لیے تم لوگ کھاتے پیتے رہو۔ یہاں تک کہ ابن ام مکتوم اذان دیں۔راوی نے کہا كه وه نابينا تصاوراس وقت تك اذان

Barkat Rice Mills

People to be provided relief at all cost: Maryam Nawaz

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Nawaz says regardless of the current state of economy, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government would provide relief to the people at all cost. There is no doubt that last four years of incompetency and sheer neglect have done everything possible to ruin the national economy, but the people have faith in PM Shehbaz Sharif and we will not disappoint them.



Train fares for poor passenger not to be increased: Saad

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ECP rejects allegations of political figures as baseless

➢ Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday denied the allegations, leveled by some political figures against the commission, Chief Election Commissioner, and deemed them as "baseless and untrue". An ECP spokesman in a statement said that the ECP has made elaborate arrangements for holding free, fair and transparent by elections in 20 constituencies of Punjab. He recalled that the commission has already held transparent local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The commission took action against powerful individuals for hindering polling process with no discrimination.

It was being wrongly alleged that some votes were moved to remote areas deliberately and that the constituencies were also changed. The ECP clarified that the by-elections in the 20 vacant constituencies of Punjab Assembly were being held on current voter lists and constituencies. "The non-final electoral rolls have been placed in the display centres to ensure the registration of all the voters and the accuracy of the data," it said. ECP promised voters that the by-elections in 20 constituencies would be transparent and in accord ance with the law and that no one should have any doubts about it. Those who violate the law would face legal action, the electoral body warned.

The ECP hoped that in the future, all political parties would refrain from making such baseless accusations. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) condemned and denied the allegations some political figures have been making against the commission, and deemed them as "baseless and

Rooting out corruption

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



S Crisis over

Pakistan to receive edible oil from Indonesia: PM

Indonesia to provide 2.5m metric tons of palm oil to Pakistan on urgent basis

Solution Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesdav announced that Indonesia will supply edible oil to Pakistan immediately in order to meet the rising demand for the commodity. According to a statement released by the Prime Ministers' Office, the premier spoke to the Indonesian President Joko Widod in this regard. Meanwhile, under the direction of PM Shehbaz, a Pakistani delegation visited Jakarta to discuss matters of mutual interest with the government of the island

10 shiploads of edible oil from Indonesia, Malaysia to arrive Pakistan

The notification further mentioned that 10 ships loaded with edible oil will reach Pakistan within two weeks period from Indonesia and Malaysia. Oil worth 250,000 metric tonnes is being imported from Indonesia

Production Murtaza Mehmood settled all matters related to the maintained. The analyst, while import of oil. The first ship carrying 30 metric tonnes of edible oil will depart for Pakistan today. Commenting on the development, Arif Habib Commodities Managing Director and CEO Ahsan Mehanti said that the price of edible oil — particularly palm oil — increased three-fold since the end of PML-N's tenure.

He further added that the decision will impact the import will which is expected to increase significantly. "This will also negatively affect the rupee-dollar parity

after Minister for Industries and and the current account balance - which is already widening," he commenting on the need for this decision, said that the move will help the government cater to the demands of the people; however, Pakistan needs to focus on local production. Mehanti said that the shortage of edible oil was seen because of the global crisis due to tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

He also mentioned that in the next fiscal year impact worth \$3-4 billion will be seen on the import bill. On April 28, Indonesia halted shipments of crude palm oil and

Putting our politics at stake to save Pakistan: Ahsan

Appeals nation to reduce tea consumption

Market Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ahsan Iqbal said on Tuesday that former Prime Minister Imran khan has left Pakistan on a very weak position and PML-N government is putting their politics at stake to save the country. Talking to media in Islamabad, the Federal Minister said, "Imran khan deliberately gave subsidy on petrol to give tough time to the next government. The payable loans on Pakistan are around Rs 4 thousand billion. While when we left, the payable loans were around Rs 1500 billion."

While attacking the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Ahsan Iqbal said that his fear is the foreign funding case, whenever the on its import.

decsion regarding this case will be announced, Imran Khan will be disqualified. "Imran uses tactics to threaten the institution," he said, adding that if decisions of cases are in his favour, the institutions are working properly and if the decisions are against him, he term them as sold. Minister for Planning and Development expressed the confidence that the economy will stabilize in the next few months.

Ahsan Iqbal said the present government is giving special emphasis to the agriculture sector and has given incentives to the farmers to bolster the production of wheat, sugar and cotton. He said enhancing the production of palm oil will also help the country save foreign exchange currently being spent

Pak Army rejects regime change conspiracy narrative

DG ISPR says leadership believes Musharraf should return to Pakistan

LAHORE: Inter-Services da everyone has the right to Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Babar Iftikhar on Tuesday categorically rejected regime change conspiracy narrative. Talking to a news channel the DG ISPR made it clear that all three service chiefs were present in the National Security meetings. The participants were briefed by the agencies that there was no evidence of regime change conspiracy, he added. The Pak Army spokesman said that no one has the right to distort the facts. Pak army leadership has been being subjected to propagan-

express their opinion but opinions should not be supported

While commenting on the recent budget, the DG ISPR said that defense budget always comes under discussion but the armed forces are fulfilling all the responsibilities despite limited resources.

He went on to say that the armed forces have not increased their budget since 2020 and the Army Chief has also directed that the military exercises should be conducted on a smaller scale as an austerity measure.

PTI govt unveils new ways of corruption: Rana Sanaullah

Says committee formed to unearth money laundering of Rs5b

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday said that the former government of Imran Khan introduced new ways of corruption. Addressing a press conference, after the cabinet meeting, flanked alleged corruption. by Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Communications Minister Asad Mahmood, the interior minister blamed former prime minister Imran Khan for being wrongly labelled as "Sadiq and Amin".

He said Imran Khan is wrongly termed as Sadiq and Amin. He claimed that a private housing society donated 458 canal land to a trust and it belongs to Imran Khan and his wife. He added that wife s signatures are present on the original documents of the deed. The informed about its details. federal minister said that a sub-committee has been made for the investigation of the matter.

Rana Sanaullah revealed details of former prime minister Imran Khan's



He accused that the documents shown by the ousted premier for approval were all passed through the cabinet without the members being

Shahzad Akbar worked as a broker for Imran Khan: Interior minister

Citing sources, Rana Sana said that later it was revealed that funds worth Rs50 billion under a private housing scheme were transferred to the UK illegally which was later traced by the authorities

and was confiscated by the UK's National Crime Agency.

The interior minister alleged that former prime minister Imran Khan's corruption czar Mirza Shahzad Akbar was involved in the misappropriation of Rs50 billion in a case related to a private housing project which was unearthed in the UK. Rana Sanaullah said that Akbar was working as a "broker' for Imran Khan.

Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Tuesday said the Cabinet had set up a sub committee to uncover the mystery of out of court settlement made in over Rs 50 billion in a money laundering case by the previous government as there was no clues who had signed this

NBP wins terror financing case in US court

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has won a terror-financing case filed against the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in New York's federal court, sources in the Attorney General's Office confirmed Tuesday.

