



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Govt cannot function till NAB is operational: Abbasi

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi says the government cannot function till National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is operating in the country. Chairman NAB is still trying to get another term in the office. The country has several institutions like FIA to check corruption but on the other hand, the bureau has failed to stop corruption.



## Dollar has risen by Rs2.85 in just a day: Hammad

PTI senior leader Hammad Azhar says the rupee has lost Rs23 against the US dollar in the last 55 days since Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif came into power. The coalition government is incompetent the government spent its 30-40 days in ambiguity. The dollar has risen by Rs2.85 in just a day. The market does not trust this government and this situation leads to the failure of the economic team.

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## Austerity

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Economy can't be lifted up sans political stability: PM

### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday addressed a day-long pre-budget business conference in the federal capital and said that the country's economy cannot be streamlined without political stability.

The conference was being held to explore avenues for consensus-based economic measures with all stakeholders on board.

It brought together leaders from a wide range of industries on a single platform for a vibrant and interactive debate, in line with the prime minister's vision of the Charter of Economy and an inclusive economic

policy-making approach. The prime minister said since Pakistan's inception 75 years back, the economic development in the initial 25 years and the economic development after that have a "stark" difference.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan's five-year development programmes were made by top-tier professionals, which allowed the country to progress and Islamabad was way ahead of other nations in the region. "In the 1990s, the Pakistani rupee had better value than the Indian rupee. Pakistan also showed (India) how can we run the economy on modern lines; we liberalised Pakistan's economy and India copied it," he said.

### President & PM

## Free fuel facility for govt officials challenged in LHC

LAHORE: Free fuel quota to the President, Prime Minister, ministers and government officials has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC). A single bench of the high court comprised of Justice Shahid Karim heard petition of Shehbaz Akmal Jindran against free petrol, electricity and gas quota for the President, PM, ministers and government officials. "In view of the economic situation of the country, providing this facility is violation of the Article 25," according to the petition.

The petitioner requested for the court order to terminate the facility of free petrol, electricity and gas quota to the President, PM, governor, ministers and other beneficiaries of the facility. The bench directed the petitioner to submit relevant documents to the court.

### Saturday's off restored

## Federal Cabinet cuts petrol quota of govt officials

Bans cabinet members, officers' overseas tours, treatment

### Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government Tuesday announced its austerity measures and banned the procurement of cars, overseas tours and treatments of government officials and buying of furniture and machinery for government offices. Federal cabinet restored Saturday as holiday, months after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif abolished it following coming to power. The cabinet also slashed fuel quota for all government departments by 40 percent; however, no decision was reached over closure of market by 7pm. The meeting also discussed ways to reduce load-shedding in the country as masses face up to 16 hours of power outages.

Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said that cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was given a briefing on ways to reduce load shedding and improve overall energy situation. In a tweet, she said there was a shortage of installed capacity to cater to the high demand. The minister said there were also supply chain gaps because PTI regime did not make enough fuel contracts. She said the present government was addressing these issues on emergent basis. She said that in four years PTI was not able to even make operational all the projects PML-N had started.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcast Maryam Aurangzeb along with PPP's Qamar Zaman Kaira and JUI-F's Amin-ul-Haq and Asad

Mehmood held a press briefing after the PM's meeting with the cabinet on Tuesday morning. The PML-N leader said that the current power demand of the country is 28,400MW which includes 2700MW of line losses while the supply is 21,000MW. Three power plants including the Shanghai electric Thar and Crote power plant had been completed but were not operational in the PTI era. The official duration of load shedding between June 6 to 15 in the country will be three and a half hours, she added.

She said that the duration of load shedding would be decreased to two hours until June 30 with the addition of the Sahiwal power plant, K2 project, and Port Qasim coal-based powerplant in the national grid. The PM has also approved the reduction

of the fuel quota of the cabinet members and government officials by 40%, she added. The federal minister added that the government has banned the procurement and purchase of all vehicles, except ambulance and education shuttle services, by the government amid the emergency situation.

The treatment of cabinet members or government officials from abroad has also been banned by the government, she added. Official visits, purchase of furniture or machinery by any government officials will be subject to the decision of a committee. The government has also announced to form a committee to investigate the rigging in Daska by-polls where the whole polling staff had disappeared, Maryam Aurangzeb announced.

### Rs 250b

## CDWP okays Chashma Right Bank Canal project

Ahsan says project to irrigate 275,000 acres of lands in KPK's Southern Districts

### Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday said that the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved Rs 250 billion Chashma Right Bank Canal (lift cum gravity), and referred with recommendation to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) for further approval. Addressing a press conference, the minister said, the project that was lingering on for 30 years would help irrigating 275,000 acres of lands in the Southern Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Out of total cost, the federal government would spend 65% while the rest

35% funds would be spent by the provincial government.

"This project had a long standing issue and the current government took this project on priority and approved and included in the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2022-23", he added. Ahsan Iqbal said the federal government would try to complete the project as early as possible to bring revolution in the agriculture sector of the KP province. The minister informed that the CDWP also approved power project of the Rs 900 billion Diamir Bhasha Dam project. He said the PML-N government had started work on this project and spent Rs 120 billion for acquiring of land for the project.

## PTI to struggle till elections are announced: Imran Khan

Urges govt to boycott indian products

### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday while condemning Indian ruling party BJP's leaders derogatory remarks about Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that the Arab countries have taken strict action against Indian government and 'Sharif family' should also severe their ties with India and take harsh actions against the Narendra Modi government. Addressing the lawyers' convention here, the former prime minister said, he needs lawyers' support the most in the anti-government movement and the protest is the right of every citizen in a democracy, adding that the government of thieves was imposed under the conspiracy.

Taking a dig at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Imran Khan said that the Election Commission is trying to keep Hamza as Chief Minister. Now Punjab government want to do rigging together with the



ECP in by-polls but they will face the defeat by the PTI, he added. PTI Chairman Imran Khan warned the government that whether it puts his party members in jail or employs other tactics, PTI's movement against the government would not stop. "The way they tortured us was not even witnessed during the martial law eras," Khan, who was ousted from the prime minister's office in April, told a gathering of lawyers at Bani Gala.

The ex-prime minister was talking about the events leading up to May 26 —

when Khan had announced to call off his "Azadi March" as he feared further bloodshed. Ahead of him reaching Islamabad's D-Chowk on the day, three people were killed — a police constable and two PTI workers. "The government is trying to throw me in jail to stop our movement [...] but I am telling you, whether you put us in jails or resort to other measures, this movement will not stop," the former prime minister said.

Ousted prime minister said inflation is rapidly increasing in the country after the 'corrupts' were brought into power. Imran Khan said his government resisted International Monetary Fund (IMF) from increasing fuel and electricity prices but the 'imported government' has bowed down and accepted each and every demand of the fund. The economy during the tenure of my government was on the right path and was growing at 5.6pc rate, he said and regretted that Moody's has now changed Pakistan's credit rating into negative.

## Rupee further sheds against US Dollar

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee depreciated further by Rs0.85 against the US dollar in the interbank market on Tuesday amid budget uncertainties as matters with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are yet to be finalised. According to forex dealers, the US dollar rose by Rs2.93 to 202.99 against the rupee during intraday trading. "The US dollar in open market is trading between Rs202 and Rs207," they said. The greenback gained Rs2.25 and closed at Rs200.06 in the interbank market the other day, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

However, the market reversed the free fall and closed the day with a loss of nearly Rs3. This was the third consecutive work-day free-fall of the rupee. In the open market, the rupee closed at a historic low of 204 against the greenback, according to Forex Association of Pakistan. The plunge came on the back of a mammoth import bill and widened the current account deficit.

## No summary or plan to raise petrol prices: Miftah

Says govt took difficult decisions and will continue to do so

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail said on Tuesday that it was a very difficult decision for any Prime Minister to increase the price of petrol by Rs 30 twice, but we have taken difficult decisions and will continue to do so. He rebutted reports and clarified that the government has no plans to increase the price of petroleum products. "There will be no increase in prices today, and there is no summary or plan to raise prices," the finance minister said in a tweet after media reports quoted him as saying that petrol prices will move up further. "In the pre-budget seminar I never even spoke about petroleum prices. Channels running these tickers are doing a disservice to their viewers," the finance minister said.

Addressing the Pre-budget Seminar on Business, IT, and Agriculture in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said that the country's economy passing through a difficult phase but the government will control inflation alongside overcoming other challenges. The conference was convened to provide a platform to agriculturists, information technology (IT) experts and businessmen to share and exchange their proposals with the government on IT, agriculture, business, textile and exports. Miftah said the incumbent government had to take



difficult decisions to put the economy on track, and it could take more drastic measures if required to improve it. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) came into power in a difficult situation, and it would leave it in a much better condition on the completion of its government tenure.

"You are all with us, we will leave it in a better position," he said while addressing the audience. The minister said the current government had re-engaged Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates and other friendly countries, and it would hopefully help improve the situation in the country. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had realized the situation being faced by the downtrodden segments of the society and accordingly directed the quarters concerned to make plans for providing maximum relief to them before hiking

petrol prices. He said the government would provide stipend to around 14 million people, approximately one third of the country's population. Miftah expressed pleasure over the presence of stakeholders in the consultative gathering to take collective decisions at the critical juncture and lead the country towards a better future.

He assured the participants that the government would take all sectors along. The minister said the government had inherited the economy in a bad situation, as the country witnessed the third highest inflation rate after Argentina and Turkey. He said during the four years of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government, some 20 million people went below the poverty line and 0.6 million lost their jobs. Every year, he said, around two million people joined the labour market and the country needed around 6 percent economic growth rate to absorb them. However, negative growth during the PTI regime led to unemployment and increase in poverty. When the incumbent government took over, he said, around Rs 5,600 billion deficit was projected, and it was making concerted efforts to bring it down to Rs 5,200 billion.

The minister said there was average deficit of Rs 1,650 billion per annum during the PML-N's last tenure, and it rose to Rs 5,600 billion in just three and a half years of the PTI government.

## Diverse coop

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari speaks next to with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock during a joint press conference after their meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Federal capital as Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has canceled all further appointments shortly after the start of her visit to Pakistan following a positive Corona rapid test.



Photo: Online

# Pakistan, Germany vow to further cement bilateral ties

FM says Pakistan should not be dragged into any conflict

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Germany have expressed the resolve to further deepen their bilateral ties in fields. The resolve was expressed by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock, while addressing a joint press conference here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Bilawal said Pakistan has close cooperation with Germany in a number of areas and we desire to expand it further up to other areas of mutual benefits of the two countries. He said Pakistan looks forward to continuing to work with Germany further deepening bilateral ties.

He said that Pakistan always advocated for dialogue and diplomacy as tools for the pursuit of peace in the world. He said Germany is the largest trading partner of Pakistan within the European Union and also the 5th largest export destination for Pakistan internationally. He said last year, Pakistan exports to Germany stood at 2.5 billion dollars,

while imports from Germany were 1.3 billion dollars. The Foreign Minister said Germany is the 7th largest Foreign Direct Investor in Pakistan with 35 German companies are investing in the Pakistan. Turning to Afghanistan, Bilawal Bhutto said we support a

Pakistan looks forward to continuing to work with Germany: Bilawal

peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan contributing to stability and regional connectivity.

He said the international community must be actively engaged in preventing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. On Ukraine issue, the Foreign Minister said Pakistan remains concerned about the well-being of the Ukrainian people, reports of

civilian casualties, massive outflow of refugees and internally displacement of people. He said we have expressed solidarity with the people of Ukraine and sent humanitarian assistance to that country.

He said we emphasize the indispensability for the immediate cession of hostilities and constructive engagement regarding Ukraine. Bilawal Bhutto said Pakistan firmly hopes that the solution should be found through dialogue and diplomacy at the earliest. The Foreign Minister said we discussed the continuing human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the rising tide of Islamophobia across India and risks posed to the regional peace and stability.

He said sustainable peace in South Asia remains contingent upon the peaceful resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the wishes of Kashmiri people. Speaking on this occasion, the German Foreign Minister thanked Bilawal Zardari for extending warm welcome at her arrival in Pakistan.

## By-polls

## PML-Q to support PTI in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) has decided to give full support to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates in Punjab by-polls. As per details, both the PTI and the PML-Q are focused on the by-polls in Punjab and are hopeful for change in the province by winning the by-elections. In this regard, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid has decided to give full support to the PTI candidates in the Punjab by-elections and in this regard PML-Q central leader and Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi has issued instructions to party officials.

