



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ
اس شخص کی مثال جو قرآن پڑھتا ہے
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شخص قرآن مجید بار بار پڑھتا ہے۔ پھر
بھی وہ اس کے لیے دشوار ہے تو اسے دو گنا
ثواب ملے گا۔
(تجلی بخاری، صفحہ نمبر: 4937)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Two weekly off days can save power, fuel: Khawaja Asif

Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif says under the prevailing circumstance, Saturday and Sunday holidays should be given across the country while Friday should be given half-day off could help the country save electricity and fuel. This could help the country save electricity and fuel. Official working hours on weekdays should be increased by one hour as well. This move will further promote a culture of austerity in the country.



Govt suffers from Imran Khan phobia: Senator Shahzad Waseem

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem says the coalition regime suffers from former prime minister Imran Khan phobia. There is public outrage over the increase in the prices of petroleum products. The government has accepted the slavery but the price was being paid by the people of Pakistan. The coalition regime is spending the people's tax money on advertisement for their foreign trips.

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ECP ready to hold polls by end of October

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday has said it is ready for the new elections by the end of October this year. Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Omar Hameed Khan while holding a press conference in Islamabad has made it clear that the body will be ready to hold new elections at the end of October but the decision in this regard has to be taken by the incumbent government.

ECP secretary said that the final list of voters was posted on October 4, 2020. The door-to-door verification process was completed between November 7 to December 31, 2021, the SMS service was made free from November 26 to December 31, 2021. He said that the Election Commission of Pakistan is an independent and autonomous body and it is its responsibility to conduct transparent and fair elections.

The chief election commissioner had written to the then PM in 2020 to notify the census so that they can initiate new delimitation, but despite writing 17 letters, no reply was given and in May 2021, it was informed that the new census would be held. The secretary ECP said that they are carrying out its work as per the orders of the Supreme Court. A large number of display centres have been set up. Responding to the EVMs issue, the secretary of ECP said, there are several protocols which needed to be followed for the EVMs and their work on EVMs and overseas voting will continue.

Industrialization

A delegation of Japanese investors and representatives of Japanese companies operating in Pakistan called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: PID

Trade & investment

Pakistan wants to promote economic coop with Japan: PM

Urges for localization, promotion of new technologies

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said his government was focusing on reinvigorating ties with Japan in the field of trade and investment. In a meeting with a delegation of Japanese companies, the prime minister said hurdles would be removed in the way of smooth functioning of the investment infrastructure. The prime minister, in this regard, set up a committee to resolve the issues faced by the Japanese companies in Pakistan on a priority basis and sought a report within a week. PM Sharif termed Japan a close friend of Pakistan and lauded that the country was one of the largest

donors to Pakistan in the public sector development.

He said the generous Japa-

PM to address pre-budget conference today

nese donations amounted to \$13 billion dollars in seven decades and contributed immensely to the development of Pakistan. He mentioned that Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) played a positive role in providing Pakistan the technical support to grant aid and bilateral loans through the conduct of technical feasibility studies. He recalled that in the 90s, several Japanese companies were operating in Pakistan and mentioned that in 2016, the agreement with automobile manufacturing Suzuki resulted in providing employment to thousands of people.

The prime minister appreciated the manner Japan focused on improving the public development sector, adding that he was personally inspired by the principles of Japanese business. He stressed immediate steps to exempt the Export Processing Zones from taxes. He invited the Japanese companies to invest in Pakistan's diverse sectors including coal in Thar, iron ore in Chiniot, renewable energy, infrastructure, and public transport.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz while appreciating the investment of Indus Motors in Pakistan since 1989, underscored the importance of localization, incentivizing new products, and promoting new technologies, like introduction of hybrid and electric vehicles at an early date. The prime minister, in a meeting with Chief Executive Officer of Indus Motors Company Ali Asghar highlighted the government's business-friendly policies. He also urged the Japanese side to avail itself of such opportunities to enhance its investment in Pakistan. Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada was also present at the meeting.

No compromise on nuclear programme: CJCS

Urges to avoid baseless, unnecessary comments on top military official

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Nadeem Raza on Monday reiterated the significance of Pakistan's nuclear capability as the guarantor of deterrence and defense of the motherland. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the CJCS delivered the keynote address during the seminar on "Regional Environment and Imperatives of Security" at the NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) in Islamabad.

The CJCS - who is also the Deputy Chairman of the National Command Authority (NCA) - reiterated the significance of Pakistan's nuclear capability as the guarantor of deterrence and defense of the motherland. "Pakistan's nuclear capabilities guarantee the defence and integrity of the motherland," the CJCS said. He further said: "Pakistan's nuclear programme enjoys

across the board support of all political parties and the people of Pakistan. The NCA, with all its political and military leadership, stands firm for the strategic program."

The CJCS asserted that national security is indivisible and assured that under no circumstances shall Pakistan allow a compromise on its nuclear program, the ISPR said. "Pakistan is a confident and responsible nuclear power. It pursues the policy of full-spectrum deterrence within the precincts of credible minimum deterrence," the ISPR quoted CJCS as saying. "Our national security and safety architecture meets all national and international obligations and caters for all kinds of scenarios" "As a norm in other nuclear-capable nations, unnecessary and unfounded views on the strategic program should be avoided.

PTI to finalize Punjab by-polls strategy today

Imran Khan summons Parliamentary Board Punjab

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: PTI chairman Imran Khan has summoned a meeting of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentary Board Punjab today (Tuesday). Sources privy to the development said that PTI's provincial parliamentary board will meet on June 7 to discuss the issue of awarding tickets for by-polls on 20 Punjab seats. PTI has decided to award election tickets to the party workers in the by-polls which would be held on 20 vacant seats in Punjab on July 17.

After the preliminary decision by the parliamentary board, the final decision of awarding party tickets will be taken by the central leader-

ship of PTI, it emerged. The final decision regarding awarding party tickets to candidates would be taken by the central leadership of PTI, they added.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that polling for by-election on 20 general seats of Punjab Assembly will be held on July 17.

The ECP has announced a schedule for election on 20 provincial seats vacated after defecting MPAs of the PTI were de-seated. The ECP had de-seated 25 dissenting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPAs who voted for PML-N's Hamza Shahbaz Sharif in Punjab chief minister's election.

Fresh delimitation

SC directs PTI to combine petitions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the PTI to club its miscellaneous and amended petitions on fresh delimitation by next Monday. Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) counsel Faisal Chaudhry said in the court that the delimitation schedule is being rapidly implemented. "The fresh delimitation have not been protected under Article 51 (V)," PTI lawyer argued. According to reports, the election commission looking towards concerned authorities, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan observed. "When the 2021 Census will be completed, the ECP is asking" he remarked. "It will take decision, which Census will become basis for delimitation, after getting reply," the bench said.

Justice Munib Akhtar said that the court had allowed amending the petition, but it has not been filed appropriately. "Will we search a paper from file after file," Justice Akhtar questioned. The bench directed the PTI



to organize petitions in a sequence by next Monday. The court adjourned further hearing of the case until June 13. The Supreme Court of Pakistan had earlier returned the plea from the PTI against fresh delimitations. The registrar of the apex court returned the plea after raising objections that the petitioner has not approached concerned forum for redressal of the issue.

The petition was directly filed in the Supreme Court despite having an oppor-

tunity to raise the matter at concerned forum, the registrar said. "Tehreek-i-Insaf [PTI] has decided to challenge ECP decision to once again hold delimitations in the country," Fawad Chaudhry said. The former minister said that the new delimitations are only possible in case of a fresh census. "Any delimitation sans fresh census will be a grave violation of the Constitution," Fawad Chaudhry said.

Govt sorry for ongoing load shedding: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Monday the government was "sorry" for the ongoing electricity load shedding in the country and vowed to fix the issue in the coming days. In a press conference flanked by federal ministers, Abbasi said the government needed time to rectify the power shortage as the country was producing 21,000 megawatts and there was a shortfall of 4,000 megawatts.

As a result of the shortfall, the authorities had to opt for a four-hour load-shedding across the country, the ex-prime minister said. Abbasi said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting today in this regard and decided to reduce loadshedding to 3.5 hours, adding that additional funds have been released to facilitate power providers. In the next phase, when coal is imported, loadshedding will move below three hours by June 16, Abbasi said, adding that from June 30, the power outages will be in between 1.5-2 hours only.

Govt fully committed to serve masses: Maryam

Responds to PTI's criticism on PM's foreign visits

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Vice-President Maryam Nawaz has said that the incumbent government is fully committed to serving the masses. Addressing the social media team here, she responded to criticism launched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's foreign visits. While lashing out at PTI chairman Imran Khan said that a person who was challenging superpower and left home to bring revolution now seeking bails and hiding due to fear of arrest.

She said that despite the fact of coming into power in difficult period, we will definitely succeed to strengthen and stable the country's economy. She said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reduced the prices of sugar and flour in the best interest of general public. She said efforts are afoot for provision of free of cost medicines in the hospitals to facilitate the patients. Maryam Nawaz said the issue of increased load-shedding is the result of incapability of the previous government. However, the present government is taking steps on war footings to cope with the issue.

She said the Prime Minister has restored many closed units of electricity in this regard as well.

She said the Chinese government



Person who challenged 'superpower' now hiding due to fear of arrest: Maryam

and investors have reposed their full confidence in the incumbent government. She claimed that former prime minister Imran Khan had not been invited by foreign countries as he converted Pakistan's close allies into enemies.

She further said that PM Shehbaz Sharif did not pay a visit to Turkey for holidaying but he brought foreign investment from Ankara in 2013 but the investors got disappointed due to ex-PM Imran

She said that the previous foreign policy of Pakistan was revolving around the story of someone not receiving his telephone call while another was not making a phone call to him. Maryam claimed that Pakistan could present its case at the environmental conference.

She claimed that the Chinese government expressed happiness after witnessing Shehbaz Sharif assuming the prime minister's office. She said that the Chinese government was disappointed with the previous government of Pakistan. The PML-N VP blamed the PTI government for long-hour load shedding in the country nowadays. She said that some Gulf states have promised with Pakistan and the issues will be addressed soon. Maryam Nawaz alleged that Imran Khan's Bani Gala residence was the headquarters of corruption and Farah Khan was only a front woman of the previous rulers.

Maryam congratulated the social media team and said we have been listening for 75 years that the country is going through a critical period while the parties with public mandate are not allowed to run the country.

Economic legalities

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Miftah Ismail in a meeting with Leader of the House for Senate of Pakistan Azam Nazeer Tarar at Finance Division on Monday.



Photo: PID

Armed Forces condemn BfP leaders' remarks: ISPR

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Armed Forces on Monday strongly condemned the blasphemous remarks by Indian officials (BJP leaders) and termed their statements as indication of extreme hatred towards Muslims and other religions in India. Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar in a tweet on his official handle shared the condemnation message of the Armed Forces.

He wrote, "The outrageous act is deeply hurtful and clearly indicates extreme level of hate against Muslims and other religions in India". It may be mentioned here that the BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma made desecrating remarks against the Prophet (PBUH) in a talk show and Naveen Kumar Jindal also shared her remarks on Twitter which was now deleted. The BJP had suspended Sharma's party primary membership and expelled Jindal from the party.

No financial crisis after hike in POL prices: Miftah

Rules out imposition of financial emergency in Pakistan

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Monday said that multiple increases in petroleum prices have brought Pakistan out of financial crises. In a statement on Twitter, the federal finance minister wrote that "The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would soon announce austerity measures and there was no financial emergency in the country."

"After two increases in petrol prices, we are out of the financial crisis," Miftah added. Finance Minister further wrote, "Incumbent government has no plan to freeze foreign currency accounts or Roshan Digital Accounts or take over people private lockers and speculation on social media about this is wrong and coming from biased quarters." The finance minister, without specifying a date, added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would at some point announce austerity measures to save government expenditure.