The plaintiff — Harold Brown Sr — withdrew their case against the NBP, thus allowing the national bank to win the case. Sources said that a few years back, the national bank was accused of facilitating the transfer of funds that were used to plan and execute an attack on a United States military base in Afghan-

American soldiers. Had the NBP lost the case, according to sources, it would have been slapped with fines worth billions of dollars and would have effectively gone bankrupt. AG Office sources also said that if the NBP had lost, Pakistan would have faced serious issues at the Financial Action Task Force

istan, which killed nine

The case was handled by the International Disputes Unit of the AG Office. The team was led by Ahmed

I will surprise political opponents soon: Imran Khan

Says imported govt won't buy Russian oil due to US influence

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has vowed to surprise his political opponents soon. Talking to a news channel former prime minister said he will intensify his movement against the political opponents. Will politically fight against opponents at every forum', he was quoted as saying. We will continue our political movement under the boundaries of the land of the law, Imran Khan said. Responding to a question, Imran Khan said he will not accept any 'lollipop' and demanded an immediate announcement of general elections in the country.

Earlier, PTI chairman Imran Khan tasked Babar Awan to see legal matters related to the Election Commission of Pakistan. Former SAPM on parliamentary affairs, Dr Babar Awan held a meeting with the PTI chairman at Bani Gala to discuss Pakistan's overall political situation and legal and constitutional matters. Sources privy to the development said, the ousted prime minister again expressed his reservations on the ECP and reportedly warned the Election Commission of Pakistan to refrain from becoming a wing of a political party.

Imran Khan has once again criticised government only bows to the United



the incumbent government, saying that it would not buy Russian oil due to United States' influence. Addressing party workers at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Incumbent govt will harm country more than any enemy: Imran Khan

Former prime minister and Paki- (KP) House in Islamabad, the former stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman premier reiterated that the incumbent

would not buy cheaper oil from Russia because it would displease the US. Speaking about the PTI government's tenure, Imran Khan said that the then-opposition parties kept pushing for a complete lockdown in the country during coronavirus pandemic. "The present government doesn't care about the underprivileged class," he added.

The former premier cited India's example and said that the neighbouring country's economy was destroyed after its Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed complete lockdown. "Poverty increased in India and underprivileged class suffered the most," he added.

The Spokesman

Diplomacy

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is in a meeting his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian here





Pak delegation jets off to Germany

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani delegation, led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, left for Germany to attend a crucial session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

According to details, the delegation, headed by Hina Rabbani Khar, has left for Berlin to attend the crucial meeting of FATF. The delegation includes officials from foreign and finance ministries and other senior officials concerned. The four-day meeting of the financial watchdog is taking place in Berlin from June 13. Informed sources have claimed that the plenary session will consider Pakistan's review on June 15 and 16, while the decisions will be announced on June 17.

here that Pakistan has implemented 26 out of 27 items on the action plan it first committed to in June 2018. of FATF.

Pakistan, Iran to further strengthen bilateral ties

FM Bilawal says close relations with Iran top priority

TEHRAN: Pakistan and Iran have reiterated the resolve to further strengthen bilateral relations in all dimensions. This was stated by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while addressing joint news conference alongside his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian here on Tuesday. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Iran is an important neighbor and brother of Pakistan and building close relations with Iran remains our high priority. He said during his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister, they took stock of entire gamut of bilateral relations and identified ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations in trade, investment, connectivity, border management, facilitation of Zaireen, cultural and educational cooperation and enhancing people to people contacts.

The Foreign Minister said we have come closer to resolving one of the major obstacles in expanding trade Zaireen. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said we through operationalization of party also discussed latest developments in with western partners on 2015 Nucletrade mechanism, formalization of of trade through cross border markets. and instability in Afghanistan. Reiterating the commitment to enhance commercial and economic activities for people should be supported including cive environment. Agencies

Minister said we have also committed to

We have come closer to resolving major obstacles in expanding trade: Bilawal

enhance energy cooperation by importing additional electricity from Iran. He said during his meeting with Irani-

an Foreign Minister, they also discussed the exchange of sentenced prisoners under the existing legal frameworks to allow them to complete their sentences in their respective countries. Appreciating Iran's facilitation of Pakistani Zaireen, the Foreign Minister said he discussed additional facilities for

prosperity of the two peoples, the Foreign through access to frozen assets. He said the world expects from Afghan authorities a move towards inclusivity and an effective counter terrorism action. The Foreign Minister said he has briefed his Iranian counterpart about the serious human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed gratitude to the Iranian leadership's steadfast support for the just cause of Kashmiri people.

The Foreign Minister said he also discussed the rising tide of Islamophobia and the recent derogatory remarks made by officials in India that deeply offended Muslims across the world. He said we have agreed that it is time for the international community to show common resolve against Islamophobia, Xenophobia and intolerance and incitement to violence on the basis of religion

Referring to Iran s engagement Afghanistan especially the dire humaniar Deal, the Foreign Minister said we cross border exchanges through open-tarian saturation there as both Pakistan look forward to the Day when the Joint ing new border crossings and promotion and Iran are directly affected by conflict comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) reaches a conclusion that is right of the He said we have agreed that Afghan people of Iran and creates a more condu-

None in world ready to talk to govt: PTI leaders

Shireen Mazari says PTI has reservations against new US envoy Donald Blome

Staff REporter

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Shireen Mazari said on Tuesday that her party has reservations against the new Donald Blome. In a press conference flanked by PTI leader Asad Umar, Mazari alleged that the American envoy was holding meetings with Pakistani officials even though he is yet to present his credentials. "American envoy met the foreign minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Office did not issue any statement or pictures of the meeting," alleged the PTI leader.

She added that the Blome was the US envoy to Iraq when the government was changed there and that was the time when the Middle Eastern country was attacked. Mazari alleged that the incumbent envoy was running a "strategic cell in Afghanistan." Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Mazari alleged that wherever the premier goes for "begging" he comes back empty-handed. She added that PM Shehbaz came back empty-handed from Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

"No one in the world is ready to

talk to this government. This government will do what America wants," alleged Mazari. On the other hand, Asad Umar repeated his party's call for holding elections in the country, adding that the nation's future should be decided by vote. US ambassador arrives in Pakistan Last month, the new United States ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, a career member of the senior foreign service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. arrived in Islamabad, US Embassy and Consulates in Pakistan confirmed.

"Ambassador Donald Blome began his assignment at the United States Embassy in Islamabad today," said a statement issued by the embassy on May 23. Blome will lead the US mission in Pakistan in its ongoing efforts to deepen connections between the Pakistani and American people and work with the government of Pakistan towards a more stable, secure, and prosperous future for Pakistan. Blome's appointment comes some four years after Ambassador David Hale completed his three-year term in Islamabad and left for Washington to take over as undersecretary of state for politi-

Power sector to sink country if not run properly: Miftah

Solution Our Correspondent



ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Tuesday hinted that if the power sector is not run properly, it

could sink the country's economy. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, he said that Pakistani people have appreciated the budget, adding that debt servicing and power sector subsidies are largest cause of excessive budget expend-

The Finance Minister further said that circular debt of power sector is 2500 billion and debt of gas sector is 1500 billion while debt of energy sector has reached 4000 billion, this year subsidies of 1100 billion have been given to power sector. "Pakistan's billing system is worst in the world, it took me an hour to understand the billing method," Miftah said. He added the pricing system in the country is very outdated and 1950's plants are being run on furnace oil.

