature would be followed by storms as well as dust winds in afternoon or evening

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Saturday issued a heatwave alert for the Federal capital and provincial authorities concerned to take preventive measures in view of the met office's warning of extreme temperature increase in the upcoming five days.

According to Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) prediction on weather conditions, the daytime temperature in most of the country is likely to increase from Sunday 05 June to Thursday 09 June 2022, said a news release here received.

As per PMD forecast, heatwave conditions would prevail in Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Sindh and Eastern Balochistan in the coming week owing to significant rise in temper-



Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs or DDMAs) have also been instructed to coordinate with relevant departments for mitigation and immediate response to any disastrous conditions.

Moreover, PMD has forecasted that high temperature would be followed by storms as well as dust winds in afternoon or evening. "Consequently, week-long heatwave condition may lead to water stress on reservoirs, standing crops and vegetation", it underscored.

In the light of above, the NDMA has directed relevant departments to ensure necessary preventive measures.

Provincial and District Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs or DDMAs) have also been instructed to coordinate with relevant departments for mitigation and immediate response to any disastrous conditions.

It also exhorted that the general public was also advised to avoid unnecessary exposure to the sunlight.

The met office in its forecast mentioned that the day temperatures were likely to remain unusually high in most parts of the country during next 04 to 05 days. "Day temperatures in Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Sindh and Eastern Balochistan are expected to rise significantly above normal", it said.

However, it further mentioned that occasional dust storm or dust raising winds might also occur in afternoon or evening during the period.

Promoting Arts

ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking keen interest in paintings during exhibition "Contemporaneous" at Khaas gallery in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

52 beggars arrested during crackdown

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police, in its crackdowns on professional beggars, arrested 52 beggars to discourage the menace of begging and avoid the risk of road accidents.

On the directives of the In-charge Anti-Beggars Squad, the city police along with their respective teams, took action against the professional beggars and detained them in different police stations in the city, said the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson.

On the occasion, SSP Operations Waseem Riaz said the special anti-beggar squad was working hard to curtail the increasing number of professional beggars.

"The professional beggars stand on various highways and squares of the city and not only affect the flow of traffic but also increase the risk of accidents. Therefore, the public is also requested to not serve alms, as discouraging such factors will not only improve the society but also the traffic flow", he said. Agencies

Role of women vital in progress of society: President IIUI

Closing ceremony of spring gala held at IIUI

ISLAMABAD: The closing and prize distribution ceremony of the Spring Gala 2022 was held here at the female campus (FC) of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) that was graced by the President, IIUI Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi. The mega event was organized by the Directorate of Students Affairs, DSA Female Campus of the university.

The gala witnessed dozens of competitions between 9 faculties and around 50 departments. These events of sports and co-curricular activities included cricket, athletics, tug of war, badminton, volleyball, futsal, basketball, Hifz, naat, quiz, bait bazi, essay writing, photography



and making, flower arrangement and entrepreneurial gala, business activity competitions, Debate in essay writing in English, Urdu and Arabic, flower arrangements, calligraphy & painting competitions, video & photography competitions and web development competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hathal motivated the

female students to remain active in the co-curricular and extracurricular activities. He said the role of women is vital in the progress of any society. He said that talented students especially females shall be provided maximum opportunities to excel. He congratulated the female campus management on organizing a successful event and assured of

every possible support for the youth. He said such events are the richest sources of healthy life. The IIU President opined that education and the role of women can lead to the solution of the leading problems of society. He said that sports galas are an omen of women empowerment and also a symbol of confidence.

In her speech, Vice President female campus, Dr. Samina Malik praised the students saying that the confidence they showed in gala shall remain with them throughout their lives. She advised them to focus on learning the knowledge, art of argument and mastering the trait of confidence to win the society.

Experts call for enhancing tobacco taxes

SPRC holds High Level Policy Dialogue

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Introduction of Sin Tax Reform Law in 2012 in Philippine resulted in three million less smokers in 2015 with biggest decline in poorest households and with incremental ear marking the country's health budget tripled in 2019 from 27PhP to 93PhP with significant increase from PhP32bn to 106bn in tobacco tax revenues, reiterated by Dr. Zafar Mirza at High Level Policy Dialogue organized by Social Protection Resource Centre (SPRC) Islamabad on Saturday.