In a bid to bring economic stability and revive the stalled multi-billion dollars International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, the government had increased the price of petrol by a whopping Rs60 per litre. Moreover, the National Electric Power Regulatory

Authority (NEPRA) last week raised the basic power tariff by Rs7,9078/kWh for the next fiscal year 2022-23 — increasing the burden of inflation on the people. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) had also last Friday approved an increase in gas prices — a hike of 45% was approved for the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) while 44% for the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

The finance minister had also assured

PM Shehbaz to unveil austerity measures: Finance Minister

last month that the government would reach a staff-level agreement with the international money lender by June, without specifying the exact date. Separately, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said the government and the central bank were taking all necessary measures to ensure macroeconomic stability in the country. The recent difficult decisions taken by the government — includ-

ing the reduction of subsidies on petroleum products — are expected to pave the way to reaching an agreement with the IMF and release of the tranche and financial assistance from other multilateral agencies and friendly countries.

"We are confident that these measures will relieve the temporary stress being faced due to elevated global commodity prices and geopolitical tensions, and eliminate uncertainty in the economy," the central bank said. In another tweet, the finance minister also said there was "absolutely no plan" to freeze foreign currency accounts, Roshan Digital Accounts, or take over people's private lockers.

"We have never even contemplated these steps. Nor will we ever do it. Speculation on social media about this is wrong and coming from biased quarters," he said.

Prior to the finance minister's clarification, the SBP, in a statement, had rebutted rumours of imposing restrictions on foreign currency accounts, Roshan Digital Accounts, and safety deposit lockers. In a statement, the central bank assured all account holders in Pakistan that their accounts and lockers are completely safe and that there is no proposal under consideration to put any restriction on them.

Budget 2022-23

Govt employees' salaries, pension likely to be increased

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal government is mulling over proposals to increase the salaries and pension of government employees and had prepared three proposals for a hike in the budget for the fiscal year 2022-23. According to sources in the finance ministry, there is a plan for a five to 15 percent increase in salaries of the government employees; however, it is linked with prior approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The ad-hoc allowance for employees in BPS-1 to BPS-19 will be hiked by 5 to 10 percent," they said adding that for BPS-20 to 22, the salaries will be increased by 10 to 15 percent. They further said that the pension will also be increased by 5 to 10 percent. "Pay and pension commission has not yet

submitted its report and the government has directed them to submit it as soon as possible," they said.

The sources, however, said that any increase in the perks will be linked to an approval from the IMF. In April 2022, Federal government decided to withdraw a decision to increase salaries of the government employees announced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif soon after getting elected to the slot. Miftah Ismail denied in a message on Twitter that it was a U-turn. Giving justification of the decision, Miftah Ismail said that since salaries of the federal government employees were raised a couple of months ago, they are not raising them again. He, however, said that the salary issues will be considered in the next budget. "Meanwhile we raised pensions of retired government employees," he added.

Court grants bail to Sh Rashid, Murad Saeed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad court has granted bail to Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Murad Saeed in separate cases. The district and sessions court of Islamabad granted interim bail to Sheikh Rasheed in a case that had been registered at the I-9 police station. Rasheed has been directed to submit Rs5,000 surety bonds. The court ordered the police to present the records of cases lodged against the AML chief. The hearing was adjourned till June 20.

While talking to journalists, Sheikh Rasheed questioned, "How many grand alliances this government wants to form?" He said that the present government will see severe consequences in the coming day. He said that the present government should be prepared to be ousted. He predicted that the present government will be ousted this year. In a case related to vandalism during PTI's last march, former federal minister Murad Ali reached a local court in Islamabad. The district and sessions judge Kamran Basharat Mufti granted bail to Murad Saeed and ordered him to submit Rs5,000 surety bond.

A case had been lodged against the PTI leader at the I-9 police station. The court summoned police along with records of the case on June 20. Saeed, while talking to the media today, said that PTI will use its constitutional and legal right.

Amendments

MQM-P, PPP agree on LG law

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) have agreed to most of the changes to the local government act and agreed to empower local government representatives. A key meeting between both the parties has also been summoned at the Chief Minister House today, where a committee comprising of members from both sides will give a go-ahead to the changes in the law.

It has emerged that as per the fresh changes, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), and Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) will be handed over to the local government representatives. Previously, Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah assured that the agreement with the MQM will be implemented in the letter and spirit. "The Muttahida Qaumi Movement can discuss the points with us frankly, they want to talk upon," he said. "We and MQM have similarity of views over the development of the province and the local government system," he said. "We will present the select committee's stance over the local government elections in Sindh before the court," the chief minister added. Differences have emerged between Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan, a key member of the ruling alliance, and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) over the powers of Mayor Karachi.

Nawaz responsible for POL price hike: Farrukh

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Former state minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Farrukh Habib on Monday took a jibe at former prime minister Nawaz Sharif over a recent fuel price hike.

Addressing a press conference, Farrukh Habib said Maryam Nawaz used to say in past that Nawaz Sharif feels pain in his heart over the increase in petrol price. "Petrol has now been jacked by Rs60 per litre, has Mian Sahab felt pain in his heart," Farrukh Habib asked Maryam Nawaz.

On the derogatory remarks of BJP leader, the former state minister said the government failed to condemn the issue in a befitting manner. The former prime minister raised the blasphemy issue at the United Nations and got the resolution passed against it, he added. He asked why the demand for sending an Indian envoy back to New Delhi is not being raised now. He alleged that the PML-N government is trying to 'favour' Indian PM Narendra Modi.

Habib asked the government to take concrete steps over the derogatory remarks

against Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him as mere condemnation will not serve the purpose. Earlier in the day, Pakistan summoned Indian Charge d' Affaires and conveyed categorical rejection and strong condemnation of the highly derogatory remarks made by two senior officials of India's BJP about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The foreign office spokesman in a statement shared that it was conveyed that these remarks are totally unacceptable and have not only deeply hurt the sentiments of the people of Pakistan but of Muslims across the world.

US dollar crosses Rs200 mark again

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Dollar at interbank and open market on Monday raised by more 2 rupees on back of hefty oil payments and rumors regarding clamping an economic emergency and freezing of foreign currency accounts. However, through joint statement of Ministry of Finance and State Bank and also from the Tweet of Finance Minister Miftah Ismail it was announced that no such plan has been under consideration and rumors are baseless regarding freezing foreign accounts.

Derogatory remarks

Pakistan summons Indian envoy, issues demarche

The Indian diplomat was told that these remarks were totally unacceptable

ISLAMABAD: The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and conveyed the Government of Pakistan's categorical rejection and strong condemnation of the highly derogatory remarks made by two senior officials of India's ruling party BJP about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Indian diplomat was told that these remarks were totally unacceptable and had not only deeply hurt the sentiments of the people of Pakistan but of Muslims across the world, the Foreign Office said. The Indian diplomat was further told that Pakistan deplores the belated and perfunctory disciplinary actions taken by the BJP government against

the said officials, which cannot assuage the pain caused to the Muslims.

"Pakistan is deeply concerned at the alarming rise in communal violence and hatred against the Muslims in India. Muslims are being systematically stigmatized, marginalized and subjected to a well-orchestrated onslaught from radical Hindu mobs with full connivance and support of the security apparatus across various states in India," the FO said in a statement. The FO said growing mainstreaming of the reprehensible anti-Muslim sentiment and the increasing attempts at depriving the Muslims of their centuries-old places of worship citing frivolous historical claims, are nothing but the obvious

outcomes of the deep-seated Islamophobia in the Indian society.

"Pakistan strongly urges the BJP leadership and the government of India to unequivocally condemn the sacrilegious comments of the BJP officials and ensure that they are held accountable through decisive and demonstrable action against them for attacking the dignity of the Holy Prophet (PBUH)," it said. The FO said the government of India was also reminded of its obligations under international law to take immediate steps to protect its minorities from human rights violations, ensure their safety, security and well-being and allow them to profess and practice their faiths in peace.

Vibrant economy

Prosperous Pakistan is PM's economic vision: Marriyum

Strongly condemns BfP leaders' blasphemous statements

ISLAMABAD, JUN 06 (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's economic vision was a prosperous Pakistan with vibrant economy. In a tweet, she said that it was envisioned that growth should be sustainable and inclusive, where there would be employment and business opportunities for all. She said under the PM's vision poverty would be eliminated and a decent standard of living would be provided to all our citizens.

Strongly condemning the blasphemous statements of Indian ruling BJP leaders, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on

Monday said this was another manifestation of its extremist and secessionist mindset. In a statement, the minister

Business conference aims at meaningful dialogue on economy: Marriyum

said that Bhartiya Janta Party leaders have proved themselves as abject and mean by showing disrespect for Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAW). No virtuous person who studied the

pure character of the Holy Prophet (SAW), a mercy for all human beings in the world, can live without respecting him.

The international community should take cognizance of the attitude and actions of the Indian government against the global movement for interfaith harmony and respect for holy persons, she maintained. Marriyum Aurangzeb said India was guilty of violating the fundamental rights, religious freedoms and basic human rights of minorities, especially Muslims, and it should be brought to book. Every Muslim considered the honour and sanctity of Holy Prophet (SAW) more dear than his own life and was ready



to die for this purpose, she remarked. Marriyum Aurangzeb said a day-long, meaningful and substantive dialogue would be held on Tuesday bringing together leaders from agriculture, information technology, textile, manufacturing and many other business sectors. The minister, in a tweet using hashing of "PMBusinessconference", said the main objective of the meeting would be to interactively assess Pakistan's existing economic challenges and devise their short-medium and long-term solutions. The other objective would be to obtain recommendations from across the commercial spectrum for the financial year 2022-23 budget.

PM AJK denounces BJP spokesperson's derogatory remarks

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan demands apology from Modi government

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while denouncing the blasphemous remarks against the Holy Prophet (PBUH) by a spokesperson of the BJP has said that such statements were a reflection of the growing trend of Islamophobia in India.

Expressing his anguish over the BJP spokesperson's insulting remarks Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan termed this act as an expression of hatred against Muslims.

Urging the international community to take effective notice of the matter, the PM said that the BJP leader's derogatory remarks had hurt the sentiments of Muslims all across the world. Demanding the Indian government to rein in the culprits, the PM said that Modi should punish the culprits immedi-



ately and tender an unconditional apology to the entire Muslim world.

Such statements, the PM said, would lead to further prejudice, violence and

hatred within India and beyond its borders. "International organizations should take serious note of the growing Islamophobia and organized religious

persecution in India and take steps to curb it", he added.

The rising tide of xenophobia and Islamophobia in the Indian society, he said posed a serious threat peace and stability in the region. "The highly provocative statements being issued by the BJP leaders is a wicked attempt to push the region towards violent extremism", he said, adding that under the hateful Hindutva ideology, Indian government was undermining the religious freedom of religious minorities.

Under Modi's racist regime, he said, no minority was safe in today's India.

The PM made it clear that there was nothing more important than the prestige and dignity of the Prophet (PBUH). He said that India must bear in mind the fact that every Muslim is ready to sacrifice his life for the Prophet's (SAW) prestige and dignity.

Looming Energy Crises

ISLAMABAD: Students busy in studying in mobile torch light during load shedding in their home, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PBS hosts sensitization workshop on 7th Digital Population, Housing Census

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics hosted a sensitization workshop on 7th Digital Population and Housing Census, 2022, at PC Hotel, Muzaffarabad, AJK on Monday. The purpose of the workshop was to apprise the Provincial Government functionaries (Chief Secretary, relevant Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners) regarding the Census process, tools, techniques, methodology and Provincial Government role for smooth execution of the upcoming census. Further, the goal of the workshop is to brought transparency in the whole process to be adopted for broader involvement and ownership, as census will be executed and monitored at provincial level.