Argentinean CJS calls on CJCSC Nadeem

👺 Bureau Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Joint Staff of the Argentinean Armed Forces Teniente General Juan Martin Paleo who is on official visit to Pakistan on Tuesday called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Razaat Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. According to ISPR, matters of bilateral defence cooperation including security, military exchanges, training and prevailing regional environment were discussed during the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, General Nadeem Raza reaffirmed the strong and long-standing bilateral defence relationship between Argentine and Pakistan. The visiting dignitary said the mutually beneficial interactions have deepened the bilateral defence relationship, strengthened the cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding between the two armies. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Head quarters, Teniente General Juan Martin Paleo was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Armed

Deadlock persists

PPP, PML-N at odds on **Punjab cabinet slots**

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Despite multiple meetings between PPP and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the new coalition set up in Punjab has yet to reach understanding over the distribution of In this regard, PPP co-chairportfolios.

Sources privy to the development say that Pakistan held a detailed meeting with Peoples Party (PPP) has Punjab CM Hamza Shehbaz once again shown reserva- in Lahore last week to end the tions over cabinet portfolios impasse over their "due share"

and demanded key ministries in the provincial set up. PPP - a key coalition

partner of ruling PML-N in portfolios of finance, education and law but CM Hamza wants them within his party. man and former president Asif Ali Zardari recently

in the coalition government.

Sources say that Asif Zardari will hold another meeting with PML-N leadership Punjab - is interested in three over the cabinet formation and deadlock between two parties is likely to end by tonight. Earlier, it was reported that the second phase of oaths of the Punjab cabinet members is likely to be postponed again as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leadership showed reserva-

Puniab budget

Minister calls on PA speaker, Moonis

LAHORE: In a major development, Punjab Law Minister Muhammad Ahmad Khan called on Speaker Parvez Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi separately on directions of Chief Minister of Punjab Hamza Shahbaz. According to details, the government delegation apprised the speaker about decisions of the provincial cabinet and also requested him to allow tabling of the budget for fiscal year 2022-23.

Crisis deepens

Two separate PA sessions summoned

Baligh, Elahi separately summon budget sessions

LAHORE: Political crisis in Punjab Rehman convened the session in Aiwan- of police in the assembly on the occasion deepened as Governor Punjab Baligh Ur Rehman and provincial assembly speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi summoned separate sessions for presentation of budget for next fiscal year 2022-23. According to details, the first session of the Punjab Assembly after the election of Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz was once again postponed as deadlock persisted between the provincial government and the opposition.

Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has summoned the budget session tomorrow today (Wednesday) at

e-Iqbal at 3 pm tomorrow. Earlier in the day, a number of PML-N leaders and provincial ministers have recommended postponing the budget session until the next month after the government and opposition's negotiations hit a deadlock.

According to details, PML-N leaders and provincial ministers have suggested postponing the Punjab Assembly's budget session until the by-elections on the 20 vacated seats of PTI MPAs. The Chief Minister (CM) Punjab has also decided to not present the Inspector General Police (IG) and Chief Secretary He ordered leader Ata Tarar to leave the 1 pm. Meanwhile, Governor Baligh Ur Punjab in the assembly over the entrance

of CM elections.

A day earlier, the Punjab Assembly session was postponed without the presentation of the budget for the fiscal year 2022-23. The budget session was scheduled to begin at 2pm but started after several hours of delay. The opposition demanded an apology from Punjab IG and chief secretary. Once the session started, the proceedings were abruptly halted as Speaker Pervaiz Elahi objected to the presence of Punjab government spokesperson Ata Tarar inside the hall. assembly hall.

Amid ruckus

Sindh unveils tax-free Rs1.71tr budget for FY 2022-23

CM says Govt to ensure economic and political stability in the province

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed portfolio of Finance Minister, on Tuesday presented the budget for the fiscal year 2022-23 in the Sindh Assembly amid ruckus from the opposition benches. Addressing the budget session of the Sindh Assembly, CM Murad Ali Shah said that the total outlay of the budget for the province is estimated at Rs1714 billion.

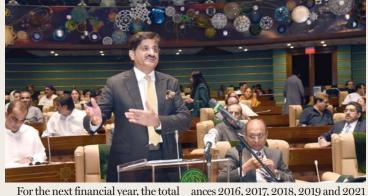
"Government has imposed no FY2022-23, said Murad, adding that the provincial government took steps for social protection and economic stability in the "people-friendly" the government has prepared a budget in consultation with all stakeholders.

Murad Ali Shah, who also holds the a 15 per cent increase in salaries of the government employees while pension was jacked up by 5 per cent. "Government is increasing 33 percent hike in salaries of govt employees from grade 1-16," he added. Murad Ali Shah said the government has earmarked Rs 332billion for the provincial development schemes, while Rs15.4bn has been set aside for social protection.

Murad Ali Shah said that his governnew tax in the provincial budget for ment has kept the education sector as its top priority by allocating Rs326.8 billion which forms more than 25% of total budget outlay. He added that the health sector has also been given Sindh budget. He went on to say that top priority by pitching budgetary allocation at Rs230.30 billion which forms more than 19% of total budget

Presenting the budget, he announced outlay. In the proposals for the upcoming budget, the Sindh government has adopted a policy to either establish a full-fledged university or a campus of a recognised public university in at least seven districts one each in Korangi, Karachi West, Keamari, Malir, Tando M Khan, Tando Allah Yar, and Sujawal. Sharing details of these universities,

Murad Ali Shah said that Korangi will have a University of Technology and Skill, Vocational/Industrial Development, while Karachi West and Keamari will have sub-campuses of this university. Malir will have a sub-campus of NED University. Likewise, Tando M Khan and Tando Allah Yar will be given sub-campuses of IBA Karachi or Sukkur IBA and Sujawal will have a sub-campus of Mehran University.



including Sindh Police and jails, has

allocation for the Home Department, at the rates admissible to employees of the federal government were been enhanced to Rs124.873 billion being merged and revised basic pay salaries and pensions of our employees from Rs119.98 billion. The CM Sindh scale 2022 for civil servants of Sindh are better than the employees of other announced that the adhoc relief allow- government was being introduced on provinces," he said.

the pattern of the federal government. He also announced adhoc relief allowance at the rate of 15% of basic pay scales to government servants from July 1, 2022. "Disparity Allowance at the rate of 33% of basic pay will be paid to civil servants in BPS-1 to 16 and at the rate of 30% to civil servants in BPS-17 and above in lieu of the differential rate of ad-hoc relief allowances 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, which are being abolished from July, 2022," he said. "If they decide to increase the salaries of their employees more than the employees of the Sindh government, we would take decisions accordingly though the

Quality education essential for GB's sustainable dev: President

Dr Arif Alvi says students could realize the dream of financial self-sufficiency through digital skills

👺 Spokesman Report

SKARDU: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that quality education and skilled manpower were essential for the sustainable development of Gilgit Baltistan. He said that achieving vocational training was imperative for all students, especially female students. He said that students could realize the dream of financial self-sufficiency through digital skills and freelancing training.