SPRC is a think tank dedicated to the universalization of social protection in Pakistan. This dialogue brought together senior policymakers and opinion leaders from Government, FBR, Tax experts, National Institute of Health, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Health Services Academy, PIDE, Public Health, CTFK Partners and civil society and media representatives. Consensus was developed on practical and doable recommendations to balance the revenue, employment, and health consider-



ations in case of taxation on cigarettes. Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) set the scene by quoting the recent 'Tobacco Fact Sheet 2022 for Pakistan' which analyzed and argued that since FED on cigarettes has not increased since July 2019, adjusting for inflation and income, cigarettes have become more affordable today. The sheet, he said, has also 'made a

budget proposal to increase FED from Rs33 to Rs42.9 on inexpensive cigarettes and from Rs104 to Rs135.2 on the high price tier'. He quoted that 615 billion rupees are health costs of smoking related diseases while tax collected from industry in last year is only 134 billion rupees. He added that it is imperative to enhance tobacco taxes since more than 60% of our population is under 25 years of age and it is

necessary to preserve their health and productivity for the future.

Former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on health, Dr. Zafar Mirza Key note speaker, reminded the participants that, smoking rates are going up in Pakistan, most disturbingly among children and women. He showed his concern over the progress and legitimacy of tobacco industry. He highlighted about positive achievements like ban on advertisement is implemented effectively but on taxation side from 45% to 70% benchmark there is still a big gap which needs to be filled at once and Now, why Now because this is the time when the Government can use cigarette tax enhancement in their negotiations with the IMF, in view of our fiscal problems. He added that analyses show that increasing tobacco prices by 10% decreases tobacco consumption by about 5%.

Former Tax Commissioner, Jehanzeb Mahmood highlighted the need of a robust Track and trace system to monitor the supply chain of the Tobacco industry.

Health Corner

Height may be risk factor for multiple health conditions

ISLAMABAD: A large genetic study by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' Million Veteran Program (MVP) has found that a person's height may affect their risk for several common health conditions in adulthood. Significant findings include a link between height and lower risk of coronary heart disease, and a link between height and higher risk for peripheral neuropathy and circulatory disorders.

Dr. Sridharan Raghavan from the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, who led the study, described the results as "a significant contribution to understanding how height is related to clinical conditions from an epidemiologic perspective." More research is needed before the findings might lead to changes in clinical care, says Raghavan. However, the results highlight the association between height and clinical conditions that impact the lives of Veterans, he explains. "The broad scope of our study yielded a catalog of clinical conditions associated with genetically predicted height. In other words, these are conditions for which height might be a risk factor, or protective factor, irrespective of other environmental conditions that also could impact height and health."

Height is not typically considered a risk factor for diseases. But past research has shown correlations between how tall someone is and their likelihood of experiencing a number of health conditions. What isn't well understood is whether this correlation has a biological basis or is due to other factors.

How tall someone grows to be as an adult is partly due to genes inherited from their parents. But environmental factors like nutrition, socioeconomic status, and demographics (for example, age or gender) also play a part in determining eventual height. This is why determining a connection between height and disease risk can be difficult.

To explore this connection, VA researchers looked at genetic and medical data from more than 280,000 Veterans enrolled in MVP. They compared these data to a list of 3,290 genetic variants associated with height from a recent genome analysis.

They found that risk levels of 127 different medical conditions can be linked to genetically predicted height in white patients. Since Black patients are less well-represented in genetic studies, fewer data are available on this population. But in this analysis, the medical traits associated with height were generally consistent across Black and white patients. About 21% of Veterans in the MVP study were Black. At least 48 of the links identified in white patients also held true for Black patients. All of the most significant findings — height being linked to lower risk of coronary heart disease and higher risk of atrial fibrillation, peripheral neuropathy, and circulatory disorders — were found in both Black and white participants, according to the researchers.

Overall, genetically predicted height was linked to both lower and higher disease risk, depending on the condition. Being tall appears to protect people from cardiovascular problems. The study linked being taller to lower risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and coronary heart disease. But risk of atrial fibrillation was higher in taller participants. These connections have been shown before in previous research.

Conversely, being tall may increase the risk of the majority of non-cardiovascular conditions considered in the study. This was especially true of peripheral neuropathy and circulatory disorders involving the veins. Peripheral neuropathy is damage to the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord, particularly in the limbs. Prior studies have linked height with slower nerve conduction and nerve problems. The MVP study confirms this link using genetic tools to suggest a higher risk of nerve problems in tall people.

The researchers linked genetically predicted height to conditions such as erectile dysfunction and urinary retention, both of which are associated with neuropathy. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



Enhance crop production

PARC working on new breeding technologies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Chairman Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali here Saturday said that the council had started work on new breeding technologies including speed cloning, speed breeding, genomic selection and genomic editing for enhancement of crop production for achieving food safety and security in the country.