Chief Secretary, AJK, Muhammad

Usman Chachar, was chief guest on the occasion. The workshop was attended by Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary local govt, Secretary Education, other secretaries and additional secretaries, IG police, DG Health, DG IT Board, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners from AJ & K.

Chief Statistician PBS, Dr. Naem uz Zafar, welcomed all the distinguished guests and gave the background and introduction of Census. He elaborated importance of census with the role of provinces in its success. He appraised the participants that the provinces are important stake holders having key role of planning, training, implementation, and monitoring in the census, whereas, PBS will coordinate and facilitate for smooth and transparent conduct of census.

Member (Support Services/

Resource Management) PBS, Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal gave a detailed presentation on forthcoming census, especially in terms of digital conduct of census. He informed the audience about the role of different tiers of provincial administration at various stages of census. He emphasized that digital census requires provision of computer literate trainers and enumerators by provincial government.

During Question answer session, officials from PBS responded to queries and comments by participants.

Chief Secretary, AJK, Muhammad Usman Chachar, appreciated the efforts of PBS for confidence building of its stakeholders. He further said that Census is National Obligation as it is essential; for Planning and Policy making. District administration is responsible to conduct census, there-

Usman Mukhtar all set to release film Gulabo Rani

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Eastern Terrestrial Studios in collaboration with Down Town Films and Channel Tek are all set to blow our minds away with their latest horror film "Gulabo Rani".

Directed and produced by our very own super star Usman Mukhtar, along with Meiraj Haq, have come up with a phenomenal horror story like no other, under their very own production house, Eastern Terrestrial Studios.

Gulabo Rani is written by Ali Mudar and This Millennial Rants. And by the look of their very first poster drop, this short film gives us the right creepy vibes and the spine chills.

PBA strongly recommends FBR not to impose any additional tax on the banking sector

KARACHI: Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Banks Association, Tawfiq Hussain, said the banking sector is playing a vital role in the economic development of the country and is supporting major initiatives of the government, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). It also plays a pivotal role, as Executive Agents, in supporting the government and SBP's interventions to respond to challenges like the COVID 19 Pandemic. It is also one of the largest contributors to the national exchequer and should therefore be treated equitably.

He said that for the year ended Dec 31, 2021, the banking sector paid total taxes of about Rs.178 bn to the national exchequer. The sector collected and paid to the FBR, withholding tax of over Rs.162 bn. In 2021, the total contribution to the national exchequer from the members of PBA was over Rs.340 bn.

Regarding business income of the corporate sector, the PBA CEO said the government had taken a very positive step by progressively reducing its income tax rates, starting from 35% to

34% for tax year 2014 and to 29% for tax year 2019 onwards.

Unfortunately, he said, no such reduction has been provided for the banking sector.

According to him, the tax rate of 35% for banks is not only one of the highest in the region, but is also very high when compared to other business sectors in Pakistan, including the financial service sector, like mutual funds, DFIs, leasing companies, insurance companies, etc. since they are taxable at 29% tax rate.

PBA believes that in order to provide a level playing field, banks should also be taxed at a uniform tax rate of 29%, as was applicable to other sectors of the economy.

The PBA CEO has also brought into focus the payment of Super Tax by banks. He said Super Tax was introduced in tax year 2015 at the rate of 4% for banks and 3% for entities other than banking companies which had an income of Rs 500 million or more. It was only a one-time levy to cater to specific needs "of rehabilitation of temporarily displaced persons". However, it was extended each year

for both banking and non-banking sectors. It was then abolished for the non-banking sector in tax year 2020, but was made a permanent feature for the banking sector with the promulgation of the Tax Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2021.

In the banking sector's view, Super Tax on it is discriminatory, as not only was the rate initially 1% higher for the banking sector as compared to the non-banking sectors, but now, with the recent amendment, only the banking sector had been singled out for levy of Super Tax. He said this means all other sectors of the economy, including financial institutions and insurance companies, have been exempted from Super Tax.

PBA strongly believes that since Super Tax at 4% for banks is discriminatory, it should be abolished.

The PBA CEO further said the banking sector's absolute post-tax profit of Rs 264bn for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2021, appears to be large, in comparison to other sectors. He said that what is often not taken into consideration is the total equity of banks of Rs 1.94 trn, as of Dec 31,

2021, was also much larger than that of other sectors as this sector requires a very large capital base to meet the regulatory requirements. Also, the return on equity of the banking sector at 14%, as of Dec 31, 2021, was healthy, but in no way excessive compared to other sectors. He added that the return on equity for the banking sector is actually on a declining trend.

PBA understands that levying additional taxes on the banking sector may presently be under consideration of the FBR and the government through the Finance Bill 2022. If this was true, it would be grossly inequitable, as it would further widen the gap of taxes on the banking sector as compared to other sectors and make the discriminatory tax treatment for banks even more pronounced. It would also send a negative signal to all stakeholders of banks, especially their investors.

He said the PBA, therefore, strongly recommends that the FBR and the government not to impose any additional/new tax or levy on the already overburdened banking sector, which is fully documented and pays the taxes imposed on it.

Sacrificial animals continue to arrive at Super Highway

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sacrificial animals continue to arrive at Asia's largest cattle market located at the Superhighway. Administrator Cattle Market, Muzaffar said that more than 2,000 animals have been brought to the market so far that includes cows and goats. About 400,000 animals are expected to get into the cattle market this year for sale.

He said that there is a team of veterinarians in the marshalling area of the market who regularly inspect the animals coming to the cattle market for the signs of lumpy skin. If sign of the lumpy skin is identified in any animal of the container, the entire trailer will be sent back.

He pointed out that since 27 May, 9 trailers loaded with animals have been returned because symptom of the lumpy disease was found in the animals of the trailer. In addition, distribution of the electricity throughout the market is in the final stages. Tents are being set up.

Spokesman of the cattle market said that modern facilities are being provided to the sellers this year so they would not have any problem.

Resolving problems of taxpayers

Facilitation cell to be established in DC Office

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Facilitation cell will be established in Deputy Commissioner Office to resolve the problems of the taxpayers in a dignified and on top priority basis, said Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad Lieutenant (Retired) Sohail Ashraf. Addressing a gathering of the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he appreciated the role of taxpayers and said that government should acknowledge their services by providing them silver, gold and platinum card in according to their tax liability. He requested President FCCI Atif Munir Sheikh to nominate focal persons for this facilitation cell to manage its affairs. He said that this cell should work on the pattern of portal system clearly providing time line to each applicant. Continuing, Deputy Commissioner termed private sector as engine of growth and said that all government departments are bound to facilitate them. He also suggested that President FCCI should formulate a comprehensive strategy for the productive working of the facilitation cell. He said that Faisalabad is an iconic city of Pakistan. "He had already visited it but in a casual manner", Sohail Ashraf said, adding that this time being Deputy Commissioner he is critically scanning each and every aspect of the city. He identified cleanliness and drainage of waste water and said that these issues would be resolved very soon. He said that community support is imperative to resolve the civic problems and in this connection, we must pool our energies and try to solve the emerging problems.

VC IUB for protecting natural environment

Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur said that the planet is our home and it is our responsibility to pass it on safely to future generations.

The Vice Chancellor expressed these views in a seminar and awareness walk in the Institute of Agro Industry and Environment the Islamia University of Bahawalpur on the occasion of World Environment Day. He said that the United Nations celebrates World Environment Day every year on this day and raises awareness for the protection of the environment so that steps can be taken for the preservation of the natural environment. The theme for this year's World Environment Day is just One Earth. Individual and collective efforts needed to protect and survive life on earth. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur has formed the Inter-University Consortium for Conservation and Survival. The consortium aims to bring together experts and resources from national and international universities for environmental protection so that this major challenge can be tackled effectively.

Govt must immediately restore gas supplies to power plants: Irfan Iqbal

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has demanded immediate restoration of full supplies of Regassified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to power plants to avert any crisis in export-oriented industries. He added that Pakistan is already struggling with an enormous trade deficit; which stands at of \$43.3 billion in 11 months of 2021 - 22 and state-owned foreign exchange reserves (FER) have fallen to merely \$9.72 billion; which are not even sufficient to cover two months of exports as Pakistan's imports have surpassed \$6 billion / month.

FPCCI Chief emphasized that the least the government can do is to not disturb the industrial production in the export-oriented industries

through disruptions in gas and power supplies. He said that captive power producers (CPPs) supplying power to the textile industry are not getting the required RLNG supplies and that has added to the concerns of the exporters that they might not be able to fulfill the export orders; while they are also preoccupied with the challenge of volatility in exchange rate; and, massive increases in power, gas and fuel prices.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh reiterated that textile industry is the backbone of Pakistani exports and they are all geared up to break the psychological barrier of \$20 billion this year. He explained that goodwill, reputation and credibility mean everything in the export markets; and, once an order is not fulfilled, it is very difficult to earn new orders.

Jubilee Life Insurance wins two major awards

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Jubilee Life Insurance, the leading life insurance company in the private sector, has been awarded with two major accolades at the Pakistan Digital Awards Ceremony 2022. For its exceptional outreach, the campaign for HBL PSL Season 6 by Jubilee Life Insurance bagged the 'Best Integrated Media Strategy' award while the campaign for the Jubilee Life Customer Testimonial Videos was honored with the 'Best Content of the Year' award.

This is the fourth time in a row that the organization has won awards at the prestigious Pakistan Digital Awards forum. At the heart of both campaigns from Jubilee Life is the face of the brand, Mr. Befiker Bilal Ashraf, who was present at the ceremony to receive the award along with the brand and agency team.

Pakistan Digital Awards are known for recognizing brands for their unique and out of the box ideas. The awards identify campaigns which are able to effectively target audiences and engage with them. The criteria set by the Pakistan Digital Association for judging each nomination is decided through a strict and transparent evaluation process which analyzes the campaigns for their effectiveness and results.

Jubilee Life Insurance is revolutionizing the respective space not just through their innovative products but through their creative marketing efforts as well. Jubilee Life Insurance strives to deliver the best in whatever they do. Delivering digital solutions that enhance their customer experience remains an important part of their commitment. Winning these awards for another consecutive year at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2022 is a testament to this commitment.

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:15 am
Zohr 12:06 pm
Asr 5:06 pm
Maghrib 7:16 pm
Isha 8:58 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 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

90% of imported waste ends up in oceans: Sherry

ISLAMABAD: "90% of the imported waste ends up in oceans and other water bodies. Which then breaks down into microplastics which are ingested by aquatic creatures."

This was stated by Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, who spoke as the Chief Guest at the World Environment Day-2022 webinar hosted by National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) on the theme of "Restoring and Protecting Pakistan's Environment-Way Forward towards Only One Earth".

She started by recognizing World Environment Day 2022 as a pivotal moment in Pakistan's encounter with the environment, "This year's theme of 'Only One Earth' should be a jolt to us. Pakistan has been taking the environment for granted.

The loss of biodiversity, climate change, and pollution are the three key drivers of the change in our environment.

WB's support instrumental for human capital dev: Shazia Marri

Govt to provide support to poor in current situation: Shazia Marri

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: World Bank's Implementation Support Mission for Crisis-Resilient Social Protection Program (CRISP) and National Social Protection Program (NSSP), led by Amjad Zafar Khan, Senior Social Protection Specialist/Task Team Leader, visited BISP HQs on Monday and held meeting with Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Ms. Shazia Marri.

During the inaugural session, the mission leader Amjad Zafar Khan apprised Federal Minister about the main objectives of the Mission. He said that the main purpose of their visit was to review status of progress during the last joint implementation support mission for CRISP and NSSP, identify new challenges, review plans for implementation during next six months and to initiate the process for holding preliminary discussions related to preparation of report for NSPP.