He expressed these views while addressing the fifth graduation ceremony (Convocation) of the University of Baltistan in Skardu. The President $congratulated \, the \, graduating \, students,$ their parents and teachers and wished them a bright future.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that talented and skilled manpower was required to utilize the natural resources of Gilgit-Baltistan for the development and prosperity of the region and to meet the challenges of the future. The economic revolution could be carried out only through skilled manpower, he added.

He emphasised that the market was in dire need of skilled professionals, especially in the IT sector. He added that in the field of Cyber Security alone, 80 million IT professionals would be



SKARDU: President Dr Arif Alvi giving away stipend to a student during the inauguration ceremony of the Chief Minister's initiative for the disbursement of stipend to students of Gilgit-Baltistan here on Tuesday. Photo: PID

that the demand for 2-year associate degree programmes was growing and our universities should focus on these programmes.

The President highlighted that due to the changes in the field of Information Technology, the doors of the global market had opened up and Pakistani youth, especially women, can needed by the year 2030. He stated now market their services online and

become financially independent. He said that Islam had allowed women to participate in economic activities, therefore, female students should also focus on honing their IT and digital skills which will enable them to earn a decent livelihood from the comfort of their homes. He asked the students to further polish their communication skills so that they could effectively market themselves through digital and online platforms.

The President further said that climate change was a major threat to the future of the region, therefore, universities needed to promote research to tackle the effects of climate change. He stated that efforts were needed to overcome the climate crisis and global warming by conserving nature and adopting eco-friendly

On the occasion, the President further said that he was always happy to visit Gilgit-Baltistan as the people here have high spirits and enthusiasm for the development and stability of the country. He added that the students had worked hard to gain knowledge which was the greatest blessing of Allah Almighty. He advised the graduating students to keep their minds open and continue to gain knowledge throughout their lives.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Khalid Khursheed Khan, welcomed the President to Gilgit-Baltistan and thanked him for his knowledge and special attachment to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan announced on the occasion that the provincial government was formulating a strategy for the establishment of three more universities in Gilgit-Bal-

Junaid Khan embarks on a new journey

With the launch of his production house, Jeem Films

Staff Reporter



LAHORE: Junaid Khan started his journey as a singer-as an introvert looking for a voice. Through this self-discovery, he found expression and passion through big hits such as Sab Bhula Ke and more.

After this, he soon explored another creative expression; acting. And in no time, Junaid Khan not only became a renowned actor of the country, but also a household favorite. From drama serials to the big screen, Junaid Khan's versatility has been proven

time and time again.

After a successful journey as a singer and actor, Junaid Khan has now taken the producer's seat-and is all set to launch his production house, Jeem Films.

A space where he wants to give life to all those who are ambitious about art and creativity. A mindset where community building is the future of the fraternity.

He dropped the news on his Instagram with a deeply profound and eloquently put together verse. Describing Jeem as not just his initial, but a letter that holds deeper meaning altogether.

A story to tell through his journey, and his life lessons.

"JEEM FILMS is a community for art and creativity, expression and reformation, and a new home to versatile minds and passionate souls. With two of my songs already under its umbrella, I am excited to finally announce the launch of my media production house. A journey I embarked on almost a year ago, and after Taqdeer and Chaska, we are all set to release another power project real soon", stated the star himself.

KDA DG promises support for promotion of softball in country

Staff Reporter



KARACHI: The Director General of Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, who is also the Patron of Sindh Softball Association (SSA) has said that we have to make collective efforts at individual and insti-

tutional level to regain past glory in various sports at international level. "Players who win laurels for the country at international level must be honoured at government level and by private organizations to encourage them in their endeavors to achieve best results in future

Speaking at a function held by Softball Federation of Pakistan at its office in connection with the World Softball Day celebrated by World Baseball and Softball Confederation on June 13 in more than 140 states of the world, he said that any good news on sports front from international level has a positive impact on the promotion of sports in $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{$ the country. Players who represent the country at international level are our pride, he added.

He said that sports activities have been restored fully in the KDA and observed that along with other sports, he is eager to see promotion of softball with special emphasis at grass-root level in the country.

"KDA will play a pivotal role for not only enhancing and improvng the existing infrastructure of softball in the country but will also ensure steps for well-being of the players," he observed.

He said that players of Karachi team, which won the title of 7th Inter Divisional Softball Championship in Hyderabad recently, will be honoured at a grand reception to be held in Karachi soon.

On the occasion, the Federation's Secretary General Asif Azeem thanked the DG KDA for his support to the game of softball in the country and added that a substantial patronage of sports by government institutions is a must for promotion of sports so that players are not only provided best playing opportunities but they are also made financially strong so that they can concentrate on their game.

Asif Azeem announced that Pakistan softball team will feature in Asia B-5 Championship to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in August. Moreover, the 1st Softball League will be held in Karachi in November this year in which Lahore, Islamabad, Quetta, Peshawar and the

host Karachi team will take part. Foreign players and technical officials will be invited to this grand event to provide players an exposure of playing alongside international players as the event is aimed at preparing them for international level tournaments. Besides, the international players who will visit Pakistan will send back the world a positive message that our country is safe for hosting international sports", Asif Azeem concluded.

Education Reforms

USAID, Sindh Govt commemorate Community **Engagement**

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government that resulted in Sindh School Education more children having access to and Literacy Department education throughout Sindh," (SELD) participated in a Andrew Rebold said. "Engagceremony to showcase the achievements of USAID's Sindh Community Mobilization Program (SCMP), which is ending after nine

Balochistan, and Ghulam previously dropped out re-en-

tary of Education, attended

the event. "USAID is proud of our partnership with the Sindh ing directly with parents and communities was critical in increasing annual school enrollments—especially for girls. Approximately 20,000 girls enrolled in schools across Andrew Rebold, USAID the province, while more than Director for Sindh and 13,000 young girls who had

👺 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Administrator Cattle Market, Muzaffar Hassan, said that the number of sacrificial animals at the Super Highway Cattle Market has been steadily increasing. The number of animals coming to the market from all over the country has been rapidly increasing day and night. As of Monday, more than 45,000 animals have reached the market and this number is increasing every hour and the consignment of animals includes cows, oxen, camels, domba and goats.

He pointed out that more market for security purposes

The management is providing drinking water and electricity free of cost and all arrangements have been made keeping in view the comfort of the people who come to buy sacrificial animals.

Number of sacrificial animals at Super Highway

Cattle Market increasing: Administrator

The market has been set up here for more than 20 years, but it is for the first time that the market has a food street for people who would now enjoy the delicious foods of high

Chief Executive Officer of Metro Maintenance, Raja Najeeb said that more than 300 CCTV cameras including 10 dome cameras have been made a stir at Super Highway than 300 CCTV cameras have installed for the purpose of Cattle Market Block 7. People been installed in the cattle monitoring the market at every are taking keen interest in these moment. The whole blocks of

and monitoring of the market. the market have been kept on constant watch. Even more cameras are being installed.

Spokesman Cattle Market, Khurram Jaffrani, said, "We want people not to face any kind of hassles and management is trying to provide everything possible at the market that they may need, and in this endeavor, we have full cooperation of law enforcement agencies."