The PARC in collaboration with China have developed Green Super Rice (GSR), which would be a harbinger of economic prosperity as it indicating the yield potential 80 to 120 mound per acre and grain length of 8.6mm, said Chairman PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali.

He said that using latest technique of genome based breeding, NIGAB scientists, in collaboration with China, have developed these GSR lines that would help to enhance per-acre output as well as exports.

Dr Ali said that banana varieties of PARC like NIGAB-I & NIGAB-2 with higher productivity and shelf life were also developed, adding that these varieties would help in enhancing the income of local farmers, adding that National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) of PARC has also started producing virus-free potato tubers locally that would help in saving foreign exchange of the country, besides increasing the output. APP

Iqra University: Ph.D. defense of Iram Batool on 10 June

ISLAMABAD: Ph. D. Public Defense of Ph.D. Scholar, Ms. Iram Batool, Registration No.123861, Department of Business Administration, Iqra University, Islamabad Campus, Sector H-9.

The title of her thesis is: "Corporate Governance Bundles and Corporate Tax Avoidance: A Test of Bundling Hypothesis" scheduled on Friday, 10 June, 2022 at 03:00 pm. Ms. Iram Batool completed her Ph.D. dissertation under supervision of Dr. S.M. Younus Jafri. PR

Abdul Qadir Patel to inaugurate immunization drive on June 6

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel will inaugurate a special immunization campaign being commenced in the entire district from June 6 to 14, at District Health Authority Office Khayaban, Sir Syed Hospital on Monday.



District Surveillance Coordinator Dr Waqar Ahmed told APP that during the campaign, the vaccination included in the Extended Programme on Immunization (EPI) would be given to infants, while Tetanus Toxoid (TT) injections would be administered to pregnant women.

He added that children from 18 months to five years old would also be vaccinated with DTP, adding that all arrangements had been finalized, while training of medical officers at the union council level had also been completed.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) is a disease prevention activity aimed at reducing illness, disability and mortality from childhood diseases.

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Compassion & Fatigue

Russia-Ukraine war at 100 days

Andrew Mitrovica

Doctors call it "compassion fatigue". It can be the inevitable cost of devoting a career to caring for patients, of tending to their pain – physical and emotional – of trying to relieve suffering.

After some time, the potent impulse to help subsides. Empathy wanes, too, replaced by a measure of powerlessness, a numbness, a detachment, and a divide between healer and patient.

It has not taken years, but only 100 days for compassion fatigue to begin, I sense, to creep into how people outside Ukraine feel about what is still happening to people inside Ukraine. You may have sensed this as well. The outrage and gloom that once were so acute have dulled into resignation. A war that once seemed so close has become, in many ways, distant. The once enthusiastic expressions of solidarity have evaporated in favour of the routine, often mundane, aspects of life.

Even the brave dissidents in Moscow and beyond have been silenced by the thug-in-residence-at-the-Kremlin's goons disguised as police. The shock

of Vladimir Putin's brutal, inhumane blitzkrieg invasion no longer shocks. The war has slowly drifted from the forefront of minds and hearts; overtaken by other convulsions of violence against innocents in other places. Meanwhile, spring has arrived in parts of the world, gardens require care and the warm, inviting air outside and away from television screens beckon. Putin can see what others see: Compassion fatigue is indeed setting in.

It may be working. Lately, Russia's military has scored some big strategic successes, particularly in eastern Ukraine. Zelensky admitted on Thursday that Putin's army has seized control of at least 20 percent of Ukrainian territory with other chunks poised to fall into the occupier's grasp soon. It appears, as a result, that the on-the-ground "narrative" has shifted. Stories exposing the Russian campaign's early troubles, debacles and blatant incompetence have largely disappeared. The military momentum is with Russia. The numbers are on its side. More troops. More weapons. More bombing. It all translates into more wins and determination. And despite the silly, contrived speculation that Putin is gravely ill and that disenchanted oligarchs – miffed at the impact

of Western bans and embargos on their yachts, travel plans and pocketbooks – are conspiring to depose their patron and enabler, Russia's Borg-like leader remains at the helm, in control, secure, and as intransigent and vicious as ever.