Ms. Shazia Marri welcomed the WB's mission. She appreciated the role of World Bank, as a major development partner, in providing continuous and valuable



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division Shazia Marri chairs meeting with World Bank's Implementation Support Mission for CRISP and NSSP at BISP Headquarters.

support to BISP. She acknowledged that the WB's support has been instrumental and helped in human capital development through its health and education related cash transfer programs.

Ms. Shazia Marri termed BISP as a role model for many countries. She said the ultimate goal of the present government is to support the poor and the vulnerable

especially in the current economic situation. Federal Minister also expressed her desire to share the knowledge with the countries who want to initiate such Social Protection programs. Pakistan is also keen to learn from international best practices to provide social protection to vulnerable communities and help them to graduate out of poverty, she said.

Healthy Activity

ISLAMABAD: People busy in evening walk at trail 5 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Azerbaijan Language & Culture Chair inaugurated at NUML

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan University of Languages established the Azerbaijan Language & Cultural Center at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad. H.E Khazar Farhadov, the Ambassador of Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan along with Vice Rectors Azerbaijan Language University Ms. Tamam Jafarova & Mr. Novruz inaugurated the Azerbaijan Language & Culture Center. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar (Retd) also attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E Khazar Farhadov said that establishment of Azerbaijan Language & Cultural Center in NUML will help



to promote Azeri language and culture in Pakistan and an Urdu Language & Culture Chair will be set up at Azerbaijan Languages University to endorse Pakistani culture & language in Azerbaijan. He said that both countries are enjoying good bilateral relations and the purpose of establishing these chairs was

to bring the masses of both countries closer to further enhance the relations. He said that a direct flight from Islamabad to Baku started recently to maximize the relations at mass level.

Vice Rectors of Azerbaijan University of Languages Mr. Novruz and Ms. Tamam Jafarova briefed the audience

about the university and highlight the importance of establishing Azeri language and culture center. They termed that both the countries have great bilateral relations and Pakistan supported Azerbaijan during war and Azerbaijan support Pakistan's stance on occupied Kashmir.

Rector NUML Maj General Muhammad Jaffar, while expressing his views has said that NUML is offering 26 national and international languages and has Eight regional campuses across Pakistan.

He said NUML is keen to collaborate with its Azerbaijani counterparts to develop research culture in Pakistan, and to start student/faculty exchange program with Azerbaijan universities.

PAS role in restoration, preservation of pristine environments are exemplary, says Prof. Mukhtar

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) contributions to creating awareness about saving environments and our pristine ecosystems are exemplary. This was stated by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor of the National Skills University Islamabad and Vice Chairman of National Technology Council Pakistan. He chaired the inaugural session of the MAAP-PAS-ANSO Hybrid Workshop on "Ecosystem Restoration: One Health & Pandemic." This conference was organized to commemorate World Environment Day 2022, and people from twelve countries participated through Zoom. In his inaugural address,



Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, President of the PAS, stressed holding such joint sessions. Notably, in discussing the COVID-9 pandemic,

he said the world must work jointly to save the environment and protect people's health. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari briefed the participant

on the idea that "No one is safe until everyone is safe."

Rutgers University USA Professor Nancy Connell outlined the unique idea of artificial intelligence to save lives on the Earth and take actions based on data gathered through artificial and human intelligence. Dr. David Franz, a biosecurity/biosafety expert from the USA, put forward the idea of universal health insurance for everyone living on this Earth. Dr. Tim Trevan, Co Founder of Chrome Biorisk Management Consulting from Maryland, USA; Dr. Muhammad Ali

on Quaid e Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan; Prof. Dr. Li Cui from Institute of Urban Environments; Dr. Shahbaz Khan from UNESCO Beijing; discussed the current COVID-

19 pandemic, viral diseases transmission from other animals to humans.

They also described measures to stay safe from these emerging viral infections. Others who presented their work include Dr. Qadeer Ahsan, the Executive Director of Fleming Fund, and Dr. Quaid Saeed, Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority CEO. Dr. Niryoshi Shinomiya, President, National Defense Medical College, Japan, talked about the "Advances in the life sciences and the risk of pandemics."

He also expressed his fear that the eradicated viruses such as the smallpox virus can remerge, particularly in the realm of monkeypox spread to non-endemic areas.

Health Corner

New evidence for autoimmune cause of schizophrenia

ISLAMABAD: Schizophrenia is a disorder that affects how people act, think, and perceive reality. It is often very difficult to treat because it has many different causes and symptoms. In a study published last month in Cell Reports Medicine, researchers from Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) have identified an autoantibody — a protein that is produced by the immune system to attach to a specific substance from the individual's own body, rather than to a foreign substance like a virus or bacteria — in some patients with schizophrenia. Notably, they also found that this autoantibody caused schizophrenia-like behaviors and changes in the brain when they injected it into mice.

When considering possible autoantibodies that might cause schizophrenia, the research team had a specific protein in mind. Previous research has suggested that neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM1), which helps cells in the brain talk to one another via specialized connections known as synapses, may have a role in the development of schizophrenia.

"We decided to look for autoantibodies against NCAM1 in around 200 healthy controls and 200 patients with schizophrenia," explains lead author of the study Hiroki Shiwaku. "We only found these autoantibodies in 12 patients, suggesting that they may be associated with the disorder in just a small subset of schizophrenia cases."

The research team didn't stop there — they wanted to know whether these autoantibodies could cause any changes that commonly occur in schizophrenia, so they purified autoantibodies from some of the patients and injected them into the brains of mice.

"The results were impressive," says Hidehiko Takahashi, senior author. "Even though the mice only had these autoantibodies in their brains for a short time, they had changes in their behavior and synapses that were similar to what is seen in humans with schizophrenia."

Specifically, mice with the patient autoantibodies had cognitive impairment and changes in their regulation of the startle reflex, which are both seen in other animal models of schizophrenia. They also had fewer synapses and dendritic spines, which are structures that are important for the connections between brain cells, and are also affected in schizophrenia. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

World Environment Day

COMSTECH launches forum on environment, ecosystem restoration

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH Launched Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration and organized COMSTECH International Seminar on Land Degradation, and commemorated World Environment Day on Monday, at COMSTECH Secretariat. The event was hybrid which was attended by in-person and online participants.

The message of the Secretary General of OIC, H. E. Hissein Brahim Taha, was delivered by the Assistant Secretary General of S&T OIC, Ambassador Askar Musinov. Mr. Taha said that the world environment day is an important international day for world environment. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) joins the international community in celebrating this day. He said This year's theme "Only one Earth" with the focus on "living sustainably in harmony with nature" gives us opportunity to protect our earth and adopt green technologies. He said the developed countries must encourage and support developing countries to develop green technologies. He said the OIC attaches high importance to the concerns related to environment, climate change and biodiversity. He urged the integrated measures to reduce effects of climate change and natural disasters. He stressed the need of incorporating environmental concerns in the international strategies for sustainable development. He suggested that the international and regional cooperation needs to be strengthened in areas of climate change in order to protecting the nature for wellbeing of our future generations.

The Coordinator General, COMSTECH said in his welcome address that based on the central importance of the fast emerging environmental and ecosystem challenges and their impact on the livelihood of people in OIC region, we have decided to launch a permanent forum to deliberate upon collective actions to meet these ecological challenges. In the Muslim lands urban expansion continues, whereas desertification, soil erosion, low vegetation covers, and depletion of fresh water bodies has created an alarming situation which demands urgent and collective actions to avoid fast approaching major human tragedies. Prof. Choudhary said that the COMSTECH Forum of Environment and Ecosystem Restoration will be working in the Framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2023, as well as the UN Framework on UN 2030 SDG Agenda. He informed that the importance of the environment for sustainable social and economic development is well stipulated in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action as well as STI agenda, which guides member countries to protect and preserve the environment, promote sustainable production and consumption patterns and enhance capacities for disaster risk reduction as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.



ISLAMABAD: Karim Aziz Malik CEO Barkat Rice Mill and Sh Jamsaid Acting President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Her Excellency Ambassador of Denmark, Lis Rosenholm at the Constitution Day of Denmark.

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The political gimmick and future of Pakistan-II

Minus the nation, 'power' is the ultimate goal of all stakeholders

Amjad Mehmood

By criticizing Mr. Khan's style of politics, it never means that other political parties and leaderships have an ideal role to quote as reference. Pakistan Muslim League (N) has voiced the slogan of 'Respect for Vote' when former Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had to leave the office as a result of the Supreme Court's decision against him in April, 2017. At that time PML (N) registered their protest against the military leadership and establishment for being the source of judicial activism against them. In most recent events, it is evident that PML (N) forgot the slogans they chanted against military leadership and dreams of civilian and democratic supremacy. Apparently, their grief and happiness are tied with 'power', and slogans like respect to vote or civilian supremacy are only used in public to play with their sentiments.

Pakistan People Pakistan (PPP) is the beneficiary of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's politics and his judi-

cial murder. Starting his political career with a military dictator, Mr. Bhutto used catchy slogans of public welfare and became a popular leader in a short span. Later his legacy was carried out by his daughter and former Prime Minister, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. Since, the command of PPP transferred to former President, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, the dynamics of their politics are reshaped. Mr. Zardari is famous for the politics of 'make and break' and his magic lies in money. Once, the party was considered the biggest opponent of military leadership in Pakistan has turned into the sole facilitator for establishment. Their core objective is to remain in power in Sindh province. The PPP's role in national politics is dependent on the 'signals' from the military establishment and they remain ready to perform the assigned duty. Political parties like PML (Q), MQM, MMA, GDA, and BAP have always performed a puppet character in politics as their limited number of seats in national or provincial assemblies are used to make or break the governments. These obedient parties are only answerable to their real lords but not to the

public so the lessons of political values and morality are useless for them. The use of religious and community slogans are identification of JUI (F), Jamat-e-Islami, and ANP however, they perform the duty for military establishment as and when

a layman can easily understand that all political parties have the pain of 'common man' until they are not in power. Every government memorized the lesson to put the responsibility for all disasters on the outgoing government.

The constant role of military establishment in Pakistani politics is an 'open secret' now. The credit goes to Mr. Imran Khan that he publically exposed the role of the establishment in designing the governments at their will and wish. The military leadership and establishment have never been able to stop them from political interference although they wished not to be discussed in the public domain for their unconstitutional role. Mr. Khan being himself a beneficiary of their political role has now intentionally or unintentionally exposed their role in public gatherings. He also questioned the role of the judiciary in Pakistan for their controversial decisions. This organized criticism has boosted the confidence of the common man to make a question from the judiciary for their failure to deliver justice. Though, our judiciary never learned from the past and always provides the

essence for criticism through their shabby decisions.

Imran Khan has publically exposed the role of military establishment in designing the governments at their will and wish in Pakistan.

Considering the current political and economic circumstances, the mantra of democracy, justice, and uplifting of the constitution sounds ineffective. The politicians be in the government or in opposition, judges, military establishment, and other elites have no concerns with the miseries and hardships of the nation. All of them are quite successful in their agendas without much hassle. They have stories to share with the public by abusing the opponent and playing with the sentiment. This chaotic situation is leading nowhere but to a state of catastrophe. All political parties, military leadership, and the judiciary who have a pivotal role are required to come out from their 'Ego-Shell' for the sake of Pakistan before it becomes too late to recuperate the national calamities.

Concluded
 The writer is the Head of Editorial Advisory Board of the Daily The Spokesman

Imran Khan has publically exposed the role of military establishment in designing the governments at their will and wish in Pakistan.

required.