Lal Badisha of 25 maund, Shera King of 20 maund, Mithoo of 18 maund and Gullu of 18 maund who came from Khanpur Katora and Rahim Yar Khan of Punjab region animal

SMEs are backbone of economy: **FPCCI**

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Small and Medium Entereconomy: SMEs have to be promoted to eliminate the gap in export and imports. The increase in exports will improve the current economic situaan industrial package in the current budget.

These views were expressed by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem mony of laying the foundation stone of

la Industry Owners Association here

They further said that the governprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the ment should take concrete steps to increase exports and develop Information Technology and other sectors. The SMEs sector will have to provide facilities. If small industries develop, Pakition; the government should have given stan will develop. They further said that the government should take concrete steps to increase exports and acquire Information Technology and other sectors. The SMEs sector will have to provide facilities. If small industries develop, Pakistan will develop.

Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi said Qureshi and former President Mian that non -traditional products and Anjum Nisar while addressing the cere-new markets would have to be found to increase exports. Industries should the new building of the Daroghawa- be promoted for import substitution.

Nadeem urged the government to make water reservoirs for the betterment of agriculture in the country. There is the country's most severe water crisis due to which rice and cotton crops have not been fully cultivated. The tragedy is that Pakistan is importing agricultural commodities despite being an agrarian country; he added that we have to focus on growing the imported agricultural commodities in the country.

He said that the government has to reduce energy prices, the cost of doing business is increasing due to the high prices and our products are out of competition in the international market. Due to uncertainty in the country, local investment, as well as foreign investment, is being affected.

Total Parco signs MOU with **EPPL**



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Total Parco Pakistan Limited (TPPL) signs MOU with the Ecolean Pakistan Private Limited (EPPL) for the solarization of the Ecolean plant at Lahore.

The signing ceremony for the project was held at Ecolean Corporate office in Lahore.

VEON Ventures reignites Pakistan's startup economy by investing \$15m in Dastgyr

Staff Reporter

VEON Ltd. ISLAMABAD: (NASDAQ: VEON, Euronext Amsterdam: VEON), a global digital operator that provides mobile connectivity and services, announces today that the Group's VEON Ventures division has completed a US\$ 15 million Series A investment in Dastgyr, a Pakistan-based B2B e-commerce marketplace platform.

The deal is VEON Ventures' largest investment in a Pakistani startup and reflects the Group's continued commitment to the region and growth of the digital economy of Pakistan. The investment positions Dastgyr to take advantage of VEON's global expertise and its operating company, Jazz's distribution network and digital payment solutions via JazzCash.

"Pakistan's start-up ecosystem is at a critical juncture and only startups focused on addressing key challenges and adopting localized solutions will survive and thrive," added Aamir Ibra-



highlights VEON's commitment to scaling up Pakistan's digital economy and provides Dastgyrwith a platform to build synergies with Jazz's subscriber base of around 75 million and with JazzCash, further integrating the startup into Pakistan's fintech ecosystem."

"As part of VEON's transformation into a digital operator that delivers a growing range of services to our customers we are investing in leading digital companies like Dastagyr in the countries where we operate.

These investments are the building blocks of the digital ecosystem that will enable us to deliver on our strategy," said MohdKhairil Abdullah, CEO of VEON Ventures. "Pakistan, with its rapidly grow-

ing digital sector, is a key market for VEON. By bringing together Dagstyr's e-commerce business with Jazz's communications network and Jazz-Cash's mobile payments platform, we will catalyse the growth in digital services in Pakistan. This would be further enhanced by the digital banking services that we have ambitions to provide."

Dastgyr offers businesses a one-stop-shop application that connects thousands of retailers with suppliers to give them access to realtime visibility on pricing and financ-

ing rates.
"We are thrilled to achieve this milestone in the current global economic environment," said Zohaib Ali, co-founder of Dastgyr. "We welcome the new investors to the Dastgyr family as we continue to work relentlessly toward our vision of building an AliBaba for emerging markets worldwide. We're lucky to have found strategic partners who believe in our mission and have displayed unwavering faith in our team.

"Financial inclusion, which is central to the startup's mission, will uplift and enable Pakistan's small- and medium-sized retail entrepreneurs and unlock up to an additional US\$ 10 billion for the country's GDP, according to our estimates."

EU-Pakistan Business Forum to increase exports, says Thomas Seller



Staff Reporter

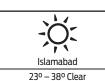
PESHAWAR: An EU delegation in Pakistan hosted the Peshawar edition of the 4th EU Pakistan Business Forum on Tuesday to expand bilateral trade opportunities for both the EU and Pakistan. After three events in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi on September 8, October 13 and November 17, respectively, the event in Peshawar was attended by representatives of local SMEs from key sectors, including handicrafts and carpets.

Representatives of Tourism, Stone and Jewelry Business Forum attended the Peshawar session. Participants

were informed about the use of GSP + scheme given to Pakistan by the European Union to make Pakistani SMEs a part of the country's export supply. GSP + provides duty-free access to two-thirds of the tariff lines to the EU market on the remaining preferential duties.

Thomas, EU Charge d'Affaires in Pakistan, said in an interview that with the Peshawar edition of the Peshawar EU 4th Pakistan Business Forum, with the confidence that it will expand trade opportunities-especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. Enable usability and pave the way for SMEs to become engines.





SERVICES Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

FIVIEIZOEIZ	•
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindia	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	.9266044
Motorway Police92	270601-20

Women Police Stations

Jiulio	Stations		
Islamabad	9222590		
Rawalpindi	9270601-20		
FNOU	DV		

ENQUIR Edhi Ambulance	Y
dhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5

HOSPITALS

WASA Rawalpindi ...

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09

Muhammad *AsifNoor* honored with CPEC **Communication** Award

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Asif Noor, Editor-In-Chief, The Diplomatic Insight, Editor Global News Pakistan, and President of International Forum for Pakistani Columnist and Anchors has been conferred with the "CPEC Communications Award" during the 7th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum jointly organized by China Economic Net (CEN) and Pakistan China Institute and in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan here in Islamabad, The Chief Guest of the event was Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker National Assembly of Paki-

Muhammad Asif Noor has been conferred with this award on the basis of his outstanding contribution toward promoting CPEC and its important insight and building a strong relationship between China and Paki-

Muhammad Asif Noor is a two-decade-strong business and media evangelist with experience in building networks among Diplomats, Media, Business Groups, Government, and Civil Society Leaders based in Pakistan and across the

Earlier Asif Noor has been awarded Hurricane Lamp Top Award for Policy Coordination by NEXT Federation New Zealand in 2020 and this award was presented by Dr. Essam Sharaf, Former Prime Minister of Egypt and President of NEXT Feder-

General Secretary of PANAH meets with Health Minister

The prolong PANAH struggle got success, increased tax on tobacco products a very positive step by govt

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) General Secretary and Director Operations Sanaullah Ghumman along with Consultant Food Policy Program Munawar Hussain had an important meeting with Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel. Presented.

General Secretary and Director Operations Sanaullah Ghumman said that the government is working for the welfare of the people. PANAH, as always, assures its full support. The increase tax on tobacco is good decision, which will keep the people away from diseases and will also increase the

He said that the budget has been presented, sugary drinks are major causes of diseases should be discuss on it is suffering from diabetes, which is on from getting sick.