Russia seems to have not only absorbed, but rebuffed what were touted to be "crippling" sanctions that were supposed to punish Putin and company into retreat. For the moment, a country familiar with deprivation and inconvenience has, yet again, adapted to deprivation and inconvenience. So far, most Russians appear content not only to tolerate the irritating consequences of Putin's hegemonic ambitions in Ukraine but are eager to see them through. The yearned-for-in-the-West popular uprising is as distant and cockeyed today as it was when the invasion was launched on February 24. While Putin no doubt welcomes the metatasing onset of compassion fatigue, Zelensky has to fear it. He knows that complacency and forgetting are the enemies of victory. If he and Ukraine are to prevail, then Ukraine's president understands that he must say and do what he can to convince others to do what they can to prevent fatigue from morphing into complacency and forgetting.

That would be disastrous. Zelensky's tone and demeanour have changed. There have been the usual displays of steady calm and stirring defiance. Still, recently, his urgent pleas for aid from abroad have been tinged with exasperation, tipping, on occasion, towards desperation. Zelensky's frantic demands for more resolve, more sanctions, more weapons are evidence that after having blunted Russia's advance, Ukraine is not only losing on the battlefield, but also, drip by drip, the notice of people outside Ukraine that it needs to beat back the invaders. While presidents and prime ministers have vowed to remain by his side – undeterred by the mounting costs or sacrifices – the politician in Zelensky, not the resistance leader, appreciates how fickle politicians can be.

The escalating tit-for-tat economic war being waged between Russia and the presidents and prime ministers wanting to bring it to heel, has made life decidedly more expensive in Europe and North America. Gas and food prices have ballooned, fuelling inflation rates that have hurt a lot of people outside Ukraine who, for the most part, want to help people inside Ukraine. How long that dynamic can be sustained politically by presidents and prime ministers

who have to respond to domestic hardship and pressures while fulfilling their foreign "commitments" is a question that Zelensky and his government have to heed. On this score, time may not be Zelensky's friend. The looming fact that Zelensky and Ukrainians confront is that the longer the war goes on without a definitive outcome, the more likely that people outside Ukraine will lose interest in the fate of people inside Ukraine.

The other undeniable phenomenon that Zelensky and Ukrainians confront that compounds compassion fatigue is war fatigue. However noble and just Ukraine's fight is, people across a scarred and dejected globe are weary of war. Weary of hearing about it. Weary of watching it. Weary of being told about the necessity of it. Weary of being weary of war. Zelensky is battling on two fronts: at home, where he faces a regrouped, if not resurgent, Russian military and abroad, where he faces dwindling attention to the fight at home. Now, more than ever, Zelensky must sustain, if possible, his extraordinary will, strength, stamina and imagination to marshal a nation to do the impossible: Defeat Putin.

The writer is Toronto based columnist. Courtesy Al Jazeera



Society & Family-Friendly Policies

Sara Al Mulla

Traditional family structures are witnessing an unprecedented transformation worldwide. The image of the nuclear family consisting of a married couple with children is quickly vanishing. Instead, it is becoming more common to meet divorced parents, single-parent households, multicultural marriages, and widowers, families who live apart due to migration, adopted children, and elderly people living alone. Indeed, demographics are a key factor in some of these changing family structures. Divorce rates are rising globally and more single-parents households are facing a higher risk of poverty due to the reliance on a single income. In 1950, the average global fertility rate was 4.7, which almost halved to reach 2.4 in 2017, according to research published in the Lancet by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

By 2050, the number of people aged 65 and over is expected to be one in six people in the world, many of whom will live alone. All of these changes will have significant repercussions on countries' health care expenditures, public day care centers, housing markets, infrastructure planning, social care services, pension systems, labour markets, and the sustainability of social protection systems. Considering the changing patterns of family structures in our societies, it is imperative that policymakers re-imagine services and programs that cater to individual segments of society that veer away from the typical nuclear family structure. All families and individuals need stability, love, and support to thrive after all.

To understand this trend further, demographers would need to establish a data dashboard with updated census information

on families and individuals, tracking both historical data and future projections. These include accessing evidence-based parenting advice, enrolling in financial literacy programmes, receiving counseling services focused on divorce or bereavement, and strengthening social networks for those who are feeling lonely due to the loss of a family member. It is equally important to establish strong social protection systems to support individuals and families who face difficult life circumstances and require assistance. Benefits should cover cash transfers for low-income individuals, child allowances, early childhood education subsidies, scholarships, and medical assistance. Housing programs and grants are becoming ever so important in order to be able to access affordable accommodations that cater to individual needs, sizes, and locations. Sustainable pension systems will also ensure people are economically self-reliant in old age, regardless of their family circumstances.