Values and morality are useless aspects for political parties

The use of language, stand on principles, and caring for values in politics have no space in Pakistan as the political leaders of all parties have proved that being in 'power' is the only standard principle. Through a careful review of Pakistani politics in recent years,

Tobacco's environmental impact

Every year, tobacco costs the world 600 million trees, 200,000 hectares of land, 22 billion tonnes of water and releases 84 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere, according to the report. The CO2 emissions alone are equivalent to one-fifth of what is produced by the airline industry. Most tobacco is grown in low or middle-income countries where water and farmland are desperately needed to produce food. Instead, they are being used to grow these deadly tobacco plants, the WHO says, while more and more forests are cleared. A new report from the World Health Organisation details the destructive impact of this deadly industry on the environment and health of ordinary people.

Tobacco use is a well-documented threat to global health, putting at grave risk the lives of its users and those around them, and even those involved in its production. The majority of tobacco is grown in low-and-middle-income countries, where water and farmland are often desperately needed to produce food for the region. Instead, they are being used to grow deadly tobacco plants, while more and more land is being cleared of forests. The industry's carbon footprint from production, processing and transporting tobacco is equivalent to one-fifth of the CO2 produced by the commercial airline industry each year, further contributing to global warming. Tobacco products are the most littered item on the planet, containing over 7,000 toxic chemicals, which leech into our environment when discarded. Roughly 4.5tn cigarette filters pollute our oceans, rivers, city sidewalks, parks, soil and beaches every year. Products like cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes also add to the build-up of plastic pollution. Cigarette filters contain microplastics and make up the second-highest form of plastic pollution worldwide. Despite tobacco industry marketing, there is no evidence that filters have any proven health benefits. Therefore policy-makers must treat cigarette filters, as what they are, single use plastics, and consider banning cigarette filters to protect public health and the environment.

The costs of cleaning up littered tobacco products fall on taxpayers, rather than the industry creating the problem. Each year, this costs China roughly \$2.6bn and India roughly \$766mn. The cost for Brazil and Germany comes in at over \$200mn. Countries like France and Spain and cities like San Francisco, California in the USA have taken a stand. Following the Polluter Pays Principle, they have successfully implemented extended producer responsibility legislation which makes the tobacco industry responsible for clearing up the pollution it creates.

Countries and cities are required follow this example, as well as give support to tobacco farmers to switch to sustainable crops, implement strong tobacco taxes (that could also include an environmental tax) and offer support services to help people quit tobacco. Health experts say risks to tobacco users and handlers include cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Smoking also increases risk for tuberculosis, certain eye diseases, and problems of the immune system, including rheumatoid arthritis. Secondhand smoke exposure contributes to about 41,000 deaths among nonsmoking adults and 400 deaths in infants each year. Secondhand smoke causes stroke, lung cancer, and coronary heart disease in adults.



A 'cosmic stink' Israel's invasion of Lebanon, 40 years on

Belen Fernandez

The front cover of the 1982 American University of Beirut (AUB) yearbook features a black and white sketch of a campus building, fore grounded by a dozen colourful cut-and-pasted students. Some of them are sporting attire that is conspicuously from the 1980s; some are gathered around an orange juice vendor.

Open the yearbook to the first page, and the scene becomes decidedly less wholesome. An image of the main gate of AUB – emblazoned with the university's motto in English and Arabic: "That they may have life and have it more abundantly" – is superimposed on a photograph of smoke rising from apartment buildings. The AUB Yearbook Committee explains in its introduction that, while they had intended to dedicate the book's first 16 pages to the theme of the "reinstatement of student representation", that plan had been derailed when, on June 4, Israel invaded and occupied Lebanon.

Never mind that the PLO condemned the assassination attempt – or that there never would have been a PLO in the first place had Israel not slaughtered 10,000 Palestinians and turned three-quarters of a million more into refugees in 1948. In her Lebanese civil war memoir Beirut Fragments, Jean Said Makdisi – a Beirut-based Palestinian writer and scholar and the sister of the late Edward Said – recalls that, in the

early days of "Peace for Galilee", much was heard about Argov, the appointed casus belli. But such talk was ultimately short lived: "After a while nobody mentioned the ambassador anymore, until – several tens of thousands dead later; several hundred thousand refugees later; after large parts of Tyre, Sidon, Damour, and Beirut, not to mention dozens of other towns and villages had been destroyed – there was a small item in the newspaper that he had survived and been discharged from the hospital".

At one point, Said Makdisi wonders if it is even possible to convey in words the horror of the siege, as she describes "the sky orange with the unnatural light of exploding phosphorus bombs; the whizzing screams of jets darting for the kill". On August 4, her son whispers to her: "Mummy, we're going to die today; for sure, we're going to die". The horrors go on. Families unable to reach the cemetery on account of heavy shelling are forced to dump loved ones' bodies into the sea, and the AUB hospital crematorium is unable to keep up with demand. The Beirut debut of the vacuum bomb sees an eight-storey building in the Sanayeh neighbourhood pulverised along with everyone in it. On August 12 – the day of the ceasefire, following successful negotiations for the PLO's impending evacuation from Beirut – Said Makdisi stands on her balcony as the Israeli military continues its bombardment: "It was as though the Israelis had... achieved a paroxysm of violent hatred; a luvatic, destructive urge to kill, to blot out every living thing, to leave nothing standing, to eradicate the city".

This, of course, was not the final Israeli-sponsored paroxysm of violent hatred. The next month, from September 16 to 18, up to several thousand unarmed Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were massacred in the Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila by Israeli-backed right-wing Lebanese militias. Israeli armed forces had surrounded the camps, and used flares to light the killers' way. As Bayan Nuwayhed Al-Hout documents in her book Sabra and Shatila: September 1982, the killing of children and unborn babies was "commonplace" throughout the massacre – with militiamen stabbing pregnant women in the bellies and tearing out fetuses. Israel finally withdrew from the Lebanese capital at the end of September 1982, although the army would continue to preside over a torture-heavy occupation of southern Lebanon for another 18 years.

Following the Beirut withdrawal, Said Makdisi notes, the city's residents began to hear of the occupation's "most extraordinary aspect", which was that Israeli soldiers had defeated all over the place: on books, clothes, carpets, furniture, school desks, you name it. In the place of wanton death and destruction, then, a "great heap of excrement" remained – a "cosmic stink" that served as a memorial to the siege. Now, 40 years after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon – as Israel persists with its lunatic urges to kill in Palestine and beyond – the stink is still pretty cosmic.

The writer is contributing editor at Jacobin Magazine. Courtesy Al Jazeera

Indus Water Treaty-II

The construction of dams by India on Pakistani allocated rivers could lower the quantity of water in the western rivers, which really affect the access to water of the people who regularly consume the water of these rivers in Pakistan. Moreover, blocking the Indus and other rivers from India could cause a shortage of water in Pakistan, especially in Punjab region which would deprive a large number of people who are dependent on access to this river water for drinking, agricultural, and domestic needs. As numerous disputes were being peacefully settled over the years through the Permanent Indus Commission.

Kishanganga dam is located in Gurez Valley of Bandipora District; North of Srinagar Indian occupied Kashmir. It is a 330 MW power project and is expected to generate around 1,713 million units per annum by diverting water from Kishanganga River to an underground powerhouse. This project is operated by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) of India and will be a benefit for the several north Indian states and provide 12% of its generated power to Jammu & Kashmir.

It is 37 m high concrete faced rockfill dam constructed on Kishanganga River in Jhelum River basin in Bandipore in Jammu and Kashmir. Its construction was started in 2007 and completed in 2016. Against this Pakistani Government raises the concern. Pakistan believed that India was not permitted under the Indus Waters Treaty to divert waters from one tributary to another. Pakistan believes that Kishan Ganga dam project is against Pakistan and it will decrease the flow of water. Kishanganga dam name in India whereas in

Pakistan the river is called Neelum River. Pakistan contact with the International Court of Arbitration regarding the Kishan Ganga project. 20 December 2013 International court of arbitration gives decision in favoured of India. As India was allowed to build a dam but India has to make sure that the flow of water should not be decreased.

The COA ruled that India shall not lower down the water level below the dead storage level for sediment flushing purpose. COA also stipulated in its verdict that India shall maintain minimum environmental flows in the Kishanganga River at the line of control point not be less than 9 cumecs continuously. However, the minor differences between India and Pakistan over the project are still not settled.

As India again plan to fully use its share of water without violating the long-standing treaty. India has started work in the states like in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan instead of letting flow unused into Pakistan. As India believes that accounting to their share India used around 93 per cent so for saving their 7 per cent water which flows toward Pakistan they are building dams and hydro-power projects. Indus water treaty which was held in 20 century is one of the successful treaties in the globe. This treaty is ratified and binding. Ups and downs come between both states as fighting wars and still, they have a major conflict which is Kashmir. Both states should cooperate with each other and conflict should be minimized. As some historian claims that the next war will be fought for water.



Raja Furqan Ahmed

power projects. Indus water treaty which was held in 20 century is one of the successful treaties in the globe. This treaty is ratified and binding.

Concluded
 The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He tweets @furqanraja1122.

Ukraine suffers setbacks in strategic city Severodonetsk

Fighting is very fierce in Severodonetsk

KYIV: Ukrainian troops suffered setbacks after retaking parts of flash-point eastern city Severodonetsk from Russian forces, local officials said on Monday, as the see-saw battle raged on for the strategically important city. With Russia bringing the weight of its artillery to bear around Severodonetsk — the largest city in the Lugansk region not under Russian control — more help was promised from abroad.



“Fighting is very fierce in Severodonetsk,” regional governor Sergiy Gaiday told Ukraine’s 1+1 television. “Our defenders managed to counter-attack and liberate half of the city, but the situation has worsened for us.” Russian forces “are destroying everything with their usual scorched earth tactics” so that “there’s nothing left to defend,” he said.

Gaiday said on Sunday that Kyiv’s troops had “cleared half of Severodonetsk and are moving forward,” after Ukrainian forces earlier appeared on the verge of being driven out of the city. Artillery strikes have intensified on Severodonetsk and neighboring city Lysychansk, where pensioner Oleksandr Lyakhovets said he had just enough time to save his cat before the

flames engulfed his flat after it was hit by a Russian missile.

“They shoot here endlessly... It’s a horror show,” the 67-year-old told AFP.

Lysychansk was among areas visited on Sunday by President Volodymyr Zelensky, who “got himself acquainted with the operational situation on the front line of defense,” the presidency said.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday blasted European countries for blocking his plane from traveling to Serbia, saying: “The unthinkable has happened.”

“This was a deprivation of a sovereign state of the right to carry out foreign policy,” Lavrov told an online press conference in Moscow after several of Serbia’s neighbors prevented his plane from passing through their airspace.

Lavrov had been due to hold talks with top officials in Belgrade, one of Moscow’s few remaining allies in Europe since the launch of its military offensive in Ukraine.

UK boosts Ukraine support with high-tech missile system



KYIV: The British government said Monday that the multiple-launch rocket systems it is offering to Ukraine will bring “a significant boost in capability” for the country’s efforts to resist Russia’s invasion, which loomed large over D-Day commemorations in northern France.

“If the international community continues its support, I believe Ukraine can win” its war against Russia, British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement.

The statement came after comments Sunday by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who warned the West against sending longer-range rocket systems to Ukraine, where the war was in its 103rd day.

The British government described the M270 weapon system as a “cutting edge” military asset which can strike targets up to 80 kilometers (50 miles) away “with pinpoint accuracy.” The system is manned by three gunners and is mounted on an armored launcher with tracks.

The United Kingdom pledged last week to send the weapons. It gave no details about delivery dates.

The U.S. last week announced plans to deliver \$700 million of security assistance for Ukraine, including four precision-guided, medium-range rocket systems, as well as helicopters, Javelin anti-tank systems, radars, tactical vehicles and more.

Washington and London hope the deliveries will help Ukraine turn the tide of the war in its eastern Donbas region which Russia appears minded to capture entirely.

They are unlikely to have an immediate impact, however. The Pentagon said last week that it will take at least three weeks to get the U.S. weapons onto the battlefield. Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014 in the Donbas.