It is to be noted that the Election Commission has announced to hold by-elections on July 17 on the 20 vacant general seats due to



the disqualification of deviating members of PTI. PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi's son Zain Qureshi has also decided to run in the by-elections and he will run in the by-elections on PP ticket from PP-217. It is pertinent to mention here that ousted prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan decided to do more consultation before finalising candidates for the by-polls in Punjab.

## Punjab prepares 1st development budget draft

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab government on Tuesday prepared first draft of development budget in which it was proposed to allocate Rs640 billion in the development budget. According to the details, it has been recommended to allocate up to 35% of the budget for South Punjab and it was also proposed to start 13 mega development projects in Punjab while development schemes of 500 million will be given to each provincial lawmaker of PML-N.

It is pertinent to mention that the first draft was prepared and presented by the Department of Development and Planning taking into consideration of Punjab CM order. The draft also proposed Rs28 billion for ongoing projects under foreign loans, Rs 114 billion for ongoing and new projects of district development program while a total fund of Rs237 billion for completion of mega projects and Rs 20 billion for priority projects, adding that Rs15 billion under allocation fund and private partnership was also proposed.

## CM's removal

## LHC seeks Hamza's reply on a petition

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday issued notice to Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz after petitions were filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) requesting the court to declare null and void Hamza's chief ministership. The court also summoned the Attorney General Pakistan and Advocate General Punjab. On the petition by PTI member of Punjab Assembly Zainab Ameer and three others, the LHC Judge Shujat Ali Khan heard the initial case in his chamber.

The petitioner's lawyer Azhar Siddique said that the position of defective members is clear after Supreme Court's verdict and Hamza Shahbaz's vote count is no more in majority. Punjab government's lawyer Assistant Advocate General Tayyab Jan objected on the petition saying that it is not worth hearing as the petition is filed by PTI members. Tayyab further pointed that the petitioners can also start a no-confidence motion against Hamza from the Punjab Assembly. Tayyab prayed to the court that the petition should be rejected while the court adjourned the case till June 20

## Zardari, Hamza meeting

## PPP, PML-N to contest Punjab by-polls jointly

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz on Tuesday called on Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari while during the meeting both showed consensus to contest Punjab by-elections jointly. The meeting was held in Bilawal House Lahore, Provincial Minister Ata Tarar, Malik Muhammad Ahmed Ali, Khawaja Salman Rafique, Imran Goraya, Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah, Sharjeel Memon, Dr Asim Hussain, Syed Ali Haider Gilani and Syed Hassan Murtaza were also present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the former president congratulated Hamza Shahbaz on assuming the post of Chief Minister, and Asif Ali Zardari also gave lunch in honor of Punjab CM. On the occasion, Hamza Shahbaz said the PPP is our ally and the discussion process with



PPP will continue to further improve the working relationship. "The coalition of PML-N and PPP is to serve the people. I consider politics as worship and I believe in collective decisions," Hamza said.

The PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari reached Lahore on Monday. He is scheduled to stay in the city for

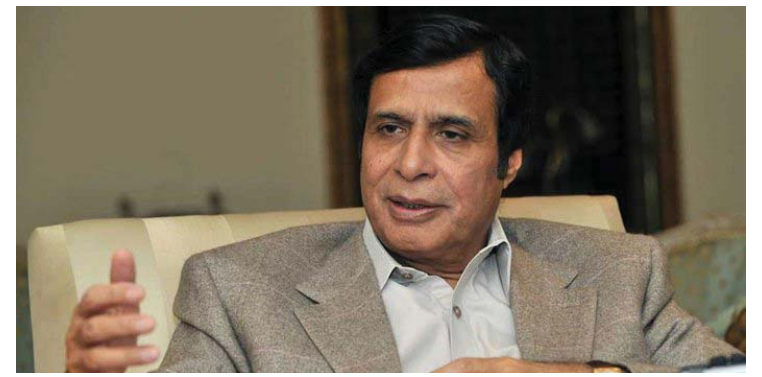
a couple of days, Dunya News reported. Sources informed that Asif Zardari has also invited CM Hamza Shahbaz on lunch. Punjab Chief Minister will meet the PPP co-chairman at the Bilawal House today. The current political situation in the country will also come under discussion during the meeting.

## Govt has no vision to solve public issues: Elahi

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker and Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Pervez Elahi on Tuesday said that incumbent government has miserably failed to deliver, they should announce the elections. During the meeting with PTI's lawmakers and other Punjab Assembly members, Elahi said after the massive hike in petroleum prices now the government will impose further taxes in the upcoming budget, adding that Shehbaz and Hamza have ruined the country.

Pervez Elahi further said that incumbent government has no vision to bring Pakistan's out of the crisis, they should go home and announce the elections to save the country from further destruction.

Members of PTI Punjab Assembly and former ministers called on Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi in the Speaker's Chamber. Former provincial ministers Sardar Asif Nakai,



Muhammad Ikhtlaq, MPAs Sardar Wasim Khan Badozai, Wasim Gondal and Rana Shahbaz were also present in the meeting. The difficulties faced by the people including political and economic situation were discussed in detail in the meeting.

The Speaker Punjab Assembly said that the rulers are not capable of delivering on public issues, bogus rulers should prepare to go home and

announce elections. Ch Parvez Elahi said that in just a few weeks, the people have seen the style of government of these so-called experienced rulers. He said that apart from increasing the price of petrol by Rs 60 per liter and gas and electricity prices, what has the imported government done? Shahbaz Sharif in the federation and his son Hamza Shahbaz in the Punjab are wreaking havoc on the economy..

## PAC seeks NAB employees' complete record

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) demanded complete record of the NAB employees in a meeting of the Parliament body here. Acting Chairman, National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Zahir Shah, appeared in the PAC hearing, presided over by its new chairman Noor Alam Khan. "The accountability will also be made accountable," chairman PAC said. While demanding record of the NAB employees, Noor Alam Khan asked for details of salaries, privileges and period of employment. He directed the NAB employees to submit details of their assets within a period of one month.

"We have regard for the NAB but it has to give reply of questions," PAC chairman said. He also directed the accountability bureau for audit of the 820 billion rupees recoveries it made. "The new laws of the NAB, under the hammer, will stabilize or weaken the accountability process," PTI's Shibli Faraz questioned. "The law governing the NAB is the Parliament's mandate," acting NAB



chairman Zahir Shah replied. "Tell me, if the NAB have any inquiry against me," PAC Chairman asked the NAB chairman during the hearing.

"If yes, I will stay away from the PAC session today," he added. "I think an inquiry

against you has still not been closed," Acting chairman NAB said. "Where the case against me has reached," Noor Alam questioned. "If you found innocent, we will definitely write a letter of apology to you. In future we will write an apology letter to all persons who will

be found innocent" NAB chairman said. "If the case against the PAC chairman not yet been closed, he should stay away to chair the session," Shibli Faraz remarked. PAC summoned the NAB officials with record in the next session of the PAC on July 07.

## President okays NEC's reconstitution

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday approved the reconstitution of the National Economic Council (NEC) under Article 156 of the Constitution. The prime minister will be the Chairman of NEC while the chief ministers of all provinces will be the members. From the federal side, the members include Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Miftah Ismael, Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar and Communication Minister Asad Mehmood.

The names of Sardar Awaish Ahmed Khan Leghari (Punjab), Senator Nisar Khoro (Sindh), Taimur Saleem Jhagra



(Khyber Pukhtunkhwa) and Noor Muhammad Damar (Balochistan) have been approved for NEC. The deputy chairman Planning Commission, Secretary Finance, Secretary Economic Affairs and Secretary Planning Division will attend the meetings on special invitation.

# Stakeholders stress more budget for girls education in Punjab

*Punjab govt urged to immediately notify free and compulsory Education Act 2014*

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Highlighting the significance of girls education towards nation building, stakeholders at an advocacy forum have called for allocating a substantial chunk of annual budget for girls quality education particularly at secondary level in Punjab as it would contribute a lot towards ensuring educated women population, a guarantee to economic and social stability.

The advocacy forum was arranged by the Awaz CDS Pakistan here with a major focus to highlight the importance of girls quality education at secondary level, get input from experts and stakeholders, and push the government to increase budgetary chunk in the upcoming provin-

cial annual budget for this important sector.

Chief Executive Awaz CDS Pakistan Zia ur Rahman, Punjab MPAs Raheela Khadam Hussain (PML-N) and Ayesha Iqbal (PTD), Mina Umer Hayat from Human Rights & Minorities Affairs Department Punjab, Additional Secretary (Budget & Planning) School Education Department Punjab Qaiser Rasheed, Director General (Parliamentary Affairs & Research) Punjab Assembly Inayat Ullah Lak, Coordinator National Commission for Human Right Punjab Muhammad Khalid and NGOs attended the event.

In his opening remarks, Zia ur Rahman highlighted the significance of girls quality secondary education and explained the grey areas in the way of girls education in Punjab.

He urged the Punjab government to immediately notify the Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Act 2014 which was approved earlier. He stressed for increasing development budgets in school education as developments budgets are only being distributed to PEF and PEIMA rather development budgets needs to be utilized for the development of public schools especially for girls, where missing facilities and accessibility is still a major challenge. He also called for mainstreaming the people living with disability and transgender community to make education accessible for them.

During the discussion, Punjab MPAs Rahila Khadam and Ayesha Iqbal assured that efforts would be made to get this education Act noti-

fied without any delay as education is priority of all political parties.

Ayesha Iqbal suggested to take all PEIMA and PEF schools under one umbrella to minimize the expenses on bureaucracy and other unnecessary expenditures. It will also help in making systems accountable, she rearked.

In her remarks, MPA Raheela Khadam Hussain endorsed the girls education is not getting the level of seriousness required to ensure quality education for girls in the province.

In his remarks, Mian Umer Hayat said that their department is constantly working on this sector and said that they would make extensive efforts to sensitize more and more people on girls education in order to minimize girls schools drop out ratio.

## Warmth

Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif is presenting a shield to H.E Mr. Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of UAE at Islamabad Office on Tuesday



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

# Management of Superhighway Cattle Market ensures foolproof security

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: The biggest market of sacrificial animals in the country has been set up and ready to go in full swing. All possible measures have been taken to ensure the foolproof security arrangements and provision of all facilities to the buyers and sellers of sacrificial animals for smooth running of the market.

Officers of law enforcement agencies will be deployed to monitor the activities taking place in the cattle market through CCTV cameras. More than 100 CCTV cameras are being installed at all blocks including entrances and exits to monitor the security situation.

Cattle Market Management in collaboration with livestock department has set up a team of experienced and expert veterinary doctors and paramedics who are performing their duties vigilantly with complete honesty and dedication without fraction of negligence.

Veterinarians in the marshalling area of the market regularly inspect the animals coming to the cattle market for the signs of infectious diseases. If any



of such sign is found in an animal, the whole consignment is sent back home.

The Management has directed to ensure regular daily spray and vaccination of animals to control the infection and other diseases.

Administrator Cattle Market, Muzaffar said that more than 2,000 animals have been brought to the market so far and about 400,000 animals are expected to get into the cattle market this year for sale.

Other facilities being offered by the Management include proper lighting with standby generators, ATM

machines, bank counters etc. Free drinking cold water is also available for everyone in the market.

The fee for cattle sellers for booking place at the biggest cattle market of Asia, located at Super Highway, has been reduced to Rs. 100, while allocation of the place in the market will go through automation this time, and the receipts for cows and goats will also be issued from the same counter at cattle market. Coming of animals to the cattle market from different regions of the country to be sacrificed on the day of Eid-ul-Adha has begun.

immediately apologize to the entire Muslim Ummah for their insolence. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting of the business community at ICCI.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh said that the Pakistani nation, including the business community, was deeply concerned over



the alarming rise in sectarian violence and hatred against Muslims in India. He said that the silence of the BJP's top leadership on oppression and violence against Muslims was a clear indication that minorities, especially Muslims, were being persecuted with the open support of the state machinery and efforts were being made to push them towards further backwardness.

The Acting President ICCI urged India to ensure that strict action be taken against those responsible for making derogatory remarks and attacking the honor of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He further demanded that the BJP government should take immediate steps to protect all minorities, including its Muslims, from human rights violations, ensure their safety, security and well-being and enable them to live in peace in accordance with their faiths and beliefs.