Introducing and enforcing family-friendly labour policies will ensure single, divorced, or widowed parents are able to work whilst managing childcare duties. Evidence points out to their myriad benefits, such as safeguarding financial security, decreasing poverty rates, enhancing productivity, reducing costs associated with families' public assistance programs, improving well-being, and reducing stress levels. Employers should be encouraged to adopt world-class policies, such as flexible working arrangements, remote work, or part-time employment as a way to achieve work-life balance. Investing in universal, affordable, and quality early childhood education centers is imperative for lone parents to balance between work duties and caring responsibilities. Research also affirms its multiple benefits, such as improved academic performance, enhanced health

status, lower school dropout rates, and higher earnings in adulthood. Universal health care coverage should also be available for individuals during their periods of illnesses. Many countries have also introduced legislations that safeguard the rights of individuals, such as children, women, and the elderly. For example, Finland's Child Welfare Act lays out children's rights to balanced development and well-being, close human relationships, understanding and affection, supervision and care, education that builds on a child's abilities and wishes, a safe environment free from abuse of all forms, and opportunities to be involved in various interests. Last year, the UAE redesigned its personal and family law to address important themes pertinent to divorce and separation, division of wills and assets, and the protection of women against harassment. Lastly, the media would need to embrace the changing faces of families and share more interesting, realistic portrayals of modern life. More importantly, it is important not to stigmatize non-nuclear families and to have respect for people's personal choices.

Many current TV shows and films astutely narrate the struggles and joys faced by adopted children, single parents, widowed spouses, divorced couples, and elderly groups in a sensitive way that resonates with a wide spectrum of viewers. For example, the 2012 Japanese drama "Yasu" portrays a man who loses his wife in a tragic accident and ends up raising his son alone, along with the support of his friends. By embracing all walks of family life, we can guarantee that individuals are surrounded by the care and support they need to thrive in their lives, regardless of their family backgrounds.

The writer is an Emirati civil servant with an interest in human development policy and literature. Courtesy Gulf News

Arctic & Climate Change

Lottie Limb

You may have seen photos of a cavernous chunk of land in Siberia recently, accompanied by headlines on the growing 'mouth of hell'. The Batagaika crater in Yakutia, Russia, has recently entered the news again, though there's no major update on its spread. Resembling the rocky outline of a stingray from above, this giant hole first formed in the 1960s when nearby forest clearances caused the underground permafrost to thaw and collapse. The Indigenous Yakut people who live in the area have reported hearing strange booming sounds for years, as more chunks of frozen wall fall in. While the recovery of a 42,000 year old extinct foal in 2019 – preserved with liquid blood inside – has added to the mysterious aura and scientific possibilities of this site where worlds seem to collide.

Scary as it sounds, the most alarming facts lie not with the dimensions of the biggest 'abrupt thaw', as they're known. Instead it is the rate at which other permafrost-induced craters are forming in the Arctic, and the huge stores of greenhouse gases they unleash that are worrying.

Permafrost is any land that stays frozen all year (or, more precisely, for two years straight). The northern permafrost region spans 15 million square kilometres – roughly three times the entire area of the EU plus the UK. Its compact soils contain more carbon because the plants that grow during the Arctic summer are frozen into the permafrost before they can decompose. This means the region's frozen ground contains an estimated 1,500 billion tonnes of carbon.

It is a staggering amount that equates to three times the mass of all living vegetation on Earth, explains Gustaf Hugelius, a permafrost expert at Stockholm University. As the landscape heats up, microbes start feeding on the plant remains, producing CO2 and methane as byproducts.

Hugelius has seen similar 'thermokarst' landforms on trips to Canada, where some studies have tracked a tenfold increase in abrupt thaw formation, follow-

ing hotter summers over the last few years. "Permafrost is a sleeping giant," explains Hugelius; as well as being vast and full of carbon, it responds very slowly to changes in the environment. "So we still haven't really seen the permafrost wake up even to the warming that we've done so far." If, theoretically, we stopped global warming in its tracks today – at +1.2C above pre-industrial levels – the permafrost would still keep thawing for up to 200 years and emitting greenhouse gases for a long time. Still, there's a world of difference between effective climate action and passing 1.5C of warming. A global average of 3C, where we're headed now, actually means temperatures of 7C in the Arctic.