Pakistan’s iconic truck art unveiled in Ottawa

Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: Canadians were treated to a colourful display of Pakistan’s traditional truck art in downtown Ottawa where a wall on the main street was painted live by a team of artists from Pakistan.



Held at the busy Bank Street in the Canadian capital, the event brought together members of the Pakistani diaspora, Canadian government officials, city and public representatives and people from all walks of life to witness a live exhibition of Pakistan’s iconic and vibrant truck art.

Pakistan’s High Commissioner Zaheer A. Janjua, Mayor of Ottawa Jim Watson, City Councillor Catherine McKenney and officials of Global Affairs Canada were also present.

High Commissioner Zaheer A. Janjua told the audience Pakistan’s vibrant truck art was deeply entrenched in its

culture and had become part of our social fabric. Pakistan’s truck art has moved from trucks and buses to walls and galleries and now it is doing the rounds around the globe, manifesting its vibrancy and colours, he said.

He said Pakistan High Commission had arranged the exhibition and other events to commemorate 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Canada. He said Pakistan’s relations with Canada are vibrant, very close and cordial, and this cultural event is a manifestation and demon-

stration of our friendship.

He also praised the Pakistani diaspora in Canada, calling them a strategic asset and real ambassadors of Pakistan for playing a very positive role in the development of their adopted home and the country of their origin. They are the representatives of both our countries, and a bridge for people-to-people contacts, he said.

Mayor of Ottawa Jim Watson thanked the Pakistan High Commission and the truck artists flown from Pakistan for turning a white wall in the city into a beauti-

ful attraction for the people to come and see Pakistan’s truck art. He welcomed the High Commissioner to Canada, saying Canada enjoys “a very strong, positive relationship with Pakistan.”

Earlier, a similar exhibition was arranged at the Senate of Canada where nearly two dozen Senators and MPs attended the event hosted by Senator Salma Ataullahjan of Pakistan origin from Toronto and Chair of Senate Human Rights Committee, in collaboration with Pakistan High Commission. The Senators not only watched the artists work on the easel with rapt attention but also tried their hand at painting during the exhibition.

During their stay in Ottawa, the truck artists from Pakistan would also display their artwork in the Parliament of Canada before heading to Toronto for similar exhibitions and events in the bustling Canadian metropolis.

APHC leader Musaddiq Aadil passes away in Srinagar



SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, APHC leader, Mohammad Musaddiq Aadil passed away at his hometown in Sopore, today.

Musaddiq Aadil was among prominent pro-freedom leaders and was an uncompromising campaigner against Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

He had been ill for several months. His funeral was held at Iqbal Market in Sopore town.

He was jailed for several years after 1965. He was also a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League and currently chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Political Front. The younger brother of the leader was arrested and disappeared in custody by Indian troops in early 1990s in Sopore town.

More than a thousand people, including APHC leaders, traders and civil society members participated in the Namaz-e-Janaza of APHC leader Musaddiq Aadil at Iqbal Market (old-Eidgah) in Sopore town.

Senior APHC leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a statement in Srinagar expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Political Front Chairman, Musaddiq Aadil.

He paid rich tributes to Musaddiq Aadil for his services towards the freedom movement and the Kashmiri people, saying his demise has created a big void in the ranks of the organisation and the movement.

British PM Boris Johnson to face no-confidence vote

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will face a no-confidence vote Monday that could oust him from power, as discontent with his rule finally threatens to topple a politician who has often seemed invincible despite many scandals.

The charismatic leader renowned for his ability to connect with voters has recently struggled to turn the page on revelations that he and his staff repeatedly held boozy parties that flouted the COVID-19 restrictions they imposed on others.

Still, with no clear front-runner to succeed



Johnson, most political observers think he will defeat the challenge and remain prime minister. But the fact that enough lawmakers are demanding a vote represents a watershed moment for him — and a narrow victory

would leave him a hobbled leader whose days are likely numbered. It is also a sign of deep Conservative divisions, less than three years after Johnson led the party to its biggest election victory in decades.

Conservative Party official Graham Brady announced Monday that he had received letters calling for a no-confidence vote from at least 54 Tory legislators, enough to trigger the measure under party rules. He said the vote would take place in the House of Commons on Monday evening, with the result announced soon after.

To remain in office, Johnson needs to win the backing of a simple majority of the 359 Conservative lawmakers. If he doesn’t, the party will choose a new leader, who will also become prime minister.

SL holds its breath as new PM fights to save economy

COLOMBO: It has been nearly three weeks since Ranil Wickremesinghe took over as prime minister of Sri Lanka with a daunting mandate to pull the crisis-weary country from the brink of an economic abyss that threatens to tear it apart.

The five-time prime minister has inherited a nation barreling toward bankruptcy and saddled with foreign debt so big that it has no money left for basic imports. Sri Lankans are struggling to access the bare necessities like food, fuel, medicine, cooking gas and even toilet paper and matches.

In his new job, Wickremesinghe left little doubt about what lies ahead. “The next couple of months will be the

most difficult ones of our lives,” he told the nation fed up with long lines, sky-rocketing inflation and daily protests that seem to be getting out of control.

“We must prepare ourselves to make some sacrifices and face the challenges of this period.”

Since the May 17 televised speech, the seasoned politician, who also serves as the finance minister, has begun difficult negotiations with financial institutions, lenders and allies, and United Nations agencies to fill the coffers and give some relief to impatient citizens.

He has taken necessary steps like raising taxes and has pledged to overhaul government that concentrates power

under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a model that many believe exacerbated the crisis.

He took over after days of violent protests last month forced his predecessor, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s brother Mahinda, to step down and seek safety from angry crowds at a naval base. Wickremesinghe is due to deliver a much-awaited speech in Parliament on Tuesday that many hope will showcase a strategy to fix the crisis.

But time may not be on his side as reforms are slow and people want results now. He’s also a one-man party in Parliament — the only lawmaker from his party to hold a seat after it suffered a humiliating defeat in a 2020 election.

“A person who doesn’t have

a political base has an unprecedented crisis to manage,” said Dayan Jayatilaka, a former diplomat and political analyst.

Lines to buy fuel and cooking gas have stretched kilometers (miles) every day, snaking around blocks, with Sri Lankans weathering heavy rains and scorching heat to buy essential items that cost three times what they used to. Often, they have to wait days, and many still end up empty-handed.

Jagath Chandana, 43, has been waiting in line on the outskirts of the capital, Colombo, with a canister to buy cooking gas for two days. “It has been crazy. We are totally helpless. It seems even Ranil can’t resolve the crisis.

US, S. Korea fire missiles to sea

SEOUL: The U.S. and South Korean militaries launched eight ballistic missiles into the sea Monday in a show of force matching a North Korea missile display a day earlier that extended a provocative streak in weapons demonstrations.

The allies’ live-fire exercise involved eight Army Tactical Missile System missiles — one American and seven South Korean — that were fired into South Korea’s eastern waters across 10 minutes following notifications for air and maritime safety, according to South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Forces Korea.

The fit-for-tat missile launches were aimed at demonstrating the ability to respond swiftly and accurately to North Korean attacks, the South Korean



military said. The South’s military on Sunday detected North Korea firing eight short-range missiles over 35 minutes from at least four different locations, including from western and eastern coastal areas and two inland areas north of and near the capital, Pyongyang, in what appeared to be a single-day record for the country’s ballistic launches. It was North Korea’s 18th

round of missile tests in 2022 alone — a streak that included the country’s first launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years. South Korea and U.S. officials also say North Korea is preparing to conduct its first nuclear test since September 2017 as leader Kim Jong Un pushes a brinkmanship aimed at cementing the North’s status as a nuclear power and negotiating econom-

ic and security concessions from a position of strength.

U.S. and South Korean forces conducted a similar live-fire exercise following North Korea’s previous ballistic launches on May 25, which South Korea’s military said involved an ICBM flown on medium-range trajectory and two short-range weapons. Those tests came as Biden wrapped up his trip to South Korea and Japan, where he reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend both allies.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol during a speech marking the country’s Memorial Day on Monday said his government would pursue “fundamental and practical security capabilities” to counter North Korea’s growing nuclear weapons and missile threat.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,577.21	41,314.88
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,674.10	41,031.91
Index Value	Change
3,741,623,816	+262.33
Percentage	Time
+0.63%	6 Jun, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,632.01	+99.13
Percentage	Time
+1.32%	6 Jun, 2:45 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,119.46	+219.76
Percentage	Time
+0.67%	6 Jun, 9:45 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,915.89	+154.32
Percentage	Time
+0.56%	6 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	141.5	142.75
Bahrain Dinar	525.7	530.2
Canadian Dollar	156.56	157.91
China Yuan	26.9	27.15
Danish Krone	28.5	28.85
Euro	210.15	212.15
Hong Kong Dollar	25.19	25.54
Indian Rupee	2.54	2.62
Japanese Yen	1.5	1.55
Kuwaiti Dinar	645.13	650.13
Malaysian Ringgit	45.02	45.47
New Zealand \$	128.62	129.82
Norwegians Krone	20.91	21.21
Omani Riyal	514.08	518.58
Qatari Riyal	54.3	54.8
Saudi Riyal	52.35	52.9
Singapore Dollar	143.65	144.95
Swedish Korona	20.23	20.53
Swiss Franc	205.11	206.86
Thai Bhat	5.75	5.85
U.A.E Dirham	53.5	54.1
UK Pound Sterling	245.6	248.1
US Dollar	197.6	199.6

Entrepreneurship

RCCI, WCCI pledge to promote women empowerment

Both organizations will provide all kinds of support to facilitate women members a platform to connect in B2B, B2C meetings

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Rawalpindi Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) aiming to provide a platform to improve their networking and excel in the field of entrepreneurship.

President RCCI Ch Nadeem A Rauf and President WCCI Ms. Uzma Shahid signed and exchanged MOU documents at a ceremony held at chamber house Rawalpindi. Senior Vice President RCCI Asim Mahmood Malik, Vice President Tallat Awan, Founder President WCCI Asma Kanwal, former President Neelum Khalid, Vice President Noreen Tariq and General Secretary Junaid Yousaf were also present on the occasion.

Under the agreement both organizations will provide all kinds of support and cooperation to facilitate and empower women members a plat-



form to connect in Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) meetings.

RCCI President Nadeem Rauf said that creating opportunities and empowering women in entrepreneurship had always been the Chamber's priority. He said RCCI, being a proactive business facilitation entity, always took the lead for women entrepreneurs to get into the mainstream of the economy.

Under the agreement both chambers will strengthen mutual cooperation to help women entrepreneurs in business development, he said.

We will work together to develop recommendations for the government to accelerate business activities and exports, he added.

President WCCI Ms. Uzma Shahid said that we will make joint efforts for promoting a positive image of Pakistan and enhancing SMEs, trade, investment and exports.

Pakistan has become a trading economy

Benefits to elite outweigh circular debt, says Mian Zahid Hussain

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 Monday said our economy is not productive due to continuous neglect of the industrial sector and continued patronage of non-productive sectors.

Pakistan has become a trading economy that can never function without loans as industrialization has been discouraged for decades, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the forthcoming budget,

relief should be provided to the industrial sector and SMEs so as to accelerate the industrial process which will increase production, exports, employment and revenue.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the cost of economic reforms should not be borne only by the poor but also by the rich, as it is common thinking that the poor are being punished in the name of reform.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that at present the expenditure, imports and population of the

country are increasing while the state of exports is weak. The amount of subsidies and incentives given to the elite and the amount of capital spent on their security is more than the circular debt, he said.

He informed that Rs 600 billion is being spent annually to keep the jobs of 200,000 employees of failed state-owned companies, which amounts to punishing 220 million people.

The country's economy has been sunk by the elite but the punishment is always given to the poor and this process

should be stopped forever.