Immediately apologize to the entire Muslim Ummah for their insolence. He expressed these views while addressing a meeting of the business community at ICCI. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh said that the Pakistani nation, including the business community, was deeply concerned over

# ICCI strongly condemns derogatory remarks of BJP Spokesperson

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly condemned the blasphemous remarks made by BJP Spokesperson Nupur Sharma and another party leader Naveen Kumar Jindal against the Prophet (PBUH) and called for strong action against them by the BJP government.

He said that the entire Pakistani nation, including the business community, was severely hurt by these blasphemous remarks. He said that he derogatory remarks made against the Prophet of Islam had not only deeply hurt the sentiments of the Pakistani nation but the entire Muslim Ummah has been hurt greatly from this move. He said that the pain and anxiety in the Muslim world could not be alleviated by the

**Highlighting Kashmir case**

## Barrister Sultan praises Kashmiri diaspora community

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmoob Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri diaspora community settled in the UK has played a vital role in highlighting the Kashmir issue at international level.

While addressing a function in Bradford, the AJK president praised the expatriate community for its significant contribution to the Kashmir cause and said that Kashmiris living in the UK have always stood by me to promote the Kashmir cause.

Recalling his early memories of Bradford, the President said, "I'm delighted to be a part of this august gathering along with British Members of Parliament and Lord Mayors".

"Bradford is a place where a large number of Kashmiris live", he said, adding that two Kashmiri MPs Naz Shah and Imran Hussain have been elected from here and I also have a degree from Bradford University", the president said.

Referring to his visit, the president said that the sole purpose of his visit was to apprise the international community of the dire situation in Occupied Kashmir and unjust sentencing of JKLF chairman Yasin Malik.

He said that the Kashmir issue has now entered a critical juncture following India's unilateral abrogation of article 370. He said that the people of Occupied Kashmir were currently going through a difficult situation.

Regarding the conviction and life imprisonment of Yasin Malik, he said that it was high time that the issue should be raised at every international forum to expose how the Indian government was using its judiciary as a tool to silence legitimate and genuine political voices in the occupied territory.

Given the worsening situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir, he said that it was our shared responsibility to raise the issue at global level.

## Research on mental weakness of children must be conducted

**Mian Rasheed Asghar**

FAISALABAD: There is an urgent need to conduct research on "Neurodia Versus Children" to overcome the mental weakness of children and to carry forward this struggle the support of conscious and empowered classes should also be sought.

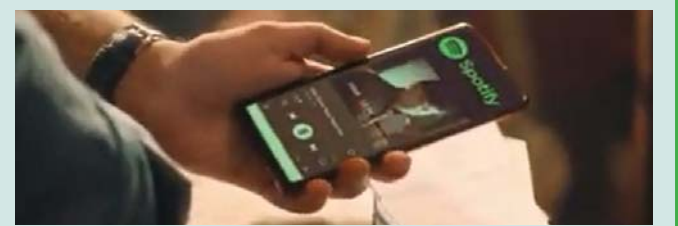
This was stated by Dr. Shah Shoaib Hashmi, an expert from UK, while addressing a function at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He highlighted the different types and causes of mental retardation in children and said that the institution he was running in England had 112 children with 67 academic and 26 non-academic staff. Thus, the company has 23 vehicles. He said that there was no shortage of resources in the UK and they could generously help the institutions working in this field in Pakistan.

Atif Munir Sheikh, President, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) especially thanked Dr. Shoaib, Dr. Asma, his father and line Imran Ilyas for organizing the event and said that although the elected body of Faisalabad Chamber of Business Community But we differ, including health, education and the city's Infrastructure are also contributing to the welfare work. He said that our aim is to enhance the cooperation between the government and the private sector while various events are also encouraged for the awareness of the people. He said that a fee is charged for the events held in Faisalabad Chamber but for such purposeful events he has the option of giving free auditorium. He appreciated the offer of financial assistance by Dr. Shoaib but said that Pakistan was facing double standards at the international level.

He especially thanked the faculty members and participants for attending the event and said that if Allah Almighty had not instilled the love of children in the hearts of parents, it would have been difficult to raise children. He said that if the children are handed over to another person after the parents, then they are the teachers, therefore there should be such communication between the parents and the teachers so that the shortcomings of the children can be rectified immediately.

## Spotify launches drive in Pakistan with "Jaisa Mood Waisi Dhun"

**Spokesman Report**



ISLAMABAD: Spotify has launched its first nationwide marketing campaign titled "Jaisa Mood Waisi Dhun". The campaign celebrates the power of music and the way it connects listeners with their feelings, mood, and the world around them, and Spotify is the platform through which all of this happens.

Spotify entered Pakistan in February 2021, and since then, the platform has been able to strike a chord with Pakistani listeners. With access to over 82 million songs and 4 billion playlists available for free, Spotify's campaign highlights how music can transform any moment, the mundane or the most exciting, through the emotional power of a song or a playlist.

The new campaign, "Jaisa Mood Waisi Dhun", comprises a series of three TV commercials showcasing a diverse spectrum of Pakistani talent, from the iconic Strings to the hottest hip duo act in Pakistan, Young Stunners. The campaign also features Hasan Raheem, Justin Bibis and Talal Qureshi's "Peechay Hutt", a song that speaks to the next generation of creators and sound. Each TV commercial celebrates a cultural insight that is uniquely Pakistani.

Starring Young Stunners, the dynamic rap duo of Talha Anjum and Talhah Yunus, and Faisal Kapadia, the creative film shows how Gen-Zs turn to music to enhance any given experience. The advertisement shows a young girl partying to her mood on a Ghazal night. But, as she plays "Phir Milenge" on Spotify, a considerable contrast to her current musical surroundings, the whole environment eventually changes. Link video here.

Trying to get the hold of the car keys first is a daily struggle among family members in most Pakistani households. Still, in this installment of the creative film, we see that with Hasan Raheem, Justin Bibis and Talal Qureshi's "Peechay Hutt", there is a tune for almost every tricky situation and that music is here to lighten any family affair. Link to video here.

Education has the power to change lives, but at times, the lengthy lectures and hectic schedules can take their toll on both students and teachers. In this commercial, we see how music, once again, can be a lifter, creating an ideal opportunity for learning, growth and positive interactions. With the famed tracks "Har Zulm Tera Yaad Hai" by Sajjad Ali, and "Sajni" by Strings, the TVC showcases how music can shift the mood around entirely. Link to video here.

# PANAH officials visited GB

*Important meetings with GB Chief Secretary, Deputy Commissioner and other senior officials of the Health Department, female teachers and journalists held*



**Spokesman Report**

GILGIT: PANAH delegation led by Sanaullah Ghumman, General Secretary, Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) visited to Gilgit-Baltistan. Munawwar Hussain, Consultant Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Food Policy Program was present on the occasion. The main purpose of the PANAH visit was to learn about the health problems of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, to meet the policy makers for the prevention of diseases and their causes, and to provide information on PANAH efforts, suggestions, studies and opinions to control the diseases.

The PANAH delegation met with Mohi-ud-Din Ahmad Wani, Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan, Food Secretary Safdar Ali Khan, Muhammad Musa, Additional Secretary Health, Deputy Commissioner Osama Majeed Cheema. Discussed on health issues of Gilgit-Baltistan. During the meeting, it was learned that the use of unhealthy

food and sugar sweetened beverages in Gilgit-Baltistan is excessive. The sale and purchase of which continues unabated among the innocent children of educational institutions, which is why the people here are suffering from deadly diseases like heart, diabetes, cancer and many others.

On the occasion, the PANAH delegation requested the Chief Secretary to play his role to curb rising incidence of heart disease, diabetes, cancer and NCDs in GB, which is one of main role of increasing deadly diseases are use of sugary drinks. In order to save the young generation in particular, the sale of unhealthy items in educational institutions should be banned, so that the burden of diseases can be reduced.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of the PANAH and said that giving a healthy life to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan and the young generation is our top priority, for which we have taken positive steps and more work will be done.



Islamabad  
23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:15 am  
Zohr ..... 12:07 pm  
Asr ..... 5:06 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:16 pm  
Isha ..... 8:59 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**NCEAC visits Federal Urdu University Islamabad Campus**



**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The members of the NCEAC Dr. Abdul Rehman from IBA Sukhar and Dr. Asim Imdad from MAJU Karachi visited FUUAST Islamabad. Dr. Muhammad Sheraz, Head of Computer Science Department (CS) along-with others received the guests.

A briefing was given to the NCEAC members about the computer science programs being offered at FUUAST Islamabad. The NCEAC team members also visited the CS Department. The Head of CS department Dr. Muhammad Sheraz told that NCEAC is a regulatory body of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. The NCEAC regulates the computer science programs in the universities all over Pakistan. Every batch of the newly admitted students in computer science programs needs to be accredited by NCEAC. The CS department FUUAST is the largest department at Islamabad campus. Currently we have more than 1200 students enrolled in BS and MS programs.

The purpose of the visit was to review the programs and enhance the programs quality. Later on the members of NCEAC paid visit to the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Ather Ataa in his office.

**Digital Infrastructure**

**Science Minister for transforming health delivery sector**

*Agha Hassan Baloch says Tele Health facilities were playing an important role in the dissemination of information*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Tuesday said that Tele Health facilities were playing an important role in the dissemination of information regarding Maternal and Child health issues by providing guidelines and are educating about the health-related problems.

He stated this while addressing as a chief guest at the inauguration of a Tele-Health facility in COMSATS Internet Service (CIS) Technology Park, Islamabad.

The Federal Minister emphasized the need to transform the health delivery sector of the country by using digital infrastructure to ensure connectivity among health professionals and patients to provide consultative services to the latter.

Agha Hassan Baloch said



it was high time that the preventive healthcare system should be focused to provide free advice to the people and improve the quality of care in the country.

While appreciating the commitment, and devotedness of the Prime Minister for the less developed areas, he said the government of Paki-

stan is committed to providing equitable health facilities to the population living in the remote areas of Pakistan via free of cost medical advice to people under the Tele Health program.

He said that Balochistan suffers from the highest incidence of preventable deaths among mothers, children and

young infants and to improve the health care system is the top priority and vision of the Akhtar Jan Mengal and BNP is focusing on prevailing health problems in Balochistan.

"We are introducing new plans and schemes which educate women and their families on family planning and safe motherhood, he added.

He further said we can reduce Maternal and infant mortality rates by early detection and treatment of obstetric and newborn complications.

He appreciated the mobile unit and said that putting our resources and hard work in the right place will surely result in something considerable.

He emphasized all platforms working for tele-health in the country to provide medical relief to the mother and children in the distant areas of Balochistan. APP

**Price Hike Fear**

ISLAMABAD: A large number of the bikers are waiting for their turn in long queue to refuel tanks as due to the humours of increasing fuel prices, people eagerly rush to the station in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

**AAA Associates holds protest against Indian BJP's leader**

**Staff Reporter**

RAWALPINDI: AAA Associates today held a protest at Clock Tower, Phase 7, Bahria Town Rawalpindi against the Indian ruling party member's blasphemous comments. The rally was attended by a huge number of residents, businessmen and the management of AAA Associates who held placards against the BJP's spokespersons. They rallied demanding the Indian Government to take stern action against the perpetrators.

International backlash is growing against India after a ruling party official made Islamophobic comments during a televised debate. The criticism from Muslim countries had been severe, indicating that insulting Prophet Muham-



mad is a red line. The anger has been growing since last week after the two BJP members, national spokeswoman Nupur Sharma and Delhi BJP staff Naveen Jindal, made remarks that were seen as insulting Holy Prophet Muhammad PBUH. Modi's party took no action

against them until Sunday when a chorus of diplomatic outrage began with Qatar and Kuwait summoning their Indian ambassadors to protest. Pakistan has also recorded its protest with the Indian Embassy. The local community of

Bahria Town Rawalpindi applauded the protest lodged by AAA Associates in honour of the Holy Prophet Muhammad SAWW. A local resident of Bahria town while talking to the media also expressed his anger, stating, "These insulting remarks would lead to incitement of religious hatred, and offend more than two billion Muslims around the world"

Addressing the rally, AAA Associates Chairman Sheikh Fawad Bashir said, "As a proud Muslim, it is a duty to resist the uncalled for diatribe against Islam as the Muslim Ummah's feelings were deeply hurt by the comments. The Indian ruling party members must be punished. There is also a need for Muslim leaders to unite and take Indian leadership to the task."