Much of this crucial frozen land will be stuck in a losing spiral, lumping 10 generations of humanity with the consequences of soaring emissions. Hugelius is used to working with such stark scenarios, but finds his message especially striking at climate meetings with policymakers new to the science – or where Indigenous people from the Arctic are also present. It's a problem of both local concern – as the foundations of homes and roads shake, and rivers are poisoned by spikes of mercury from thawed permafrost – and global significance. The dramatic disfiguration of permafrost landscapes must be addressed at the highest policy level, says Hugelius, demanding even more urgent climate action. "You also have to consider the country of permafrost – it will act as its own country – and will also emit, so we have to include that in the

Loeka Jongejans, a PhD student from AWT's Permafrost Research Station in Germany visited the Batagaika thaw slump with a group of international researchers in 2019. They found it to be growing rapidly. "Every summer, huge amounts of sediments, water and organic matter are mobilised from this possibly biggest thaw slump in the world," she tells. Jongejans collected samples from the 55-metre high headwall and blocks on the slump floor for laboratory analyses, to better understand the amount and vulnerability of permafrost carbon. The crater is likely to keep expanding backwards and upwards – eating into the hill – until it hits sediments with significantly less ice, or bedrock, adds Hugelius.

Courtesy Euronews

KATI felicitate appointment of Ghulam Nabi Memon as IG Sindh

Our Correspondent



KARACHI: Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer and President Salman Aslam congratulated Ghulam Nabi Memon appointed as Inspector General of Sindh Police and Javed Alam Odho as Additional IGP Karachi.

SM Muneer said that IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon and Additional IGP Karachi Range Javed Alam Odho are devoted, honest and sincere officers of the department who render valuable services to the people. He said that such valuable officers have been working day and night to improve the law and order situation in Sindh, especially in Karachi.

KATI President Salman Aslam said that the business and industrial community is very hopeful that with the appointment of Ghulam Nabi Memon as IGP Sindh and Javed Alam Odho as Additional IGP Karachi, the sense of security among traders and industrialists has increased. He said that the initiatives taken by Ghulam Nabi Memon and Javed Odho for prevention of street crime in the city were commendable.

Salman Aslam said that the industrialists of Korangi have been in touch with Ghulam Nabi Memon and Javed Odho to solve their problems in the past and they have always been in the forefront to solve the problems of the business community.

President KATI hoped that IG Sindh and Additional IG Karachi would further improve law and order and police reform in the city.

2nd shipment of Sindhri mangoes to arrive in Kunming today



BELJING: The second consignment of Pakistan's Sindhri mangoes will arrive on Sunday in Kunming, capital city of China South-Western Yunnan province

The shipment comprising three tons will be transported in a cargo flight from Lahore to Kunming. Adnan Hafeez, director of Imperial Ventures (Pvt) Ltd informed. The first shipment comprising 2.3 tons of Pakistani mangoes was transported via air cargo from Pakistan to China, he told APP here on Saturday.

The Pakistani king of fruits will be sold in the market after custom clearance and necessary certifications by the relevant Chinese authorities, he added. Adnan said that quality control is the keyword of this year mango export. This time, half of mango will be sent to Chinese wholesalers and retailers as samples.

The Farm's Choice an indigenous premium fruit brand operation by Imperial Ventures Private Limited has been extensively working on promotion and marketing of Pakistani Mango in China since last six years and has seen positive growth trend.

He said, this year, the expected export of mangoes from Pakistan to China is set to touch 100 tons which is almost 100% increase from last year. Adnan said that many Chinese people prefer mangoes imported from South Asian counties especially Pakistan because of its pulp and taste.

The Chinese consumers have also an emotional attachment to the Pakistani products including mangoes in wake of the all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China, he added. APP

ICCI for climate resilient dev to achieve sustainable growth

Increasing risks of climate change to create multiple problems in Pakistan including food security, energy security

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The government should focus on climate resilient development to ensure sustainable growth as increasing climate change risks would badly affect the economic growth of the country and give rise to poverty.

This was said by Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry while addressing as Chief Guest an awareness seminar organized by the Islamabad Founder Lions Club to mark the World Environment Day.

Sheikh Amir Waheed, former President ICCI presided over the seminar. Muhammad Naveed Malik former SVP ICCI, Engr. Faheem Iqbal, Engr. Azhar ul Islam, Faizan Shehzad, Dr. Afshan Malik, Saima Huma, Nasira Ali, Gulsher Sajjad, Shazia Rizwan, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Naveed Satti and others were present at the occasion.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh said the increasing risks of climate change would create



multiple problems in Pakistan including food security, energy security and water security issues. He stressed that the government should adopt a proactive approach to deal with the rising risks of climate change. He

said that the average forest cover area in the world was up to 25 percent, but forest cover area in Pakistan was less than 5 percent, which should be a cause of concern for the policymakers. He appealed to the public

and private sectors as well as the civil society members to plant maximum trees that would help in promoting a healthy environment in the country.