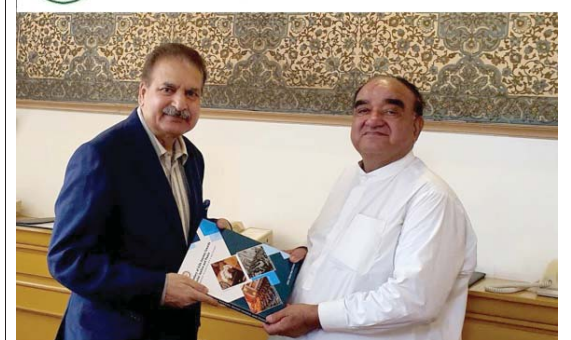
He noted that the people will accept a 40% increase in petrol price, 47% increase in electricity tariff and a 45% increase in gas tariff while they see elites in the ranks of those who are sacrificing.

The energy price hike will affect 220 million people while millions will go below the poverty line therefore the rich should also be asked to pay their due share.

He said that it is self-deception to appeal to the privileged to adopt simplicity and to expect them to do so. The elite will not cut costs on their own, but they will have to be forced for it otherwise public outrage can take any course, he warned.



EMPLOYERS FEDERATION OF PAKISTAN



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Steering Committee Pakistan Workers Federation Zahoor Awan presenting his book to Acting President Employers Federation of Pakistan M. Akram Farid.

AkzoNobel upgrades Dulux EasyCare with new Anti-Viral properties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As health and safety becomes a growing priority for consumers, Akzo Nobel Pakistan has taken on the task to secure families within homes. The company today launched the upgraded Dulux EasyCare Anti-Viral proposition in the premium interior washable paints segment.

The paint that parents trust on their walls as it is tough on stains and bacteria2, is now also tough on virus. Boosted with the new Silver Ion Technology, Dulux EasyCare provides an added layer of anti-viral protection that helps to effectively work against certain virus.

Launched today, Dulux EasyCare is now available for purchase at selected outlets across Pakistan.

"At AkzoNobel, we are constantly on the lookout for technologies to push the boundaries in safeguarding families and enhancing living through paint. As



the importance of health and wellness gains traction in a post-pandemic world, I am proud that our new Dulux EasyCare Anti-Viral can support that vision by protecting our consumers starting from the four walls of their homes," shares Mubasher Omar, Chief Executive Officer, AkzoNobel Pakistan Limited.

The upgraded Dulux EasyCare now provides four-pronged peace-of-mind to parents.

Dulux EasyCare actively safeguards the health of families against unseen threats and makes living environment safer. In addition to its existing anti-bacterial2 properties, the offering is now boosted with the new Silver Ion Technology for added anti-viral protection.

Wants to promote Pak-Canada trade, says Sameer Dossal

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Canada-Pakistan Business Council President Sameer Dossal has said that he wants to promote trade between the two countries. There are ample opportunities to increase trade in Pakistan which I consider it my responsibility to identify. One of the steps taken to remove barriers of investment from Canada was the aid of Abdul Sattar Edhi, with 185 Edhi ambulances running in the country.

He expressed these views while addressing a luncheon at Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI). A large number of KATI and CPBC members including KATI President Salman Aslam, Senior Vice President Maheen Salman, Shabnam Zafar of Khairpur Chamber, Ehteshamuddin were present on the occasion.

The President of Canada Pakistan Business Council



KARACHI: KATI President Salman Aslam presenting shield to Sameer Dossal, President of Canada Pakistan Business Council.

Further said that love and respect is extended to SM Muneer, Patron-in-Chief of KATI, for the last 20 years under his patronage he has been taking all possible steps to solve the problems of investors of both the countries. He said that businessmen from Canada

have shown interest in investing in the real estate sector in the country. In this regard, had played role to introduce the international organization Remax in the country.

If the government provides facilities to investors, economic stability in Pakistan can be

greatly enhanced.

He said that insurance companies in the construction sector also need to change their mindset. In this regard, several insurance companies have been briefed about the insurance title.

Sameer Dossal said that Canada-Pakistan Business Council is taking all possible steps to create opportunities for education and bilateral trade between the two countries. He said that Pakistani diplomats stationed in Canada are very supportive.

Earlier, KATI President Salman Aslam said that there are a large number of Pakistanis living in Canada who are concerned about Pakistan. The youth of Pakistan have immense potential which needs to be tapped. Salman Aslam said that SM Muneer, the Patron-in-Chief of KATI, also has a heart for Pakistan while living in Canada.

FPCCI, Greece agree to improve economic relations

Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan visits the FPCCI, Capital House

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Greece need to improve their commercial and economic relations to promote bilateral trade and investment by taking advantage of new business opportunities. This was stated by the Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan H.E. MR. KONSTANTINOS MOATSOS visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Capital House, Islamabad to meet the Vice President of FPCCI Umar Masood-ur-Rehman and Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chief Coordinator, Brig Ifthikhar Opel, SI (MI) Retd, Secretary General FPCCI and other prominent members of FPCCI.

The Greek ambassador further said that cooperation in solar energy, tourism, agriculture and infrastructure could help strengthen economic relations



tions between the two countries as current annual bilateral trade between Greece and Pakistan was very low that needs to be enhanced by exploring areas of common interest. He said his country greatly valued ties with Pakistan and looks forward to further boosting these ties.

Umar Masood-ur-Rehman & Mirza Abdul Rehman was of the view that investment cooperation was another area in which both countries could collaborate

for mutual benefits. Information technology, telecommunication, construction, automobile parts, food processing, fisheries, agriculture, hotel industry and real estate offer tremendous opportunities and potential for cooperation, he added. He said that organising of joint cultural shows and frequent exchange of business delegations are the options which can bring people of both the countries closer to each other that would eventually enhance

the mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Greece. He further said that Pakistani investors in Greece may be encouraged through incentives and security. He pointed out that the immigration policy of Greece should be further liberalized for Pakistani people. The FPCCI always recommends filtered business people for visa to Greece Embassy so they should be given priority for visa, he added.

The Vice President FPCCI also proposed that a joint platform should be established between Pakistan and Greece, like FPCCI have Joint Business Councils with various countries which are functioning under the recognized national chambers of both countries. He further expressed that, if Pak-Greece Joint Business Council is established, the bilateral economic relations between both the countries will be further enhanced and strengthened.

Unilever Pakistan collected and recycled plastic waste



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Unilever Pakistan has collected and recycled plastic waste equivalent to half (50%) of the plastic used in its operations annually. This has been achieved in a period of two years, as part of the ambition of becoming 100% plastic neutral by 2025.

Last year, Unilever Pakistan had pledged to recover, recycle and reuse 100% of the plastic generated through its operations by 2025. As part of this effort, the company partnered with stakeholders from the industry, government, and

the development sector to eradicate plastic waste and invest in initiatives to reuse and repurpose plastic.

Amir Paracha, Chairman & CEO, Unilever Pakistan said on the occasion, "Protecting the world from the impact of climate change needs all of us to work collaboratively. Reducing the plastic footprint is just one aspect of this cause and one organization alone cannot turn the tide. We must work together to find innovative ways to amplify the impact of positive climate actions to create a greener, cleaner, and more prosperous world for everyone."

PTEA urges govt to restore RLNG supplies to CPPs

Mian Rashid Asghar



FAISALABAD: Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) has urged the government to immediately restore

RLNG supplies to CPPs in a bid to avert any delay in meeting the US\$ 20 billion textile export target for the ongoing fiscal year. Further delay may drastically hit the industrial production which subsequently ruin the economy.

Expressing grave concern over RLNG supply cut to CPPs, Chairman Pakistan Textile Exporters Association Sohail Pasha said that gas is the basic fuel for manufacturing and processing of textile goods. Absence of gas as well as scarcity of electricity has become the major obstacles faced by the exporters. In addition to gas closure, the textile industry is also facing power cuts.

He pointed out that, although the supply of RLNG to industrial consumers is continued; however, the pressure is very low and machines are unable to operate properly. He further pointed out that the majority of textile producers have already installed the most efficient combined cycle technology to generate captive power, as well as produce steam and hot water for production.

Moreover, power distribution companies are not in a position to supply additional power to the exporting units that have expanded their production capacities in the last couple of years. Most importantly, exporters who have recently upgraded their textile technology required an uninterrupted, smooth power supply to avoid damage to their equipment and production losses owing to frequent fluctuations on the grid.

He said that energy shortage has created hurdles and squeezed the industrial activities. Country desperately needs to boost exports to overcome its economic challenges and narrow its ballooning trade deficit, which has surged to US\$ 43.3 billion in eleven months of current fiscal. He stressed for immediate restoration of RLNG supply to textile export sector's CPPs for smooth running of industrial wheels.

ICC Women's Player of the Month nominees for May revealed

Tuba Hassan, Bismah Maroof are among the nominees

ISLAMABAD: Two Pakistan stars and an up-and-coming 17-year-old have been nominated for ICC Women's Player of the Month for May 2022.

Tuba Hassan, Pakistan: Tuba Hassan took to the international stage like fish to water. In her very first outing on the international stage, against Sri Lanka, she took home the Player of the Series award after finishing as her side's highest wicket-taker.

It was a dream debut for Hassan, who took home the Player of the Match in the first T20I. She struck off the second ball of her first over to Anushka Sanjeevani and scalped Anushka Sanjeevani and Kavisha Dhillari thereafter to finish with magical figures of 3/8 on debut.

She picked up a wicket each in the next two games but was economical in his spells, giving away just 13 and 23 runs respectively in full spells of four overs each.

Bismah Maroof, Pakistan: Skipper Bismah Maroof lead from the front



in the T20I series and finished as the highest run-getter with 65 runs in three matches.

In all three games, she walked out when her team were in a spot of bother. In the first match, her patient 28 off 32 balls took Pakistan to touching distance of a win. In the remaining two matches,

she ensured she batted through till the end to guide her team home.

In the second game, she played the perfect second fiddle to Ayesha Naseem with a 29-ball 22*. In the final match, Maroof took her team home in a crunch encounter with a brace off the final ball. Though she only scored 15* off 15, she

won the Player of the Match for her crucial innings.

Trinity Smith, Jersey: Like Tuba Hassan, Trinity Smith of Jersey too made her debut last month and already finds herself on the shortlist for ICC Women's Player of the Month.

The 17-year-old all-rounder made her debut against France in the quadrangular series that also involved Spain and Austria. She didn't get a chance to bat but picked up a wicket on debut.

In the first opportunity she got to bat, she scored 59* off just 43 balls and later picked up 2/18 in four overs with her right-arm medium pace. In Jersey's final game of the series, she smashed yet another fifty (56* of 40 balls) and also picked up a wicket. Jersey finished the series unbeaten with four wins out of four.

Smith played a crucial role in it, with 120 runs at a strike rate of 136.36 with the bat and also picked four wickets in as many games at an economy of 6.58.

West Indies cricket team arrives in Multan

Tahir Amin Malik

MULTAN: West Indies cricket team arrived in Multan to play three ODIs against the home side as part of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches at the Multan Cricket Stadium (MCS). The West Indies ODI squad headed by skipper Nicholas Pooran landed at the Islamabad International Airport this morning and later the visitors departed for Multan via chartered flight where they will play three limited-overs matches on June 8, 10 and 12 at the iconic stadium after a gap of 14 years. Before that in 2001 Pakistan played against Bangladesh and defeated Bangladesh by an



innings and 264 runs in a Test that began on 29th August. Pakistan team has also arrived in Multan on Sunday. Multan Stadium has hosted seven ODIs, Pakistan defeated Bangladesh 137 runs in September 2003. The two sides also played the last ODI at the venue to date which the

hosts won by seven wickets. The 2nd ODI were played on 30th September 2004, Pakistan had recorded the biggest win, in terms of runs, at the venue when they defeated Zimbabwe by 144 runs.