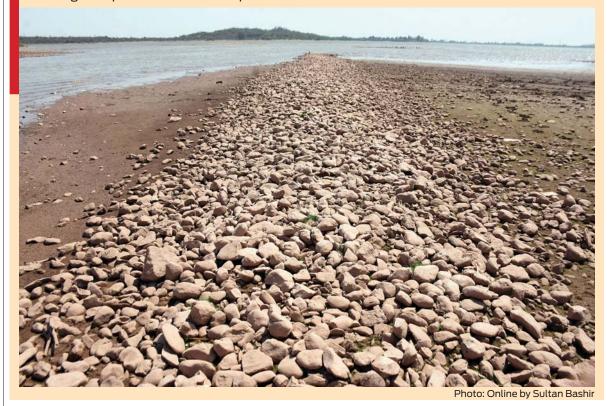
heart, cancer, diabetes, stomach, liver.

Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food

during budget session, which are a major the rise. He said that Diabetes physicause of fatal diseases such as obesity, cally cripples its patients, blinds them, paralyzes the organs of the human body, a major cause of diabetes is excessive Policy Program, said that Pakistan consumption of sugar Sweetened Bevercurrently has the third highest incidence ages, which must be prevented, so that of diabetes, with 33 million Pakistan- our young generation can be protected

Water Crises

ISLAMABAD: A view of the dried part of Rawal Dam as the water level is decreasing day by day due to the high temperature in Federal capital.



Research Commercialization

COMSTECH organizes International Workshop, Exhibition

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized international workshop and exhibition on research commercialization: challenges and opportunities on Tuesday. The Coordinator General COMSTECH welcomed the guests of the event. He said that the theme of this workshop is understanding the opportunities as well as the challenges that are present for the commercialization of research, which is of great significance for all our member states

Prof. Choudhary said that we all are aware of the societal and economic potential of science and technology in our age. He said academic research has begun to take off in most states as evidenced by the rapid growth in science OIC member states. However, er to achieve targets. a common problem is how to



new products. Prof. Choudhary said that the lack of clear road map, sustained state support, institutional framework, entrepreneurial thinking in faculty, infrastructure, interest of industrial sector and investors, and the academic leadership are the major challenges being faced by the science commercialization. He suggested to take these right and sustained policies and establish consortia of business publications emanating from and academia that work togeth-

Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid the Vice President at TENMAK,

the Chairman of Atri Advisory and Science Advisor to the Campaign for Nature initiative in the ASEAN, from Malaysia appreciated the COMSTECH capacity building activities for OIC countries. He pointed out that the level of preparedness innovation rejecting mindset of and insfrastructure is the key reason of lacking behind. Prof. Zakri mentioned that science and technology is good, and research and development is challenges seriously, formulate great, but it must be relevant and must have impact and must contribute to the wellbeing of the society.

Prof. Dr. Orkun Hasekioğlu,

the Energy, Nuclear and Mining Research Agency and advisor to the President of TUBITAK said some years ago we discussed the ways to realize the Astana STI Declaration and came out with some ideas, like commercializing science research and establishing development fund for COMSTECH countries, but could not realize those ideas because of obstacles and suggested to learn lessons from the best practices and imple-

ment them to achieve results. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Guzel. the Director of Discovery and Development Center at Istanbul Medipol University, and the Chair of Medical Pharmacology Department and International Faculty of Medicine, Turkey, said that it is hard to find funding for your research, and it is really hard to find support from investors who support your idea to conduct a research to develop an innovative product.

Pakistan is very strong, resourceful country, says Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan is a very strong and resourceful country which needs to open up to outside world for commercial activities including multinational trade, promotion of SMEs, industrialization, agriculture research, IT projects, tourism, communication infrastructure, health and education. For this purpose we need to enhance our interaction with EU, African Union, OIC and last but not the least 54 Common Wealth countries which is led by Britain as Her Majesty the Queen is the head of Common Wealth", said former Senator Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum while chairing a Commonwealth Entrepreneur Club (CEC) meeting on Tuesday in Islamabad as the president of CEC Pakistan chapter.



Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club (CEC), Zafar Bakhtawari, President of CEC Islamabad Chapter, Secretary General of United Business Group and former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce said that all nation-

Addressing the meeting of al, airlines including PIA should have direct air link with all Commonwealth countries. This will increase Pakistan's trade and public relations with these countries and boost trade. He said that British Airlines should also be revived so that trade and public rela-

tions and cooperation could be further

He said that Pakistan is an ideal country for investment from all over the world. We want to deliver our products, this club was founded by a dynamic Pakistani internationally renowned business tycoon Mobin Rafiq who is chairman of CEC and stationed in London. Common wealth was created after decolonization of British Empire in mid-20th century. CEC is in fact a global Think Tank and nourishing platform consisting of thousands of SMEs, Multinationals, Entrepreneurs technocrats and industrialists to trade, collaborate and fund globally. They deal the energy, wealth management, textile, infrastructure, industrial parks, mining housing, education, automobile, agriculture, IT and tourism etc.

Health Corner

How the brain controls symptoms of sickness

ISLAMABAD: When someone gets an infection, most people think it's the immune system kicking into gear when they feel some of the body's natural defenses like a fever, chills, or fatigue. What most people don't know is that it's actually the brain behind all of this.

Here's what happens: The nervous system talks to the immune system to figure out that the body has an infection and then orchestrates a series of behavioral and physiological alterations that manifest as the unpleasant symptoms of sickness. For neuroscientists, long-standing questions have been: How and where does this happens in the brain? Harvard researchers from the labs of Catherine Dulac and Xiaowei Zhuang sought the answer in the brains of mice.

In a new study published in Nature, the researchers and their collab-

orators describe finding a small population of neurons near the base of the brain that can induce symptoms of sickness, including fever, appetite loss, and warm seeking behavior.

The neurons, which have not been previously described, are found in an area of the hypothalamus, a part of the brain known for controlling key homeostatic functions that keep the



body in a balanced, healthy state. The researchers found these neurons have receptors that are capable of directly detecting molecular signals $\label{eq:capable}$ coming from the immune system, an ability most neurons don't have.

"It was important for us to establish this general principle that the brain can even sense these immune states," said Jessica Osterhout, a postdoctoral researcher in the Dulac Lab and the study's lead author. "This was poorly understood before."

The researchers found that the key area of the hypothalamus is located right next to a permeable section of the brain called the blood-brain barrier, which helps circulates blood to the brain.

'What's happening is that the cells of the blood-brain barrier that are in contact with the blood and with the peripheral immune system get activated and these non-neuronal cells secrete cytokines and chemokines that, in turn, activate the population of neurons that we found," said Dulac, Lee and Ezpeleta Professor of Arts and Sciences and Higgins Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology.

The hope is that scientists can one day use the knowledge from how this mechanism works to target the process in humans to reverse it when it becomes aversive to someone's health.

A fever, for instance, is typically a healthy reaction that helps eliminate a pathogen. But when it gets too high, it can also become dangerous. The same can be said for loss of appetite or a lowered thirst, which can, at first, be beneficial. But a sustained lack of nutrients or hydration then start to impede recovery.