Sheikh Amir Waheed, former President ICCI said that the damages to crops in Pakistan in 2010 due to flash floods had cost \$4.5 billion and urged that the government should take strong measures to minimize the climate change risks in the country. He said that climate change would affect many sectors of the economy including energy, industry, health, water, food, urban development, housing and transport etc. and all possible policy measures should be taken to minimize the environmental issues in the country.

Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI, Azhar ul Islam and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that the government should formulate an immediate climate action plan after consultation with relevant stakeholders to combat the climate change issues.

Chinese RE potential can help Pakistan overcome energy crisis: Experts

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: China's potential in renewable energy generation can drive a massive shift in Pakistan's energy sector and serve as a viable solution for the crisis looming large in the country, say at a workshop on 'Green Financing Guidelines for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Energy Projects', organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Shahjahan Mirza, the Managing Director of Private Power and Infrastructure Board, highlighted that currently 400 MW electricity is being generated in Pakistan through rooftop solar panels. Soon, nine off-grid districts in Balochistan will be shifted to solar power through public-private partnerships. "Alternative Energy Development Board is also working on capitalizing the wind corridors in Pakistan," he said, adding that a 1000 MW solar park is under construction in Cholistan.

Dr Hasan Daud Butt, Chief Executive Officer, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade was of view that CPEC

can provide stimulus to Pakistan's economic growth. He said this could be done by developing infrastructure, improving intra-national connectivity and creating opportunities for investment and employment. However, he added, the youth of the country face low skill development and low productivity challenge, which has reduced their job prospects in the CPEC projects.

Dr Vaqar Ahmed, SDPI's Joint Executive Director, termed the green financing guidelines extremely critical to design a pathway for achieving targets of National Determined Contributions for Pakistan. He stressed the need to design a predictable and certain fiscal policy for increased international investments, particularly under CPEC. He suggested that private banks should introduce innovative financing models and rating mechanisms to ensure loaning for greener initiatives.

Dr Christoph Nedophil Wang, representing Fudan University, China, informed the participants that regulatory and business sector in China is mandated to uphold the national commitment

of green financing through the CPEC projects.

Dr Hina Aslam, SDPI Research Fellow, SDPI in partnership with Pakistan China Initiative, aims to build capacity through dialogues and deliberations with various stakeholders.

Ms Najia Ubaid, Additional Director, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), said that SECP provides green bonds for all projects with an environmental cause, including sanitation, waste management and renewable energy and any asset can be fractionalized to finance such projects.

Dr Sajid Amin, SDPI's Deputy Executive Director, emphasized that SECP can play a critical role in supporting this shift to sustainable green finance through green bonds and green shares.

Mr Muhammad Irfan, representing the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), pointed out that so far 1500 projects have been funded by the SBP under its Renewable Energy Scheme and deliberations are being made for the extension of this scheme.



Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah attended the signing ceremony between Universal Service Fund and PTCL for optic fiber cable project being initiated in various cities of interior Sindh including Dadu, Jamshoro, Hyderabad and Larkana. The agreement was signed between Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, and Harris M. Chaudhry, CEO, Universal Service Fund. Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunications, Syed Amin ul Haque was also in attendance.

NBP starts facilitating farmers through EWRP

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is now facilitating farmers in acquiring loans through Electronic Warehouse Receipt Financing (EWRP). The simple process will allow farmers to open their account, provide collateral and receive the loan up to 70% of the collateral's price.

EWRP system aims to make farmers' journey easy and profitable from crop cultivation till sale. The loan facility can be obtained for a period of up to 6 months by securing electronic warehouse receipt as collateral.

To open an account in the electronic warehouse receipt the farmers can contact the warehouse operator of Naymat Collateral Company Management with their CNIC and photo. After

account opening, Farmers can store their products in the relevant warehouse, where after confirming the quality and quantity, the warehouse receipt will be issued.

Farmers can use this receipt to obtain the loan from the bank where required support will be extended to complete documentation process to avail loan facility as per needs.

EWRP also facilitate the applicant to pay back the dues when the farmers have fair price for crops, thus giving them the advantage to have return on their harvest after paying warehouse rent and Naymat collateral fee.