Pakistan Squad.
Babar Azam, (Captain), Shadab Khan (Vice Captain),

Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imamul Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris (Wicket Keeper) Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, (Wicket Keeper Batsman), Mohammad Wasim Junior, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shahnavaz Dahani and Zahid Mahmood.

West Indies.
Nicholas Pooran (Captain), Shai Hope (Vice Captain), Nkrumah Bonner Shamarr Brooks, Keacy Carty, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Shemon Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Anderson Phillip, Rovman Powell, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Hayden Walsh Jr.

Ronaldo steers Portugal past Switzerland



PARIS: Cristiano Ronaldo marshalled Portugal past Switzerland in the Nations League on Sunday as Gavi made history becoming Spain's youngest ever scorer.

Ronaldo scored two goals in four first half minutes and had a third ruled offside by VAR as Portugal crushed Switzerland 4-0 in Lisbon.

The Manchester United striker had set up William Carvalho for the opener with Joao Cancelo completing the rout to fire Portugal to the top of League A, Group 2, on goal difference from the Czech Republic.

In Prague, Jakub Pesek put the hosts in front before Gavi levelled with a low curling left-footer at the record age of 17 years and 304 days just before halftime.

Jan Kuchta had the Czechs back in control with a delicate chip but Athletic Bilbao defender Inigo Martinez headed home in the final minute to salvage a 2-2 draw.

"It is wonderful to be able to say that we are disappointed to lose points against Spain," said Czech captain Tomas Soucek.

"We showed heart and great teamwork. If somebody told us that we would have four points before these two games, we would have taken it. We have started well and look forward to the next games."

"We lacked fluency so the game was really tough" shrugged Spain coach Luis Enrique.

Martinez conceded it wasn't Spain's "finest" match.

"We came away with a point, but the aim was to win. When you don't win, when you have great difficulties, you come away disappointed."

Spain reached the final of last year's Nations League, beating European champions Italy in the semis before losing to France, and they enjoyed a relatively smooth qualification for the World Cup.

But they are now on the back foot in this competition and after their opening 1-1 stalemate with Portugal on Thursday are placed third in the group, two points adrift.

Elsewhere Northern Ireland extended their winless run in the competition to 12 with a drab goalless draw in Cyprus and Georgia are in command at the top of League C Group 4 after dishing out a 5-2 drubbing to Bulgaria while Manchester City's new headline signing Erling Haaland produced the goals in Norway's 2-1 win in Sweden.

The Norwegians top League B, Group 4 after two wins from Serbia, 4-1 winners over Slovenia.

Bale hails 'greatest result' as Wales book place

CARDIFF: Gareth Bale hailed Wales' qualification for a first World Cup since 1958 as the greatest result in their history after a 1-0 win over Ukraine in Cardiff cruelly denied the war-torn nation a place in Qatar.

Bale's free-kick, which was turned into his own net by Ukrainian captain Andriy Yarmolenko, separated the sides despite the visitors dominating the game at the Cardiff City Stadium.

"The result is the greatest result in history of Welsh football," said Bale, who previously led his country to the semi-finals of Euro 2016. "It's what dreams are made of."

"I'm speechless because we're so happy. We did it for all our amazing fans in the country. Words can't describe our feelings at the moment."

Ukraine made a nation proud in beating Scotland 3-1 on Wednesday in their first competitive clash since Russia's invasion.

Oleksandr Petrakov's men deserved much more from another exceptional



composed performance under the strain of carrying the hopes of a people devastated by Russian aggression. "I think we did everything we could, but I really want the people in Ukraine to remember our team, our efforts," said Petrakov.

"I want to say sorry we didn't score but this is sport."

The Ukrainian national anthem was applauded by all sides of the stadium before the game and, just as on their trip to Scotland in midweek, the visitors were inspired rather than inhibited by the pressure put upon them.

However, they were made to pay for some wayward finishing, one moment of misfortune and a heroic goalkeeping performance from Wayne Hennessey, who made nine saves.

"We gave everything today, we left everything on the pitch," said Ukraine midfielder Oleksandr Zinchenko.

"The keeper from Wales did an unbelievable job. He's definitely man of the match with his incredible saves."

Wales had barely threatened the Ukrainian goal in the first half, but in Bale have a star capable of changing the course of matches in

an instant.

The 32-year-old is without a club having brought down the curtain on nine years at Real Madrid by picking up a fifth Champions League winner's medal last weekend.

Bale has reserved his best for international duty in recent years and will now get the chance to add a World Cup to a glorious career.

His free-kick on 34 minutes was headed off target until Yarmolenko tried to head it to safety and only succeeded in deflecting the ball past the helpless Georgy Bushchan.

"In big matches he delivered for us," said Wales manager Rob Page.

"He did it against Austria (in the play-off semi-final) with two goals and he's done it tonight with a free-kick. Somebody with that quality, he always poses a threat."

Ukraine refused to be crushed by that misfortune and were unlucky not to be given a penalty before half-time when Yarmolenko was clipped by Joe Allen inside the box.

SBP nominates six athletes for Civil Awards

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab has nominated the names of top six athletes for Civil Awards here on Monday.

Country's ace athletes including wrestler Inam Butt, world's youngest champion mountaineer Shehroz Kashif, vice-captain of Kabaddi World Cup-winning team Shafiq Chishti, 16-year-old world snooker champion Ahsan Ramzan, Paralympic Games gold medalist special athlete Haider Ali and Tokyo Olympic javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem were nominated for Civil Awards.

DG Sports Punjab Javed Chohan in a statement on Monday said that these top athletes have rendered great services for the country in their respective games. "Truly they deserve to be conferred with top awards of the country in recognition of their valuable contributions. These sports heroes are real role models for the young generation."

Chohan urged the young male and female athletes of the country to take inspiration from these sports stalwarts and win laurels for the beloved motherland.

Punjab clinches All Pakistan Inter-Provincial Hockey title

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Punjab hockey team defeated Islamabad by a narrow margin of 2-1 in the title clash of All-Pakistan Inter-Provincial Hockey Tournament played at Sports Complex Rawalakot the other day. Strikers Hammad and Babar struck two beautiful goals for Punjab in the final match.

Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser presented the winning trophy of All-Pakistan Inter-Provincial Hockey Tournament to DG Sports Punjab Javed Chohan at his office on Monday.

The hockey teams from Sports Board Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir Green, Azad Kashmir White, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad participated in the tournament. These teams were divided into two pools. Pool 'A' included teams from Sports Board Punjab, Azad Kashmir Green, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad while the hockey teams from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir White and Sindh formed the Pool 'B'.

DG Sports Punjab Javed Chohan has congratulated Sports Board Punjab hockey team on their morale-boosting title victory in the 7-team Inter-Provincial Hockey Tournament.

ICC Men's Player of the Month nominees announced

DUBAI: Three top stars from Asia have been shortlisted for the ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2022.

The veteran Angelo Mathews brought all his experience into play during Sri Lanka's series win over Bangladesh away from home. He finished as the highest run-scorer in the series with 344 runs in two Tests that included two centuries.

In the first innings of the first Test, he came agonizingly close to what would have been his second double-century but he not been caught out slogging when he was on 199. Sri Lanka posted 397 on the back of his knock but Bangladesh managed to take a lead. The match eventually ended in a stalemate.

In the second game, he racked up another century and remained unbeaten on 145 in the first innings. Bangladesh had posted 365 in the first innings and Sri Lanka were in a spot of bother at 164/4 but Mathews stitched a 102-run stand with Dhananjaya de Silva and then added 199 runs with Dinesh Chandimal.

It was a memorable series for Mushfqr Rahim despite ending up on the losing end. He finished as the second-highest run-getter with 303 runs and like Mathews, had two centuries to show for his efforts. In the opening Test, he also became the first Bangladesh player to score 5000 Test runs.

Asitha Fernando finished as the highest wicket-taker in the ICC World Test Championship series between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He picked up three wickets in the first match in the only innings Sri Lanka bowled. In the second game, though, he returned with 10 wickets in a match that eventually proved to be the difference between the two sides.

Mohamed takes centre stage in Egypt win

JOHANNESBURG: It was billed as the Mohamed Salah versus Naby Keita show, but Mostafa Mohamed took centre stage with a late winner as Egypt beat Guinea 1-0 on Sunday in 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying.

Liverpool teammates and national team captains, Salah and Keita were creative but failed to score in a Group D first round match that offered little excitement for the Cairo crowd.

Substitute Mohamed, who plays for Turkish giants Galatasaray, ended the deadlock on 87 minutes from time with a shot that Mouctar Diakhaby deflected past goalkeeper Ibrahim Kone.

New Egypt coach Ehab Gabal promised a "different playing style" after the twin disappointments of losing to Senegal both in the Cup of Nations final last February and in a World Cup play-off one month later.

But he made a forgettable debut and more will be expected of the Pharaohs when they play Ethiopia on Thursday before Salah takes a well deserved break.



Nadal braced for make-or-break week

PARIS: Rafael Nadal won a 14th French Open with daily pain-killing injections in his troublesome left foot and will now attempt to find a permanent cure for the injury, warning his record-breaking career is on the line.

Nadal, 36, routed Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 in Sunday's final at Roland Garros to extend his Grand Slam title record to 22, with victory coming 17 years to the day since he claimed his first French Open as a 19-year-old in 2005.

The oldest winner in Paris, he had not been certain of taking part after a chronic left foot injury, which has plagued him throughout his career, flared up again.

In the aftermath of Sunday's victory, Nadal revealed he and his

medical team are facing a potentially make-or-break week.

"It's obvious that with circumstances that I am playing, I can't and I don't want to keep going. I'm going to keep working to try to find a solution and an improvement for what's happening in the foot," said Nadal.

Nadal said that taking anaesthetic injections in the nerves in his foot was the only way he could have got through the French Open.

Now his medical team will attempt to burn the nerves using a technique which he described as "radio frequency injections".

"If it works, I keep going. If not, it will be another story and I will ask myself if I am ready to do a major surgery which may not guarantee I will be competi-

itive and may take a long time to be back."

With Wimbledon just three weeks away, Nadal is facing a race against time.

He was champion at the All England Club in 2008 and 2010. Should he win the title again, he would be three-quarters of the way to a first men's calendar Grand Slam since 1969.

"I love Wimbledon. So if you ask me if I will be in Wimbledon, I can't give you a clear answer. Let's see how the treatment works," he said.

"If I am able to play with anti-inflammatory, yes; to play with anaesthetic injections, no. I don't want to put myself in that position again."

Nadal's two-hour 18-minute romp on Sunday took his record

at the tournament to 112 wins against just three losses.

"The most important thing is to congratulate Rafa," said Ruud.

"You are a true champion. This is the first time I have faced you so now I know what it's like to be the victim! There will be many others."

"You have taken me into your academy with open arms and you are a true inspiration to me. We all hope you continue for some more time."

Nadal, unbeaten in 13 previous finals in Paris and playing in his 30th Grand Slam decider, got off to a flying start against Ruud, the first Norwegian man to feature in a championship match at the majors.

He broke for 2-0 and even though he handed the break



straight back courtesy of a two uncharacteristic double faults, he was quickly back in front again for 3-1.

The Spaniard wrapped up the opener in 49 minutes against his 23-year-old opponent who has trained at his academy in Mana-

There was a sudden glimmer of hope when he broke for 3-1 with Nadal again coughing up a double fault. However, Nadal roared back with a double break for 4-3.

Ruud saved three set points in the ninth game but his first double fault of the final handed Nadal a two-set lead.

Nadal had said on the eve of the final that he would rather lose Sunday's match in exchange for a new foot.

However, without needing to hit top gear, he was in complete control against Ruud, racing away to the title with three breaks in a third set which was over in 30 minutes.

Nadal sealed the win with a backhand down the line, his 37th winner of the final.