**Health Corner**



**COVID-19 and risk of psychiatric diagnoses later**

ISLAMABAD: A recent Oregon State University study found that COVID-19 patients had a roughly 25% increased risk of developing a psychiatric disorder in the four months following their infection, compared with people who had other types of respiratory tract infections.

The findings support previous research on psychiatric disorders among post-COVID patients, though the current study found a smaller effect than the earlier studies, said co-author Lauren Chan, a Ph.D. student in nutrition in OSU's College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

For the current study, published in World Psychiatry, researchers used data from the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) to match 46,610 COVID-19 positive individuals with control patients who were diagnosed with a different respiratory tract infection so they could compare how COVID specifically affected patients' mental health.

They looked at the rate of psychiatric diagnoses for two time periods: from 21 to 120 days after patients' COVID diagnosis, and from 120 to 365 days after diagnosis, limited to patients with no previous mental illness.

Researchers found that COVID patients had a 3.8% rate of developing a psychiatric disorder compared with 3.0% for other respiratory tract infections. The 0.8% difference amounts to about a 25% increased relative risk.

They looked specifically at anxiety disorders and mood disorders and found a minor but significant increase in risk for anxiety disorders and no change in risk for mood disorders.

The large sample size and the fact that this data cohort draws from across the U.S. gave researchers a unique window into post-COVID side effects, Chan said.

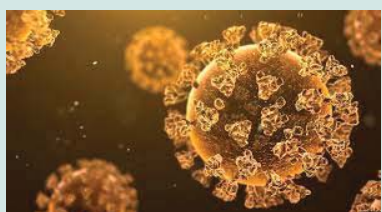
The results speak to the need for both patients and health care providers to be more proactive when it comes to addressing mental health concerns following COVID infection, she said.

"For people that have had COVID, if you're feeling anxiety, if you're seeing some changes in how you're going through life from a psychiatric standpoint, it's totally appropriate for you to seek some help," Chan said. "And if you're a care provider, you need to be on the proactive side and start to screen for those psychiatric conditions and then follow up with those patients."

When patients leave a doctor's office, sometimes care stops there, but Chan recommended that providers consider calling in two weeks for a check-in.

"There could certainly be people who are struggling with new things like this, and they need that additional support or push to seek some help," she said. "I don't want to say that every single person who gets COVID is going to have this type of problem, but if you start to have concern for yourself or a family member, it's not unheard of. You should definitely seek care for yourself or others around you."

In the larger context of COVID and health care in the U.S., any increase in the amount of people seeking care, especially psychiatric care, will add further strain to a system that is already stretched to maximum capacity, Chan said. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



**'Chaar Diwari' based on honor killings staged at PAC**



**Staff Reporter**

RAWALPINDI: Classical drama festival is in full swing in the Punjab arts council, on the second day of the festival play "Chaar Diwar" was staged at the Council. The Play was written by Zeeshan Alvi, while Muhammad Suleman Bhatti was the director. The play deals with the exploitation of daughters in the name of honor.

Naheed Manzoor said that in many parts of Pakistan, daughters are still being killed in the name of honor. Islam called daughter a mercy. But in some societies daughter has been made a nuisance. Special attention needs to be paid to the education of daughters in the 21st century. So that they can create their own identity in the society. We should try to change the mindset of the people through corrective dramas.

Finally, he congratulated the director Suleiman Sunni for presenting a successful play. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that plays on new topics have been written through the theater festival, which is good gesture. New artists in dramas are also receiving accolades from the audience. A large number of spectators were present at the Arts Council to watch the play. The Theater Festival continued till June 9.

**PANAH organizes seminar on World Food Safety Day**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: An important seminar was organized by PANAH on the occasion of "World Food Safety Day" at Fairyland Resort, Alia-bad, Hunza in collaboration with the Provincial Nutrition Focal Person, Gilgit-Baltistan Health Department. In the seminar, Sanaulah Ghumman, General Secretary of PANAH, Munawwar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program and Provincial Nutrition Focal Person, Health Department, Gilgit-Baltistan Mohammad Abbas gave lectures to female teachers on the benefits of healthy food and the causes of diseases.

The lecture stated that World Food Safety Day is organized every year under the auspices of PANAH like Worldwide. The aim is to draw attention to the dangers of health hazards posed by food, to detect them, to manage them and to improve human health.

The World Diabetes Federation stated in November 2021 that Pakistan ranks third in the world in terms of diabetes. More than 33 million people are living with diabetes in Pakistan, with a sharp increase of 14 million in the last two years only.

Consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is increasing the risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases. Just one soda a day increases the obesity and over weight of adults by 27% and children by 55%. Consumption of sugary drinks increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 30%. Drinking a glass of two or more sugary drinks a day increases the risk of dying from cancer by 17%.

A comprehensive approach is needed to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. There should be a ban on the availability and consumption of sugary drinks in educational institutions, so that a healthy society can be formed.

**Bridge of Friendship & Ambassadors of Culture**

*2022 China Soong Ching Ling Foundation announces launch of "Junior Cultural Ambassadors" event*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In order to promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning, and tighten people-to-people bonds between different countries, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation launches the 2022 "Junior Cultural Ambassadors" Event. The event is expected to build a platform for young people all over the world to make the acquaintance of each other both online and offline, and bring out more junior cultural ambassadors who would make their own share of contribution to people-to-people exchanges.



Chinese Arts", encourages young people to exchange ideas and tell stories about Chinese culture through videos. With the support of the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China

and Guangming Online, the event is hosted by the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Center for Young People and China Cultural Centers Overseas.

Exchange among civilizations spurs diversity, mutual learning promotes the richness of civilizations. Different

civilizations complement each other and together constitute a world that blooms with cultures. In order to further strengthen communication and understanding and write a new chapter of friendship among young people around the world, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, with the support of the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, and working together with China Cultural Centers Overseas, is delighted to invite teenagers aged 13-16 around the world to participate in the 2022 China Soong Ching Ling Foundation "Junior Cultural Ambassadors" Event.

A registration port is now available on the web-page of the event. Applicants should fill in the registration information online and submit videos as required. Registration link: [https://vote6.gmw.cn/photo-list.html?collection\\_id=489](https://vote6.gmw.cn/photo-list.html?collection_id=489).

Deadline for submission is by midnight of July 31st, 2022 (subject to the time of submission on the web-page). A web-page for the 2022 "Junior Cultural Ambassador" Event has been created on the website of Guangming Online ([https://topics.gmw.cn/node\\_145214.htm](https://topics.gmw.cn/node_145214.htm)). Outstanding entries will be displayed on the web-page and polled. Detailed arrangements will be announced later.

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**China-Solomon Islands' Defence Agreement**

# Possible Lessons and Opportunities for Pakistan

**Dr. Malik Hasan**



China-Solomon Security Agreement

The Security agreement which was inked between Solomon Islands and China on 5 My 2022 allows a critical position to Beijing through which it can exert control over adjacent waters and air space, possibly dominating the sea lines of communication mainly between US and Australia. Moreover Chinese naval presence in the Solomon Islands can be used for interdiction of any military reinforcement to Taiwan and intelligence gathering which can complicate defence planning for Australia and, to some extent, the United States. Lately On May 26, 2022 Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi introduced the eight-pronged important consensus reached by China and Solomon Islands on enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation during this visit. It will be relevant to have introduction of Solomon Islands before analysing the possible opportunities

out of eight pronged consensus for Pakistan.

Solomon Islands is a sovereign country consisting of six major islands and over 900 smaller islands in Oceania. It has a land area of 28,400 square kilometers and a population of 652,858 with as Honiara capital, which is located on the largest island, Guadalcanal. The islands have been settled since 30,000 BCE. In 1568, the Spanish navigator Álvaro de Mendaña was the first European to visit them, naming them the Islas Salomón. Name was changed "Solomon Islands" in 1978.

At independence, Solomon Islands became a constitutional monarchy under Queen Elizabeth II, represented by the Governor-General. Solomon Islands is a constitutional monarchy and has a 50 member parliament with Prime Minister as head of government. Solomon Islands is a member of the United Nations, Interpol, Commonwealth of Nations, Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Community, International Monetary Fund, and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries. The islands' ocean-equatorial climate is extremely humid throughout the year. Solomon Islands' per-capita GDP of \$600 ranks it as a lesser developed nation and more than 75% of its labour force is engaged in agriculture and fishing. Most manufactured goods and petroleum products

must be imported. Only 3.9% of the land is cultivable as 78.1% are covered by forests.

Although this agreement is for mutual benefit of both countries however while considering the facets like Chinese assertiveness in Oceania, geo-strategic location of Solomon Islands along vital US Sea Lines of Communications and allied concerns the agreement will have impact on Pakistan too. It will be relevant to analyse all the eight points separately.

Firstly, political foundation for Beijing-Honiara relations would firmly support each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, support safeguarding each other's core interests, and support each other's choice of development path. Beijing also appreciates Honiara's adherence to the one-China principle and friendly policy toward China. Pakistan should give a boost to efforts to muster more Chinese support for Kashmir issue.

Secondly, the agreement will jointly advance the Belt and Road cooperation. China will take concrete measures to facilitate two-way trade as Beijing will grant zero-tariff treatment to 98 percent of Solomon Islands'. Chinese increasing influence in Indo-Pacific Oceans will have positive implications on BRI and CPEC. Thirdly, Through Global Development Initiative Beijing will support

the reconstruction of the capital city of Honiara, which will add to the strategic linkage with other island nations as well which can provide opportunities for Pakistan to enhance its relations and trade with all Pacific Island nations and to insist on timely completion of Gwadar Port and other Gwadar development project especially those related to CPEC and BRI.

Fourthly, to create a secure and stable environment as security is one of the dominant prerequisite for any development. Hence Pakistan should also pursue its efforts for provision of more peaceful a stable environments for a prudent socio-economic development. Fifthly, to jointly promote connectivity through mutual visa exemption and reached a consensus on cooperation in civil aviation transportation. Pakistan can also work out on such mutual visa exemptions from China and other BRI member countries. Sixthly, to jointly address the global challenge climate change. Pakistan can also work to strengthen cooperation in marine environmental protection, disaster prevention and mitigation, emergency response, and other fields, so as to benefit its people through blue economy.

Seventh, Pakistan can also jointly promote sub-national exchanges. To establish pairs of sister cities between the two

countries to stimulate the vitality of in-formal exchanges at sub-national levels. Finally, to jointly safeguard the interests of developing countries. Pakistan should continue close communication and cooperation in multi-lateral mechanisms such as the United Nations, oppose zero-sum games, bullying acts, coercion, and interference in internal affairs, advocate and practice true multilateralism, uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

(Figure 3: Five Island Chains Strategy)

Wang Yi wrapped up his visit to Solomon Islands on the first leg of his tour to the Pacific Island Countries, which will allow Beijing to have pragmatic access other Island nations like Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea as well as Timor-Leste between Second and Third Island Chains. Being a trusted and time tested ally of China, Islamabad should also extend its bilateral and multi-lateral relations with Solomon Islands. Pakistan should also take the opportunity to establish trade relations with Island nations initially in field of defence.

The writer is Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation UK.

## Heatwave & mango production

Pakistan is a land blessed with four seasons but this year we directly landed from winter into summer without having spring and its allied charms. The shift was abrupt and traumatically shocking, especially in South Punjab which is mostly agrarian belt and food basket of the country.

Scientifically considered as King of Fruits, Mango is the leading fruit crop of Pakistan after Citrus mainly grown in Punjab and Sindh over an area of 99 thousand tons hectares with an annual production of 1322 thousand tons according to Ministry of Ministry of National Food Security and Research data of 2021.

In Punjab, average yield is 13.33 tons per hectare whereas it is 5.57 tons per hectare in Sindh. Population wise the largest province in the country, Punjab is contributing 77 percent of fruit while Sindh produces 23 pc. Mango can be grown in a diversified climate; however, the range of suitable temperature for successful crop production is from 6C to 42C. The temperature beyond this limit may affect plant health and performance. The changing climatic patterns are being observed in recent years which are impacting the crop significantly. Pakistan is facing unexpected drought periods, heat waves, frost spells, hail, wind storms, rains, floods, fog, smog etc. under climate change scenarios.