Expo

RAWALPINDI: Women are visiting different stalls during Technology Expo 2022 at Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in City.



Photo: Online

World Environment Day Webinar

'Green energy for sustainable growth a must for Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the webinar urged the government to come up with a national green energy policy reducing reliance on fossil fuel consumption and exploring to develop solar energy financing for every household. It would reduce heavy reliance on hydropower and hydrocarbon use and centralized grid stations.

The Green CPEC Alliance is expected to boost such initiatives with local partnerships once the enabling environment is provided and the one-window system is operationalized. Government shall direct most of the investments towards green energy generation rather than exploration of oil and gas reservoirs. We hardly discovered any new oil and gas reservoirs in the two decades despite investing huge funds. Let's change the position on energy mix with the significant increase of solar

and wind energy. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on the subject "Pakistan's Energy Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities under Green CPEC Alliance" on Saturday to mark the World Environment Day. Senate Standing Committee on Defense Production Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed chaired the session. Well-known environment and energy expert Qaiser Aijaz was the keynote speaker. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, research analyst Farhat Rana, Rabia Sarwar, Ommer Kulsom, financial expert Iftikhar Ahmed and young environmentalist Salman also spoke on the occasion.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed Pakistan government shall come up immediately with the green financing of the domestic-energy use. State

Bank of Pakistan shall have a green energy financing policy for domestic use at a discounted rate. The federal and provincial resources shall be allocated to develop solar and wind energy farms to increase its share to 60 percent of total energy consumption. The hydropower plants are very expensive in terms of cost and time.

He said climate disasters are increasing day by day. Over 150 incidents happened in the last one decade. Need to adopt measures. Water scarcity has increased to the red point. Immediate construction of check-dams and small dams shall be the priority. Qaiser Aijaz said Pakistan's main challenges from energy standpoint are the huge population of 220 million, non-availability of adequate indigenous energy resources, depleting oil and gas fields, no major oil and gas discoveries for past two decades,

increased energy and oil prices in the international market, COVID pandemic after-shocks, political and economic challenges, and high country risk and security factors.

He said the state-owned oil and gas companies be allowed to work independently, and constitution of a federal body consisting of highly qualified professionals for selection of their top management. We shall provide constitutional cover to the energy policies, framework and approved projects for continuity regardless of any regime expires. Adaptation of integrated approach for addressing energy issues shall be based on up-stream oil and gas exploration and production, midstream petroleum oil refineries, and down-stream oil storages, pipeline transmission and distribution networks are managed under one umbrella. Development and imple-

mentation of an integrated approach and methodology to address energy issues is the dire need. Conducting roundtable conferences involving energy experts, NGOs, energy consulting companies for developing a strategy to deal with the prevalent energy crisis with special reference to smooth and speedy implementation of approved CPEC projects. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said its indeed a meaningful initiative to launch Green CPEC Alliance. It will improve the environmental conditions around the projects and initiatives. Also wipe off the doubts casted by the West on the CPEC projects for allegedly being the environment unfriendly.

President Xi Jinping has already said two years back no more coal-fired power plants would be installed anywhere at the BRI regime worldwide.

Services' exports up by 18.21% in 10 months

ISLAMABAD: The exports of services from the country witnessed an increase of 18.21 percent during the first ten months of the current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports of services during July-April (2021-22) were recorded at US\$ 5,788.94 million against the exports of US\$ 4,897.35 million during July-April (2020-21), showing a growth of 18.21 percent.

The services' imports also rose by 34.01 percent growing from US\$ 6,988.14 million last year to US\$ 9,365.15 million during the period under review.

Based on the figures, the services trade deficit was recorded at the US \$ 3,576.21 million this year against the deficit of US \$ 2,090.79 million during the last fiscal year, showing an increase of 71.05 percent.

On a year-on-year basis, the services exports during the month of April 2022 grew by 27.16 percent to US\$ 627.04 million against the exports of US \$ 493.11 million during April 2021.



The imports also grew by 58.17 percent from US\$ 641.07 million last March to the US \$ 1,013.96 million in March 2022, according to the data.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports from the country declined by 6.98 percent as compared to the exports of US \$ 674.08 million in March 2022. The imports went up by 9.96 percent as compared to the imports of US \$ 947.95 million in March 2022, the data revealed.

Meanwhile, the merchandise exports from the country witnessed an increase of 27.78 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The exports from the country were recorded at \$28.848 billion during July-May (2021-22) against the exports of \$22.576 billion recorded during July-May (2020-21), showing a growth of 27.78 percent.