"If we know how it works, perhaps we can help patients who have difficulty with these kinds of symptoms, like chemo patients or cancer patients, for example, who have a very low appetite but there's really nothing we can do for them," Osterhout said.

The work originally started as an effort to look at what is known as the fever effect in autism patients. It's a phenomenon where autistic patients have a reduction in autistic symptoms when the patient have symptoms of an infection like a fever. The goal was to find the neurons that generate fever and link them to the neurons that are involved with

Instead, Osterhout found many populations of neurons that are activated when an animal is sick. She zeroed in on about 1,000 neurons in ventral medial preoptic area of the hypothalamus because of their location next to the blood-brain barrier.

To find the different areas of neurons that become activated, Osterhout injected mice with pro-inflammatory agents, lipopolysaccharide or polycytidylic acid, which mimic bacterial or viral infection. She analyzed the areas of the brain that lit up in the brain scans.

Osterhout and colleagues then used a powerful and precise set of methods called chemo- and optogenetics to control and investigate the connectivity between the different neuronal populations. Using these tools, they were able to activate or silence these neurons on command in the brains of mice and pin down their function by seeing what happened

The researchers found that using these tools they could increase body temperature in the mice, increase warmth seeking behavior, and decrease appetite. The report says the neurons they describe project to 12 brain areas, some of which are known to control thirst, pain sensation, and social interactions. This suggests that other sickness behaviors may also be affected by the neuron activity here. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Clarification on credentials ceremony for Ambassadors

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries, the Spokesperson stated that the credentials ceremonies for incoming Heads of Diplomatic Missions are held according to State and diplomatic protocols. Such ceremonies are scheduled in consultation with the relevant Missions and in conformity with existing diplomatic practices and procedures. The credentials ceremony for the next batch of Ambassadors/Heads of Missions will take place in the near future. We urge that while reporting on diplomatic matters due caution must be exercised and speculative reporting strictly avoided. PR

Federal Budget 2022-23: a very tough time ahead

Seminar on SDPI's Response on Budget 2022-23

Staff Reporter

ISLMABAD: The federal budget 2022-23 has been presented at a time when Pakistan' foreign exchange reserves are depleting drastically, credit rating has fallen and the government faces mounting pressure to improve economic indicators to further continue the IMF programme, said SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri at a seminar titled: SDPI's Response on Budget 2022-23.

The federal budget, Dr Suleri said, is already in deficit as more than half of it has been allocated for the non-discretionary expenditures, including debt servicing and defense. He was of the view that the government will have to arrange additional Rs 4.6 billion in loan to meet the fiscal year's expenditures. He also predicted an impeding food crisis where food commodity prices will increase and an overall increase in inflation of nearly 15% is expected as an aftermath of the

Dr Vaqar Ahmed, SDPI Joint Executive Director, said that according to independent economists, inflation is projected to exceed 18% instead of 11% as projected by the federal government. At the same time, Rs 7 trillion tax collection goal set by Federal Bureau of Revenue is also less likely to be achieved. He said that the country might get into hot waters with IMF over the issue of petroleum tax levy, which might have to be revised later. The government has not demonstrated ingenuity to improve the redistribution of wealth by bringing the self-employed persons in the higher tax net, he said, adding that the overall impact of taxation in textile, automobile, construction, chemicals, food processing, fertilizers and IT sector will be negative due to regressive taxation. However, the paper, pharmaceutical, solar energy as well as film and entertainment industry will experience positive impact of the tax exemptions.

Dr Sajid Amin, SDPI Deputy Executive Director, remarked that the current federal government had its hand tied as we are currently facing an unprecedented economic crisis. He said that social sector development might have to be sacrificed to meet the revenue targets and decrease expenditures.

Editorial/Opinion

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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Indian crackdown on **Muslims**

ndia must immediately end a vicious crackdown on Muslims who took to the streets to protest a ruling party official's remarks about the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Two demonstrators were killed and hundreds of others arrested last week in nationwide protests over the comments, which embroiled India in a diplomatic furore and caused widespread outrage in the Islamic world. Footage of bulldozers demolishing homes of those arrested or identified as protesters has since been spread on social media. Authorities were selectively and viciously cracking down on Muslims who dare to speak up... against the discrimination faced by them. Cracking down on protesters with excessive use of force, arbitrary detention and punitive house demolitions... is in complete violation of India's commitments under international human rights law.

Amnesty International says more than 300 people have been arrested in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for joining last week's rallies. The state's chief minister, firebrand monk Yogi Adityanath, is one of India's most prominent Hindu nationalist politicians, known for sectarian rhetoric against India's 200-million strong Muslim minority. Adityanath has repeatedly called on authorities to demolish the homes of people accused of crimes, exhortation critics say violates constitutional and human rights law prohibitions on collective punishment.

Amnesty has demanded an immediate and unconditional release of detained protesters, and Patel said the arrests and demolitions were "part of an alarming escalation of the states' measures targeting Muslims".

Since coming to power nationally in 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been accused of championing discriminatory policies towards Muslims. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government proposed a controversial law that granted faster citizenship to refugees in India, but not if they are Muslim, while state BJP governments have passed laws making inter-religious marriages harder.

Cities around India saw sizable demonstrations on Friday, with some crowds burning effigies of Nupur Sharma — the BJP spokeswoman whose comments during a TV debate show set off the furore. Sharma has been suspended from the party, which issued a statement saying it respected all religions, while the governments of nearly 20 Muslim-majority countries called in their Indian envoys to register their disapproval. Friday also saw huge protests in neighbouring countries, with police estimating more than 100,000 people mobilised across Bangladesh after midday prayers. Another 5,000 people took to the streets in the Pakistani city of Lahore, demanding that their government take stronger action against India over the comments

China has also called out India to properly resolve the relevant situation emerged as a result of BJP leaders' blasphemous remarks causing strong dissatisfaction among Indian Muslims and Islamic countries. We have noted relevant reports and hope that the relevant situation can be properly resolved, Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing here while commenting on Bhartia Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma's remarks about the Prophet Muhammad PBUH which caused strong dissatisfaction among Indian Muslims and Islamic countries.

Education matters the most



ducation plays a vital part in the socio-economic and cultural improvement of a nation. It is a diagram of wisdom in which the perception, aptitudes and manners of groups of people are transformed from one era to the next through teaching, discipline, or research. Education is a civil equipment through which humans can lead their fate and shape Their future. It is related with the personal, social, economic and cultural characteristics of being human. It assists in comprehending the societal measures, offers individuals self-reliance and hinders discrimination and small-mindedness of all sorts. Islam encouraged men and women equivalent to seek knowledge.