The high temperatures combined with other conditions such as relative humidity give rise to heat waves that can claim lives of thousands of people destroy crops and damage infrastructure. The Intergovernmental Panel and Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report said that heat waves and humid heat stress will be more intense and frequent in South Asia in this century. Heat wave is a global phenomenon and South Asia is facing it these days, he said, adding that the RMC had compiled data of normal parameters of Punjab Stations for 30 years from 1980-2010 while it was under process by 2020 which is expected to be accomplished within the next five to six months. The data shows that in May average normal max temp of Lahore was 38.8 C, Faisalabad was 39.1 C, Multan was 41 C, Bahawalpur was 41.3 C, and Khanpur was 42 C from 1980-2010. Human beings are no exceptions and also fall prey to harsh weather conditions especially those whose immunity is weak or are suffering from different diseases.

Flowers of the king of fruits shed heavily in March this year as it needed low temperature for it to bloom in this season while it rose above the normal range. During the past years, it was noticed that heat wave in April and May damaged the fruit and affected its quality resulting in burning (black spots) at Safaid Chaunsa facing Sun, splitting and fruit curve in Sindhri, de-shaping of Chaunsa, Dusehri and Anwar Retaul. The heat wave reduced the fruit size in all varieties. The last heat wave on record was in 1962 adding that after 60 years it has once again occurred. Normally, in March, the temperature is between 26-32 C, but this year, it has 44C which is 12 degree centigrade above the normal which made the pollen dead and female flower of mango rusted. Around March 20 hot winds burnt the canopy of the tree too.

**BRANCO** Americans for Limited Government ©2022 Creators.com

WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?  
LAND OF THE FREE, HOME OF THE BRAVE?!



## Local Body Elections; At Helm of True Democracy

**Sehrish Khan**

The process of local body elections is a constitutional requirement. Its purpose is to transfer power to the lower level as well as enable the people to make clean and transparent people a part of this process and to bring forward those who serve through voting, have passion, and solve people's problems at their doorstep. According to the law, the democracy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan consists of three tiers which include national, provincial and local government. These are all important because everyone has their own scope and method but the most important among them is local government because it provides a very honest, sensible and transparent leadership for the country and the nation.

The system of local government is implemented in all democracies under different names. Local governments are free in the area to decide and act. The system of local government today was introduced in the subcontinent five thousand years ago. This system continued to go through various stages and Akbar-e-Azam's Minister of Finance changed it according to the public mood and the Mughal dynasty continued to rule the Indian subcontinent under this system. As mentioned above, the local government is, in fact, the backbone of democracy and national development. Parties that avoid holding local elections or do not transfer power to local body representatives after holding elections cannot be democratic political parties at all. Democracy began in Greece.

At that time, the states consisted of one city. People elected their representatives directly or by direct vote. At first, voting and

governing was considered only the right of the nobles, but with the passage of time, the common man was given the right to vote and then later the common man was also elected for the government. It was the best model of government that brought the Greeks to the pinnacle of knowledge and development at that time. Even today, civic, municipal or local governments are the key to development and prosperity. There are strong local governments all over the world, including the United States, Britain, European and socialist countries. The continuity of the centuries has now transformed them into institutions which are playing an important role in local development. This is also called direct democracy.

The main purpose of local governments is to carry out development work such as education, health, employment, roads, water and sanitation. Similarly, it is also possible to resolve people's issues. Their duties include ensuring law and order in the area and preventing robberies.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) released the schedule for local body elections in Balochistan in earlier April, according to which local body elections are held on May 29. After 9 years, local body elections are held in Balochistan. Competition was held among more than 16 thousand candidates. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area. The province is also unique in that it shares a long border with Iran and Afghanistan.

Gwadar opened the way for trade and industrial development in the whole province. In this way, employment can be provided to millions of young men here. A prosperous province can be established by utilizing the barren lands here. The people of Balochistan, including both Baloch

and Pashtuns, are passionate about the development of their province. However, Balochistan is in a lot of trouble due to the handiwork of foreign elements. While the terrorist activities of these foreign elements are hindering the development of the province, the real power of the hostile elements is to make the young generation a victim of misguidance. In these circumstances, the Armed Forces of Pakistan are not moving with the determination to ensure internal and external security at all costs and are not only performing their duties in the difficult routes and difficult conditions of Balochistan but also maintaining the continuity of the democratic system there, they used all their resources to hold the local body elections peacefully.

Despite the recent incidents of terrorism in Balochistan, peaceful local body elections are proof to foreign observers that Pakistan lives in the hearts of the Baloch people and our forces fulfill their responsibility to maintain law and order by sacrificing their lives. The peace-loving people are grateful which was expressed by the people of Balochistan at the local body elections. As the local body elections in Balochistan are gaining People's confidence that it will not only ensure democracy in the province but will also guarantee to resolve the problems of the people and develop the resources of the province, and will lessen the sense of deprivation among Baloch people. The government will work day and night to eradicate all the negative actions and propaganda of the anti-development elements of the province and will pledge security to the developmental projects and to the entire province as well.

The writer is senior analysts and commentator

## Managing globalization's decline

**Joseph E. Stiglitz**

The World Economic Forum's first meeting in more than two years was markedly different from the many previous Davos conferences that I have attended since 1995. It was not just that the bright snow and clear skies of January were replaced by bare ski slopes and a gloomy May drizzle. Rather, it was that a forum traditionally committed to championing globalization was primarily concerned with globalization's failures: Broken supply chains, food and energy price inflation and an intellectual property regime that left billions of people without COVID-19 vaccines just so that a few drug companies could earn billions of dollars in extra profit. Among the proposed responses to these problems are to "reshore" or "friend-shore" production and to enact "industrial policies to increase country capacities to produce." Gone are the days when everyone seemed to be working for a world without borders; suddenly, everyone recognizes that at least some national borders are key to economic development and security.

The political ramifications of globalization's failures were also on full display at Davos this year. When Russia invaded Ukraine, the Kremlin was immediately and almost universally condemned. But three months later, emerging markets and developing countries have adopted more ambiguous positions. Many point to America's hypocrisy in demanding accountability for Russia's aggression, even though it invaded Iraq under false pretenses in 2003. These countries also emphasize the more recent history of vaccine nationalism by Europe and the US, which has been sustained through World Trade Organization IP provisions that were foisted on them 30 years ago. And it is emerging markets and developing countries that are now bearing the brunt of higher food and energy prices. Combined with historical injustices, these recent developments have discred-

ited Western advocacy of democracy and the international rule of law.

To be sure, many countries that refuse to support America's defense of democracy are not democratic anyway. But other countries are, and America's standing to lead that fight has been undermined by its own failures — from systemic racism to the Republican Party's persistent attempts to suppress voting and divert attention from the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol. The best way forward for the US would be to show greater solidarity with poor countries by helping them to manage the surging costs of food and energy. This could be done by reallocating rich countries' special drawing rights (the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset) and by supporting a strong COVID-19 IP waiver at the WTO.

Moreover, high food and energy prices are likely to cause debt crises in many poor countries, further compounding the tragic inequities of the pandemic. If the US and Europe want to show real global leadership, they will stop siding with the big banks and creditors that enticed countries to take on more debt than they could bear. After four decades of championing globalization, it is clear that the Davos crowd mismanaged things. It promised prosperity for developed and developing countries alike. But while corporate giants in the Global North grew rich, processes that could have made everyone better off instead made enemies everywhere. "Trickle-down economics," the claim that enriching the wealthy would automatically benefit all, was a swindle — an idea that had neither theory nor evidence behind it. This year's Davos meeting was a missed opportunity. It could have been an occasion for serious reflection on the decisions and policies that brought the world to where it is today. Now that globalization has peaked, we can only hope that we do better at managing its decline than we did at managing its rise.

The writer is a Nobel laureate in economics. *Courtesy Arab News*

# Russia claims advances in Ukraine amid barrages, troop boost

Moscow is deploying troop reinforcements in eastern Ukraine

KYIV: Russia claimed Tuesday it has occupied large swaths of eastern Ukraine after a relentless, weeklong barrage and the recent deployment of more troops.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow's forces have control of 97% of the Luhansk region.

Russia has declared that fully capturing the entire Donbas, which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and where Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014, is its main goal in the invasion of its neighboring country which began Feb. 24. The region recently has been bearing the brunt of the Russian onslaught.

It's not clear whether Russia would try to expand its offensive elsewhere in Ukraine if it takes the Donbas. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned Monday that if the West provides Ukraine with long-range rockets capable of reaching Russian territory, Moscow will respond by pressing its offensive deeper into Ukraine.

Early in the war, the Russian troops also took control of the entire Kherson region and a large part of the Zaporizhzhia region in the south. Russian

officials and their local appointees have mulled plans for those regions to either declare their independence or be folded into Russia.

But while the Kremlin's forces have superior firepower, the Ukrainians defenders — among them the country's most well-trained forces — are entrenched and have shown the capability to counterattack.

Shoigu, the Russian defense minister, claimed that Russian forces have seized the residential quarters of Sievierodonetsk and are fighting to take control of an industrial zone on its outskirts and the nearby towns.

Sieverodonetsk, the administrative center of the Luhansk region, has recently been the focus of the Russian offensive. Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk are the only two Donbas cities holding out against the Russian invasion, which is being helped by local pro-Kremlin forces.

Shoigu added that the Russian troops were pressing their offensive toward the town of Popasna and noted that they have taken control of Lyman and Sviatohirsk and 15 other towns in the region. Popasna is a town with a pre-war

population of 20,000 located about 30 kilometers (nearly 20 miles) south of Sievierodonetsk.

Shoigu said 6,489 Ukrainian troops have been taken prisoner since the start of the military action in Ukraine, including 126 over the past five days.

Moscow is deploying troop reinforcements in eastern Ukraine as a Russian artillery barrage aimed to grind down Ukrainian defenses, a Ukrainian official said.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak urged his people not to be downhearted about the battlefield reverses.

"Don't let the news that we've ceded something scare you," he said in a video address. "It is clear that tactical maneuvers are ongoing. We cede something, we take something back."

Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai conceded that Russian forces control the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk.

"Toughest street battles continue, with varying degrees of success," Haidai told The Associated Press. "The situation constantly changes, but the Ukrainians are repelling attacks."

Moscow's strategy has suffered

numerous setbacks, however, since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, including a failed attempt to take Kyiv, the capital.

Moscow's forces also kept up its artillery barrage of Lysychansk. Haidai said Russian troops shelled a local market, a school and a college building, destroying the latter. Three wounded people were sent to hospitals in other parts of Ukraine, he said.

"A total destruction of the city is underway, Russian shelling has intensified significantly over the past 24 hours. Russians are using scorched earth tactics," Haidai said.

In all, Ukrainian forces had repelled 10 Russian attacks over the previous 24 hours, according to Haidai. His report couldn't be independently verified.

Ukraine is receiving weapons and ammunition from the West to help fend off relentless Russian attacks. That assistance has become a target for Russian artillery and warplanes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky acknowledged that his country's military is outgunned and still needed Western help to face down the Russians.

## Hindutva leader booked over demand for ban on Friday prayers

ALIGARH: The Aligarh Police has booked Hindutva leader, Pooja Shakun Pandey, after she demanded a ban on Friday prayers of Muslims.



Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha leader, Pooja Pandey, who is the national secretary of the Hindutva organization Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, had claimed that the weekly congregational prayer by Muslims was a threat to India's peace and should be stopped.

She had also written a letter to the Indian President Ram Nath Kovind demanding a ban on the Juma prayers.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kalanidhi Naithani, said that Pandey's remarks could create tensions in society. A case has been registered against Pandey at the city's Gandhipark Police Station, Naithani added.

Pandey has been booked under various sections of Indian Penal Code. Additional City Magistrate Bahadur Singh also issued a notice to Pandey, asking her to respond to the charge that she was stoking communal tension through her demand.

## UN chief condemns church attack in Nigeria



UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has strongly condemned church attack in Ondo State of Nigeria, which resulted in scores of casualties, said his spokesman.

"The secretary-general condemns in the strongest terms the heinous attack in the St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo, Ondo State, on June 5 that resulted in the death and injuries of scores of civilians as people gathered for the Pentecost service," said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman, in a statement.

"The secretary-general emphasizes that attacks on places of worship are abhorrent. He urges the Nigerian authorities to spare no effort in bringing the perpetrators to justice," said the statement.

Guterres extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. He also expressed his sympathies to, and solidarity with, the government and people of Nigeria, it said.

## Kenya's presidential race intensifies

NAIROBI: The race for Kenya's next president has intensified, with the four candidates that have been cleared by the country's electoral body launching manifestos to win more votes ahead of the Aug. 9 general election.

Only four candidates from an initial list of 57 aspirants met the constitutional and statutory threshold set by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to contest for the highest office in the land.

The four candidates include sitting deputy president, William Ruto, the veteran opposition leader, Raila Odinga, George Wajackoya, a legal scholar, and Waihiwa Mwaure, a political activist.

While Ruto and his running mate, Rigathi Gachagua, a lawmaker from central Kenya had been cleared to run for the presidency on June 4, Odinga and his running mate, Martha Karua, a veteran lawmaker and gender rights advocate, got the nod to contest for the coveted seat the following day on June 5.

The electoral agency managed to clear all four candidates within the stipulated timeline, paving the way for them to outline their agenda for the country through the launch of manifestos.

Odinga who is vying for presidency under the Azimio La Umoja (Resolution for Unity) One Kenya coalition of more than 20 political parties became the first candidate to launch a comprehensive manifesto late Monday.

The manifesto outlines ten key agenda items including allocating more resources to devolved units, stimulating indigenous manufacturing, transforming agriculture and health care, fighting graft, and providing access to safe drinking water to households.

"We intend to achieve objectives outlined in our manifesto by ensuring the economy is re-engineered for wealth creation through manufacturing, addressing people's welfare through social protection and environmental conservation," Odinga said.

In addition, the 77-year-old doyen of Kenya's opposition politics who is making his fifth stab at the presidency, said his administration will ensure every citizen has access to basic public goods like education, healthcare, food, water, and sanitation.

Odinga's three rivals in the presidential race are expected to launch their manifestos in due course, even as competition to win voters through other platforms like public rallies and social media engagement intensifies.

The 56-year-old Ruto who is Odinga's closest rival in the race has been traversing the country to campaign on a platform of a grassroots modeled economic policy and youth empowerment.

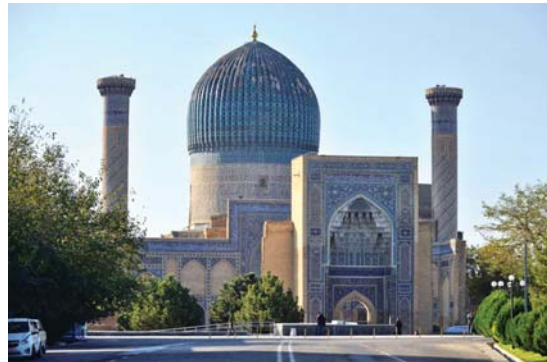
# Gur-Emir is architectural ensemble of the Medieval East

Spokesman Report

One of the most significant architectural ensembles of medieval East — the Gur Emir was built in the southwestern part of Samarkand at the beginning of the XV century. This majestic complex consisted of a khanaka, the madrasah of Muhammad Sultan — grandson of Amir Timur, and, later, tombs of Amir Timur himself and his descendants.

The madrasah, a small building with a typical yard composition was meant to teach the children Samarkand nobility. Opposite to the madrasah there located a khanaka with a central hall and cells — hudjras. The both buildings were erected by Muhammad Sultan's order to be become a center of Islamic education. But Muhammad sudden death in 1403 led to a change in an intended use of the complex.

After the death of Muhammad Sultan, Amir Timur was inconsolable: he ordered to put temporarily the remains of his beloved grandson in a madrasah's corner room —



darskhana, and immediately started the construction of the mausoleum which closed the ensemble from the south.

The complex courtyard was decorated with a single decorative wall with four minarets located at its corners, while from the north it was decorated with a magnificent entrance portal containing a name of the architecture — Muhammad ibn Mahmud Isfahani.

However, Tamerlane did not live to see the mausoleum finished, he died in winter 1405. The construction was completed by another Tamerlane grandson — Ulugbek. Although Amir Timur already prepared a mauso-

leum for himself in his native Shakhrisabz, it was Gur Emir that became his tomb and a burial place of his descendants. There rest his two sons — Shahrukh and Miran-shah, beloved grandsons — Muhammad Sultan and Ulugbek as well as Timur's spiritual mentor — Mir Said Baraka.

Today, the burial places in Gur Emir Mausoleum are marked with gravestones. The Timur's gravestone, made of a single piece of jade, is located in the center of the tomb. The burials themselves are located below, in the mausoleum basement. The graves are located just in the same way as the gravestones

in the hall upstairs. The Timurid tombs were opened only once in 1941, this event generated a famous legend.

The mausoleum is a fine example of medieval architectural craftsmanship. The contemporaries still admire the harmony of its proportions. The ribbed dome and vault walls are completely covered with a mosaic of light and dark blue glazed bricks, gilding and painting. The relief rosettes on the dome imitate a starry sky. The interior is enriched with bar tracery grids in the windows, marble and onyx panels covered with paintings, carving and inlaid with semiprecious stones.

Subsequently, Gur Emir was a prototype for famous samples of architecture of the Great Mughal: Humayun Mausoleum in Delhi and the Taj Mahal in Agra, built by Timur descendants, who ruled northern India.

Today Gur Emir Mausoleum and its entrance portal are renovated by the restorers, but the khanaka and madrasahs, unfortunately, are left only ruins.

## BJP dented India's image, Opposition demands arrest of Sharma, Jindal

NEW DELHI: Stepping up pressure for legal action against Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, opposition parties have demanded their arrest for remarks on Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and accused the BJP of denting the image of the country.

While the ruling BJP party continues to diplomatic fallout as more and more Muslim countries including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Indonesia, Jordan, UAE and Afghanistan have condemned the derogatory remarks.

The opposition parties like the Congress, AAP, BSP, SP and the Left dismissed the suspension of its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expulsion of Naveen Kumar Jindal, its Delhi media head, as mere "drama" and "sham" and demanded strict legal action against the duo.

The Congress hit out at the BJP, demanding the immediate arrest of those who have defamed India at the international level instead of enacting a drama of action.

Asking why those responsible for putting out offensive comments had not been arrested yet, the Congress said it was unacceptable for the nation to apologise for such mistakes.

"Divided internally, India becomes weak externally. BJP's shameful bigotry has not only isolated us but also damaged India's standing globally," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala alleged the BJP leadership is pushing the country into the dark age of communal polarisation to serve its narrow political interests and asked.

The AIMIM also demanded the immediate arrest of the BJP functionaries. The Aam Aadmi Party alleged that Modi's patronage of "hate politics" has brought disgrace to the country.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged the BJP has led the country to such a situation that even "small countries are now challenging the great nation of India". He claimed that every Indian is pained by it and "the sorrow is endless".

# US, allies fly fighter jets amid North Korea tensions

SEOUL: The United States and its Asian allies flew dozens of fighter jets over waters surrounding the Korean Peninsula on Tuesday in a show of force as their diplomats discussed a coordinated response to a possibly imminent North Korean nuclear test.

The flights came as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman traveled to Seoul for discussions with South Korea and Japanese officials over the gathering North Korean threat and

warned of a "swift and forceful" counterresponse if the North proceeds with a nuclear test explosion, which would be its first in nearly five years.

If staged, the test could be another leap forward in North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's goal of building an arsenal that can viably threaten regional U.S. allies and the American homeland. That would escalate a pressure campaign aimed at forcing the United States to accept North Korea as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and

security concessions from a position of strength.

"Any nuclear test would be in complete violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. There would be a swift and forceful response to such a test," Sherman said after meeting with South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong. "We continue to urge Pyongyang to cease its destabilizing and provocative activities and choose the path of diplomacy."

Sherman and Cho are planning a three-way meeting with

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo on Wednesday over the North Korean nuclear issue.

Extending the countries' joint displays of military might, four U.S. F-16 fighter jets flew in formation with 16 South Korean planes — including F-35A stealth fighters — over waters off South Korea's eastern coast, an exercise aimed at demonstrating an ability to quickly respond to North Korean provocations, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

# Turkey calls on Greece to demilitarize Aegean islands

ANKARA: Turkey on Tuesday called on Greece to withdraw its armed forces from Aegean islands, warning that his country will challenge the status of the islands if it fails to demilitarize them.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said during a joint news conference with his North Macedonian counterpart, that Greece has been building a military presence on the Aegean islands in violation of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and the 1947 Paris Treaty. He said the islands were ceded to Greece on condition that they be kept demilitarized.

"The agreements are there but Greece is violating them.



It's arming them. If Greece does not stop this violation, the sovereignty of the islands will be brought up for discussion," he said. "It's that clear. You will abide by the agreements."

Greece argues that Turkey

has deliberately misinterpreted the treaties regarding armed forces on its eastern islands and says it has legal grounds to defend itself following hostile actions by Ankara including a long-standing threat of war if

it extends its territorial waters.

The Turkish minister's comments come amid a new escalation in tensions between the NATO allies that have a history of disputes over a range of issues including mineral exploration in the eastern Mediterranean and rival claims in the Aegean Sea.

Last month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would stop talking to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, voicing displeasure at comments the Greek leader made during a recent U.S. trip, including suggestions that Congress should block Turkey's acquisition of F-16 fighter jets.

# Indian troops martyr four more youth in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred four more Kashmiri youth in Kupwara, Baramulla and Shopian districts.

The troops martyred two youth during a violent cordon and search operation in Kandi area of Kupwara district, today. The troops martyred one youth each during similar operations at Zaloori in Baramulla and in Badimarg area of Shopian.

Meanwhile, Indian army and police arrested several youth during crackdown operations in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Shopi-



an and Badgam districts. The detained youth were booked under draconian law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Many youth were summoned to police stations and army camps in the name of questioning where they were tortured and harassed by the brutal forces' personnel.

Posters once again appeared in Srinagar and other parts of the territory condemning the anti-Kashmiris policies being pursued by the Modi-led Hindutva regime in IIOJK. Some of the posters decried the silence of the United Nations and the

world community over the targeting of Kashmiri youth by the Modi-led Hindutva regime in the occupied territory.

On the other hand, condolence messages over death of senior APHC leader Muhammad Musaddiq Aakil continued to pour in, today. The incarcerated senior APHC leaders, Shabbir Ahmed Shah and Nayeem Ahmed Khan, in their messages from New Delhi's Tihar Jail while recalling the sacrifices of the late leader for the Kashmir cause vowed that Kashmiri people would continue his legacy in the form of persistent struggle for their right to self-determination.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
41,568.41	41,577.21
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,854.25	41,524.07
Index Value	Change
3,044,245,407	-8.80
Percentage	Time
-0.02%	7 Jun, 2022 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,601.69	-6.53
Percentage	Time
-0.079%	7 Jun, 4:29 pm GMT+1

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
32,890.55	-25.23
Percentage	Time
-0.077%	7 Jun, 11:30 am GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
27,943.95	+28.06
Percentage	Time
+0.10%	7 Jun, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	144.21	145.46
Bahrain Dinar	532.26	536.76
Canadian Dollar	159.2	160.56
China Yuan	28.1	28.35
Danish Krone	28.78	29.13
Euro	214.5	216.5
Hong Kong Dollar	25.51	25.86
Indian Rupee	2.57	2.65
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.6
Kuwaiti Dinar	650.56	655.56
Malaysian Ringgit	45.57	46.02
New Zealand \$	130.03	131.23
Norwegians Krone	21.26	21.56
Omani Riyal	520.49	524.99
Qatari Riyal	54.98	55.48
Saudi Riyal	53.5	54.3
Singapore Dollar	145.46	146.76
Swedish Korona	20.46	20.76
Swiss Franc	206.55	208.3
Thai Bhat	5.82	5.92
U.A.E Dirham	53.5	54.1
UK Pound Sterling	250.5	253
US Dollar	202	204

**Enhancing Productivity**

**NPO organizes a Debate Competition at Swabi University**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO), Ministry of Industries & Production organized a one-day debate competition event on "Enhancing Productivity for Globally Competitive Pakistan" at University of Swabi under its Sustainable National Productivity Project (SNP). The purpose of this event was to create awareness among the students and faculty to think about "productivity" and how it can help Pakistan become competitive in global marketplace. The debate was held in both Urdu and English language and prize money was conferred upon the winners in both categories.

Prof. Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak, Vice Chancellor, University of Swabi, remarked in the opening ceremony that the students and faculty have a new avenue to think about, and set forth new goals to become more productive in their professional and academic settings. He appreciated NPO for organizing debate competition on such an important issue which potentially can steer the socio-economic development in Pakistan. Musa Hassan, DGM NPO informed the audience that productivity is linked with every sector of economy, be it industry, agriculture, education or technology. Improving sustainable productivity is a key to overcome Pakistan's economic challenges and NPO is putting its best efforts to disseminate the information on tools and techniques of improving productivity in Pakistan. Debate competitions, productivity walks, seminars and awareness sessions are being conducted all across the country to bring attention to and create awareness among general public, academia and industrial workforce on this issue.

**For Service Provisioning**

**CDC ITMinds signs agreement with PQAMCL, PQFTL**

*ITMinds will facilitate PQAMCL and PQFTL in concentrating on their core business activities*

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: ITMinds Limited (ITMinds), a wholly owned subsidiary of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCPL), has entered into outsourcing arrangement with Pak Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMCL) & Pak Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL) to provide Back Office Accounting Services to PQAMCL & PQFTL. The agreements were signed by Farhan Shaukat CEO-PQAMCL, Ahsan Qureshi CFO-PQFTL with Iqleem-uz-Zaman Khan CEO-ITMinds in the presence of Badiuddin Akber Director-ITMinds & CEO-CDCPL.

Through this arrangement, ITMinds will facilitate PQAMCL and PQFTL in concentrating on their core business activities, i.e. managing investors' money and savings, by relieving them from various non-core critical back office functions like accounting services, Settlement of portfolios, Unit management related activities, Funds NAV calculation, Facilitation for



Compliance/ Reporting, Information Security, Business Continuity and IT arrangements. Commenting on the occasion, Farhan

Shaukat, CEO-PQAMCL, said that this arrangement will enable PQAMCL to concentrate on its core business of managing investors'

funds while outsourcing the back office functions to a Professional Fund Administrator.

Also commenting on the occasion, Badiuddin Akber, Director ITMinds & CEO-CDCPL, said that the concept of outsourcing non-core critical business activities has proved to be efficient and cost-effective in today's business world. Hence, we have commissioned ITMinds with this aim to enable AMC and other organizations to outsource their back office functions to a competent and reliable BPO partner, thus facilitating them to augment the focus of their management on the core business which is more integral to their commercial success while achieving efficiency, scalability & transparency of processes. Iqleem-uz-Zaman Khan CEO-ITMinds highlighted that as of 31st May 2022, ITMinds has 8 active clients leveraging economies of scale with ITMinds BPO services, while more clients are also in the pipeline. At the ceremony Waqas Ashraf, CFO- ITMinds and others senior members of the Companies were also present.

**IFC announces winners of Employer of Choice**

*For gender diversity awards in Pakistan*

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Daraz, Pakistan's biggest online marketplace, was announced today as the winner of the Employer of Choice for Gender Diversity Awards, organized jointly by IFC and the Pakistan Business Council to improve economic opportunities for women.

The awards, which are supported by UK Aid, celebrate private sector employers in the country committed to empowering women in the workplace. Companies are judged on five key gender principles—promoting gender equality at leadership and policy level; ensuring a diverse workforce; eliminating gender pay gaps; creating an optimal workplace culture; and providing coaching and mentoring for women employees.

The awards aim to recognize firms that have not only implemented strong gender diversity policies, but also communicate them—in annual reports, websites, or through social media—to encourage others to do the same. Daraz PK received the highest score using the scorecard developed by IFC and the Pakistan Business Council.

"We believe companies can attract the best talent by implementing gender inclusive policies and disclosure practices," said Ehsan Malik, CEO of the Pakistan Business Council.



"These awards gave us a unique chance to work with some of Pakistan's biggest companies to help improve the working environment and opportunities for women in the workplace. Congratulations to Daraz and the other winners for their commitment to gender equal workplaces."

Women's labor participation rate in Pakistan is just 21 percent compared to 78 percent for men. Women face a number of barriers to succeeding in the workplace, from societal biases to structural challenges, such as access to safe transport and childcare. The country could increase its GDP by an estimated 30 percent if women contributed equally economically, according to an IMF study.

In tandem with the awards, IFC and the

Pakistan Business Council produced a guide for companies on how to effectively develop and disclose gender diversity policies in line with the awards' principles.

"Public information on gender-related policies is increasingly important for both investors, potential employees, and other stakeholders when evaluating companies," said Zeeshan Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan. "We have been working closely with the Pakistan Business Council to help firms implement gender diversity policies and targets and publicly disclose this information to affirm their commitment – today's award ceremony is an important recognition of companies leading the way in this regard."



ISLAMABAD: President and CEO Habib Metro Bank Mr. Mohsin Ali Nathani pose for a photograph with outgoing Ambassador of Embassy of Turkiye Mr. Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul in a ceremony to bid farewell to the Ambassador and to celebrate one-year anniversary of Habib METRO Bank of their Diplomatic Mission Department at Embassy of Turkiye.

**Chairman PARC inaugurates post-harvest processing machinery for Peach**

*Demonstration of Post-harvest Processing Machinery for Peach at NARC*



**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan being an agricultural country produces about 15.0 million tons of fruits and vegetables annually. This sector contributes about 12% to the national GDP, but its export volume remains relatively low. The estimated postharvest losses of fruit and vegetables in the country range between 25-35%, which are very high and need to be checked.

In this regard, Agricultural Engineering Institute (AEI), NARC, PARC organized a demonstration of peach processing machinery line. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC was chief guest of the event. Dr. Itmtiaz Hussain Deputy Director General NARC, Engr. Zulfiqar Ali DG (AED) PARC, Scientists of PARC/NARC, farm machinery professors from Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi and other stakeholders participated in the event.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC said that post-harvest processing of fruit and vegetable is very important, and need of the hour. Fruit and vegetable growers can increase the export volume of the country by post harvest processing technology and increase their income as well. A few farmers can install this processing line with collaboration and can earn better income. He emphasized on the indigenization of this technology along with other processing technologies for value addition of fruits and vegetables at farmer's field level. He also directed to demonstrate this technology to farmer's at large scale for its promotion and awareness among end users. He added that these interventions should be tested for other fruits and vegetables, such as plum, apple, apricot, guava, citrus, potato and capsicum.

**FFC successfully culminates CSR endeavors worth Rs5.5m**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) under its CSR budget has successfully completed its social welfare projects at Sadiq Abad Goth Machi in three phases.

The company truly believes that provision of healthcare, education and basic facilities is mandatory not only the responsibility of the government but other benefactors and private) industrial sectors must also step in to ensure the cause of community uplift. The project worth Rs5.5 million has been completed in 3 programs. In the first phase, machines were provided to skilled widows at a cost of Rs. 5 lac. Cheques have been distributed to a widow for her daughter's higher education, dowry items, including the provision of life-saving medicines to the local Rural Health Center for treatment.

In the second program, a project of construction of two classrooms at the cost



of Rs. 25 lac has been materialized. In the third program, Dr. Babar Ali, MS, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Sadiqabad, was provided with Biomedical Equipment at a cost of Rs. 25 lac.

Resident Manager, Brig (R) Talat Mahmoud Janjua further stressed that the company will continue with it's mission of community development and social welfare in future as well.

**QNET pledges commitment to sustainable dev on WED2022**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: QNET, prominent e-commerce based direct selling company, reiterated its commitment to sustainability on the occasion of the World Environment Day. It raised awareness about the plethora of worldwide initiatives it has undertaken and its strategy for sustainable products.

The company has a long history of engaging in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities around the world through its CSR arm, the RYTHM Foundation (which stands for 'Raise Yourself to Help Mankind') to promote sustainable development. The company has also pledged to exclusively choose partners that adhere to the highest standards of quality and eco-friendly practices.

QNET has recently been notable for its advocacy of sustainable water development and active participation in conferences around the world on water issues.

Commenting on this, Ms. Malou Caluza, the CEO of QNET, said, "Our mission is to continuously advocate for our employees, distributors, and partners to integrate sustainable living within their day-to-day lives. We must continue actioning that message to leave a better world for the next generation."

In 2020 and 2021, it was the main sponsor for the Arab Water Forum organised by the Arab Water Council (AWC). AWC is a non-profit organisation headquartered in Egypt that aims to raise awareness on water resource management challenges and enhance water



and sanitation services in the Arab region.

In addition, QNET has also sponsored and participated in Cairo Water Week for three years in a row where its HomePure Nova water filtration products were recognised for supporting the local water scarcity strategy, reducing electricity use, and minimising resource wastage.

This year, QNET had an active presence at the 9th World Water Forum, taking place in Dakar, Senegal, from 21st to 26th March, and coinciding with Earth Hour.

QNET launched a global campaign through the RYTHM Foundation to advocate for water security and sustainability around the world. One such project was the company's initiative, in partnership with Water for Africa (WFA) to provide clean water to rural Tanzania by building wells with the first water well, built in the Mtwango village in the Mifindi district providing clean, safe water supply for close to 2000 people.

QNET also donates their HomePure Nova water filters to increase access to clean water in these regions. "In line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, QNET pioneered the HomePure Nova water filtration range," said Ms. Caluza.

She added, "It (HomePure Nova water filters) does not use single-use plastic, minimises water wastage and does not require electricity to run, which makes it an ideal solution for homes and communities looking for guilt-free, sustainable, and easy access to clean water."

To combat climate change and deforestation, QNET partnered with Ecomatcher to launch the Green Legacy Program in 2021. The goal of this program is to plant a global forest with at least 10,000 trees by the end of 2022. The first phase of this reforestation initiative saw a total of 3,000 trees planted in Kenya, the Philippines, and the United Arab Emirates. The global initiative has sequestered 22.1 Tonnes of CO2 to date and is expected to sequester a total of 750 Tonnes over the lifetime of the forest.

# International cricket returns to Multan after more than 14 years

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam is confident about tackling hot weather

Our Correspondent

MULTAN: The international cricket is returning to the City of Saints – Multan – after more than 14 years as Babar Azam's side is locking horns with the West Indies in three ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam is confident about tackling hot weather during the upcoming three-match ODI series against West Indies in Multan.

"The good thing is that there is wind here which makes sure that we don't feel the intensity of the heat. When we were practicing yesterday, it wasn't as hot as we thought it would be. I don't think the weather will affect the matches significantly," Azam said during a press conference on Tuesday.

Azam was also keen on playing in front of the crowd in Multan, who are going to witness an international match live for the first time in 14 years.

"As a team I'm very excited for the series because we are playing here [in Multan] for the first time in 14 years," he said. "I know that the local fans have been eagerly waiting to watch their stars



in action. I hope that they will equally support both teams."

He also brushed aside the notion that they will take West Indies lightly in the upcoming series.

"We won't take them easy. West Indies have experienced players as well as good young players," he said.

Pakistan and the West Indies play ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League ODIs on 8, 10 and 12 June at the Multan Cricket Stadium with the three matches starting at 1600 (local time).

2003. The two sides also played the last ODI at the venue to-date, which the hosts won by seven wickets.

In the second ODI here on 30 September 2004, Pakistan had recorded the biggest win, in terms of runs, at the venue when they defeated Zimbabwe by 144 runs.

India and South Africa are the other two sides to have played here. Both came out victorious with India recording a five-wicket win in February 2006 and South Africa winning by seven wickets in October 2007.

Opener Yasir Hameed has scored the most runs at this venue, smashing 197 runs in four innings, followed by former Pakistan captain and local star Inzamam-ul-Haq (178).

Including Samuels, four batters have scored centuries at the MCS. The other three are Pakistan's Abdul Razaq and Yasir Hameed, and Bangladesh's Shakibul-Hasan.

While spinners Shoaib Malik and Shahid Afridi, with six wickets each, have the most scalps in international 50-over contests at the MCS, India's RP Singh – with four for 40 – has the best bowling figures for a fast bowler here.

# Karachi wins 7th Inter-Divisional Women's Softball Championship

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Karachi softball team defeats Hyderabad by 8 runs to win 7th Inter Divisional Women's Softball Championship.

In the final played at Public School Hyderabad under the auspices of Sindh Softball Association (SSA), defending champions Karachi beat Hyderabad in all three disciplines of the game with their excellent performances.

In the final, Hyderabad scored 1 run in the first innings. In reply, Karachi scored 4 runs.

Hyderabad team could not score any runs in the second innings. Karachi players showed excellent play in their second innings, scoring 5 more runs and increasing their total score to 9 by winning against Hyderabad by 8 runs to clinch the championship.

Sabin, Mursaleen and Farasha scored two runs each



for Karachi. Tulsi Meghwar scored one run for Hyderabad. Karachi's Zarlah Shaleel was declared the best player of the final.

Earlier in the match for the third position, Larkana defeated Sukkur by 9 runs against 4 to win the bronze medal. In the championship, Adina Hassan of Karachi was awarded Best Hitter, Mursaleen Pervez Catcher, Sobia of Larkana Pitcher and Tulsi Meghwar of Hyderabad were awarded Best Fielder.

Special guests at the awards ceremony were New Ports Institute Chairperson Huma Bukhari, Softball Federation of Pakistan

Chairperson Tehmina Asif, Sindh Olympic Association Secretary Ahmed Ali Rajput, Fruit Nation's Faisal Khan, Advance Lab's Faisal Qasim, SSA President Wasim Hashmi and Secretary Muhammad Zeeshan Merchant distributed trophies, medals, certificates and gifts among the players.

Speaking on the occasion, Huma Bukhari said the holding of Inter-Divisional Championship has not only provided ample opportunities for the players to showcase their talents but also enhanced the spirit of mutual harmony, brotherhood and love between them.

"I am sure that the players who show outstanding performance in the event can be a part of Sindh and Pakistan national softball team in future", she said.

Huma Bukhari said the SSA provided an ideal environment in the field of play including accommodation, food and transport facilities to the players and officials of all the teams participating in the championship.

She congratulated Association's chairman Syed Afzal Zaidi, President Wasim Hashmi, Secretary M. Zeeshan Merchant and their entire team.

SSA Secretary Muhammad Zeeshan Merchant thanked the Sports Department, Government of Sindh and all the sponsors of the event and said a pool of players who had shown outstanding performance in the championship had been prepared and would be invited to a training camp in Karachi next month.

# Pakistan veteran makes big gain in batter rankings



DUBAI: Pakistan veteran Sidra Ameen has capped off a superb series with the bat against Sri Lanka by making a massive jump up the latest set of Women's ODI Batting Rankings.

The ICC Women's player rankings were updated on Tuesday and Sidra was the big mover courtesy of her 218 runs at an average of 72.66 during the three-game ODI series against Sri Lanka.

Sidra jumped a massive 19 places to be ranked 35th overall on the batter rankings, with the 30-year-old making a big gain thanks to a century and half-century in Karachi.

It caps off a remarkable start to the year for Sidra, who became the first Pakistani woman to score a century in the history of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup when she scored a brilliant 104 against Bangladesh in New Zealand in March.

Sri Lanka skipper Chamari Athapaththu scored a smashing 101 in the second ODI and aggregated 142 runs in the three ODIs. She re-enters the rankings at No.23.

Australia's Alyssa Healy still leads England's Nat Sciver at the top of the ODI batter rankings after the duo dominated the Women's World Cup earlier this year.

Ireland youngster Gaby Lewis is the big mover on the latest T20 batter rankings, with the right-hander jumping an impressive seven spots to be rated equal 23rd overall following an impressive showing against South Africa.

Lewis has 83 runs to her name from the opening two matches of the three-game T20I series and that form has been duly rewarded by the rise in the rankings.

South Africa duo Tazmin Brits (up three spots to 36th) and Chloe Tryon (rise of four places to equal 49th) also made some gains, while right-armed Nadine de Klerk rose eight places to equal 25th on the all-rounder rankings. De Klerk also made her move up the bowler rankings, with the 22-year-old rising 22 places to be 48th overall behind England spinner Sophie Ecclestone.

De Klerk's South African team-mate Tumi Sekhukhune is the biggest mover on the bowling rankings, with her five scalps from the opening two matches of the T20 series seeing her rise 20 spots to 27th overall.

# Olympic Solidarity, IHF coaching course concludes

Tahir Amin Malik

FAISALABAD: IOC, Olympic Solidarity, Technical course for Handball coaches/IHF License C course concluded at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad organized by Pakistan Handball Federation in collaboration with Pakistan Olympic Association. Dr Ahmad Sattar Khan, Chairman Sports Board, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad inaugurated the course on 2nd June, 2022.

Manzoor Ul Hassan, Senior World gold medalist, Olympic bronze medalist and former Captain, Pakistan Hockey team was the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremo-



ny who distributed the certificates to the participants. The following other dignitaries also distributed the certificates and souvenirs to the participants.

Mr. Ali Raza Habibi, Expert from International Handball Federation, Mr. Hadyatullah Muhmand, President, Afghanistan Handball Federation, Dr. Ahmad Sattar

Khan, Chairman Sports Board, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Mrs. Saqlain Kausar, Acting Secretary General, Pakistan Handball Federation.

Thirty six nominees from Army, Wapda, Railway, Police, Universities, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, KP and Afghanistan attended this 8 days course.

At the end Mr. Muhammad Shafiq, President, Pakistan Handball Federation who is Secretary General, Asian Handball Federation, Treasurer, Pakistan Olympic Association and local expert thanked to Pakistan Olympic Association for allotting this course to Pakistan Handball Federation and cooperating in every respect.

International Handball Federation for deputing expert Mr. Ali Raza Habibi from Iran who is IHF and AHF lecture and facilitating Pakistan Handball Federation. University of Agriculture, Faisalabad for providing excellent facilities for organizing this course.

# FIFA World Cup™ trophy unveiled in Pakistan

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The FIFA World Cup™ Original Trophy was unveiled in Pakistan, as part of the FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola.

Fans, sports personalities, government leaders and Pakistan's youth powerhouses experienced football's most coveted prize at a series of events in Lahore, which first welcomed the FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola in 2018.

"For Coca-Cola, the real magic of the FIFA World Cup™ is connection-sharing your passion for the game, beyond boundaries; in a space where unity, diversity and inclusion thrive. We are thrilled to have brought these values and the

excitement of the world's most loved football tournament to Pakistan, a nation of great football fans," said Vice President Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan, Fahad Ashraf.

The day long tour was kicked off with the arrival of FIFA World Cup™ Trophy at the airport, accompanied by FIFA World Cup winner Christian Karembu, as received by Hajra Khan, Pakistan Women's Football team captain and Fahad Ashraf, Vice President Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan.

This was followed by a trophy unveiling ceremony and a celebration highlighting the heritage and future of Pakistan's youth and women in football as hosted by Hajra Khan. With diversity and inclusion at the

core of Coca-Cola's values, the FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour event showcased Pakistan's rich diversity with players and youth represented from across Pakistan's different football playing communities including Fizza Batool, Hazara Women's Football Captain, Ali Changazi, Head Coach Hazara Football Academy, Muhammad Waheed from Malir, Muqaddas Iqbal from Orangi Town and Suha Hirani from the Karachi City Football Club.

"The FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola to Pakistan carries great symbolic power and belief in the future of Pakistan's sporting prowess. The 220 million people of Pakistan have a growing passion for football and events like this



will continue to inspire fans, the youth and more sports stars," said Mr Ahmad Hanif Orakzai,

Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination and Vice President, Pakistan Sports Board who

# Sri Lanka name strong XI for first Australia T20I

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka have named a strong XI for the opening match of their three-game T20I series against Australia in Colombo on Tuesday.

Experienced all-rounder Dasun Shanaka will captain Sri Lanka during the series, with IPL stars Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamika Karunaratne and Bhanuka Rajapaksa also included in the final XI.

Classy duo Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis are named in the Sri Lanka top six, while there is no debut just yet for teenage quick Matheesha Pathirana.

Pathirana caught the eye with a distinctive bowling style very similar to Sri Lanka legend Lasith Malinga while playing for Chennai Super Kings at the recent IPL, but he will have to wait for his chance to impress.

Sri Lanka fell to a 4-1 defeat during a five-game series in Australia earlier this year, but are expected to perform more strongly on home soil with games scheduled for Colombo and Galle.

Australia named their XI for the series opener on Monday, with Aaron Finch captaining a strong side that is missing first-choice spinner Adam Zampa and Test skipper Pat Cummins.

Sri Lanka XI: Pathum Nissanka, Danushka Gunathilaka, Charith Asalanka, Kusal Mendis, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Dasun Shanaka (c), Wanindu Hasaranga, Chamika Karunaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Maheesh Theekshana, Nuwan Thushara.

Australia XI: Aaron Finch (c), David Warner, Mitch Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, Ashton Agar, Mitchell Starc, Kane Richardson, Josh Hazlewood.

# New Zealand lose key all-rounder for England series

LONDON: New Zealand have suffered a big blow ahead of the second Test against England with news that experienced all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme will miss the remainder of the series through injury.

De Grandhomme hurt his right plantar fascia (heel) on the third day of the first Test against England at Lord's and scans subsequently revealed a tear to the affected area.

The 35-year-old will require between 10 to 12 weeks to recover, with fellow all-rounder Michael Bracewell drafted into the New Zealand squad as a direct replacement for the final two Tests of the series.

While New Zealand coach Gary Stead was disappointed to lose a player with the experience of de Grandhomme, he believes Bracewell is more than capable of stepping up and filling the void.

"It's a real shame for Colin to suffer this injury so early in the series," Stead said.

"He's a massive part of our Test side and we'll certainly miss him.

"It's great to be able to call on someone like Michael who's been with the squad for the past month and is match ready."

# Kramaric penalty rescues Croatia against France

SPLIT: Andrej Kramaric scored a late penalty as Croatia salvaged a 1-1 draw at home to world champions France on Monday that left both teams still chasing a first win in the Nations League.

Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot fired France ahead on 52 minutes in Split as coach Didier Deschamps selected an inexperienced side without star forwards Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema.

Croatia equalised seven minutes from time when Andrej Kramaric won and converted a spot-kick.

"We did some good things taking into account all the changes. We were ahead and we could have got the second goal. It's a shame we gave them the equaliser with the penalty," Deschamps told M6.

"Of course the result doesn't fully satisfy me. But there's tiredness to factor in and with all the other matches I'm forced to make changes. It's an ideal preparation for the World Cup."

France and Croatia have just one point apiece in League A, Group 1. France were beaten 2-1 by Denmark in their opening game at home last week, while Croatia crashed to a 3-0 loss to Austria. Denmark top the section on six points after defeating Austria 2-1 in Vienna in a game that was delayed Monday by an hour and a half because of a power outage.

On a night Luka Modric earned his 150th cap for Croatia, Deschamps handed a number of fringe players the chance to make an impression before the World Cup starts in Qatar in November.

# Murray awed by Nadal's French Open record

STUTTGART: Before continuing his grass court preparations, Andy Murray on Monday did the maths on Rafael Nadal's latest feat on clay.

The 36-year-old Spaniard on Sunday routed Norway's Casper Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 in the final at Roland Garros to extend two records. It was not only his 22nd Grand Slam title but also his 14th French Open.

"Winning 14 Grand Slams at the same place is incredible," said Murray in Stuttgart.

"There's hardly any players on the Tour who will get the opportunity to play Roland Garros 14 times, much less win it."

Nadal won his first French Open title in 2005. In the 17 seasons since then, he has lost just three matches at Roland Garros and been forced out once by a wrist injury.

Murray used the sport's latest prodigy, Nadal's compatriot Carlos Alcaraz, for comparison.

"Alcaraz is 19 now, so he would have to win it every single time (until age 33) to achieve that. I just don't see that happening."

fan only event with show stopping musical performances by Coke Studio sensations Shae Gill, Hassan Raheem, Abdullah Siddiqui and Talal Qureshi, bringing together the unifying power of music and sport.

Pakistan has a historical association with football and to mark this affiliation, limited edition artisan hand-painted footballs inspired by Pakistan's celebrated truck art heritage were presented to the visiting delegation.

The FIFA World Cup™ Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola is part of Coca-Cola and FIFA's goal to visit each of FIFA's 211 member associations by 2030. This year the Trophy is visiting 51 countries ahead of the competition in November 2022.