Education is considered as the inexpensive defence of a nation. The carelessness of the government in the education sector in Pakistan suffers vast evidence of the truth that it is incompetent to sustain its own sector. people. The Pakistani education

Report, Pakistan is placed at a low degree possessing 49.9% educated masses. Education is the most important ingredient for the development of a country. It is an undisputed fact that nations who have touched the pinnacles of progress and attainment have performed it by using education as a tool to achieve it. Education is simply an investment to achieve both human and economic improvement. But, unfortunately, it is one of the vastest predicaments in Pakistan. The education system of Pakistan is rotten to the nucleus. Some of the very fundamental drawbacks of the education system in Pakistan contribute to the economic, ethnic and socio-political tragedy within the country.

from deprivation to the pinnacles of prosperity. The education system is complicated. It encompasses numerous factors that need to be appropriately aligned. The government plays a crucial role in the education system of the nation. The government carries responsibility for formulating policies for the advancement of the education sector. It is important because around 3 million students are studying in different country areas, which makes possible 6% of the population. Many problems and flaws can be solved by both the Pakistani government and the

Education can lift a country

world. They boast of having one of the most extensive and beneficial curricula in all of Asia. Nevertheless, there are several deficiencies within the student system that need to be fixed.

The educational system in Pakistan is based on irregular lines. The medium of education is different in both, the public and private sectors. This creates a kind of disparity among people, distributing them into two pieces. Most private schools are English medium while the government schools are Urdu medium. The regional difference is also a prominent cause of the impoverished educational system in the country. Moreover, the egalitarianism of education in most public schools and colleges is well below par: the teachers in government schools are not adequately trained. People who do not get a job in any other sector, struggle for their objective in the educational system. They are not professionally competent teachers so they are incapable to educate the nation. The integrity of teaching needs particular attention in rural regions where the teachers lack in all departments.

Just because, Quaide-i-Azam said, "Education is the matter of life and death for Pakistan. The world is advancing so quickly that sans requisite progress in education, not only we will lag behind others but may be wiped out altogether". The main facets

of girls encompass destitution, cultural restrictions, illiteracy of parents and parental concerns about the protection and mobility of their daughters. Society's emphasis on girls' modesty, safety and early marriages may restrict the family's enthusiasm to send them to school. Enrolment of rural girls is 45% lower than that of urban girls; while for boys the difference is 10% solely, showing that the gender gap is a significant element. Pakistan's attention to the war against terrorism too affected the growth of literacy movements. The militants targeted schools and students; many educational institutions were blown up, and teachers and students were assassinated in Balochistan, KPK and FATA. This may have to participate not as much as other factors, but this remains a vital compo-

Assisting to lessen the drastic economic on parents, Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan provides that all children receive free and mandatory education between the ages of five and sixteen. The article has been revised to encompass this provision. Literacy rates in Pakistan differ considerably from district to district. In Islamabad, the literacy rate is 96%, while in Kohlu, it's a mere 28%. We need to recognize the significance of literacy and encourage people to read. The younger generation

system is one of the oldest in the that impede enrolment rates can learn from books with the instance of citizenship, goodness, work ethic, and kindness. Pakistan spends 2.4% of its GDP on education. At the national level, 89% of education expenses encompass current expenditures such as teachers' salaries, while only 11% comprises advancement expenditure which is not enough to bring up the quality of education. Adequate attention has not been paid to technical and vocational education in Pakistan.

> The number of technical and vocational training institutes is not enough and several are deprived of infrastructure, teachers and instruments for training. The population of a state is one of the fundamental components of its national strength. It can become an investment once it is skilled. An untrained population indicates more unemployed people in the country, which impacts national progress negatively. Thus, technical education needs priority handling by the government. The reforms needed in the education system of Pakistan cannot be performed by the government alone, public-private participation and a mix of formal as well as non-formal education can pull out the majority of the country's population from illiteracy. Similarly, to make the youth of the country an asset, attention must also be paid to vocational and technical training.



S World of Plastic:

Highlighting the Plastic Pollution & Challenges in Pakistan

lastics are synthetic or semi-synthetic materials made from a wide variety of polymers that can be moulded easily into a shape while soft and then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form. The adaptability plus a wide range of beneficial properties such as being lightweight, durable and flexible, along with cheap production processes has led to widespread adoption in contemporary society. The success and dominance of plastics resulted in widespread environmental problems due to their slow decomposition rate in natural ecosystems. In order to combat the plastic waste, the world governments and non-governmental organizations began to adopt recycling strategies to assuage environmental concerns while continuing to generate mass production of plastic. Most plastic produced has not been reused as it is either being captured in landfills or persisting in environment as plastic pollution. It can be found in all world's major water bodies like the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers.

The world has a plastic problem, and it is snowballing but so is public awareness and action. Many governments and nongovernmental organizations worldwide are playing their part in reducing plastic pollution by changing their policies and imposing laws such as ban of single use plastic products and introducing modern methods of recycling plastic waste. Campaigns through mass media about the world of plastic and its prevention is also trending amid climate change and global warming threat, as according to report of Center for International Environmental Law, plastic contribute greenhouse gases in the equivalent of 850 million tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere in 2019 and annual emissions will grow to 1.34 billion tons by 2030.(Sweeping New Report on Global Environmental Impact of Plastics Reveals Severe Damage to Climate, 2019)

On the contrary where the developed countries are somewhat successful in implementing laws and the developing countries are failing to create mass

awareness and efficient methods to tackle plastic waste. Like many countries, Pakistan is also facing the problem of plastic pollution. More than 3.3 million tons of plastic are wasted each year in Pakistan and most of it ends in landfills, unmanaged dumps or strewn about land and water bodies across the country.(Gul, 2020) In Pakistan the minority elite has more leverage over resources thus are less concerned about the consequences of the waste they produce annually. On the other hand, middle class is only concerned about getting rid of plastic waste from their immediate surroundings whereas the lower class is not bothered at all.

Lack of education and awareness in Pakistan as well as the poor waste management and law enforcement agencies are one of the factors of plastic pollution. No efficient substitute is available for the consumers at present. Moreover, it is difficult to convince the people to adopt new habits such use of cloth or paper bags, metal straws and minimal use of single use plastic products. Old methods of burning plastic waste is still practiced in the country and adds to the pollution overall in the world of plastic. Poor implementation of laws against usage of plastic bags is one of the main causes of its spread. Awareness and attention are required for people who are uneducated. Moreover, alternative strategies and effective implementation of laws can lower plastic pollution. Joseph, Kumar, Majgi, Kumar, & Prahalad, 2016)

In urban areas, plastic is a threat due to over use of its products as it can survive in the environment for hundreds of years without decomposing. It is used in packaging, construction, transportation, electrical appliances, industries and many more. However, waste from municipal and industries form the major contributor of plastic pollution. In Pakistan 6% of waste consist of plastic and it is discarded in landfills. Urban areas of Pakistan, for example Lahore is a metropolitan city and a center for industrialization. The water bodies surrounding Lahore are filled with plastic specifically river Chenab. Lack of waste management, proper sewerage system and recycling facilities is the major cause of plastic providing strategies to overcome plastic pollution, pollution in urban areas.(Irfan, Qadir, Mumtaz, & Ahmad, 2020)

Various brands of Pakistan have taken the initiative of introducing cloth bag or seed bag to combat plastic pollution and it also raises awareness. Pakistan is lacking behind when it comes to recycling and its planning. Urban areas have poor waste management system whereas in rural areas it is nonexistent. Over the years, paper and plastic are utilized more than iron and glass due to its low cost, thus leading to its waste and pollution, highlighting that Pakistan is becoming a throw-away society due to increased wealth. If proper recycling industries are set up in Pakistan it will not only create job opportunities but also increase the revenue. (Batool, Chaudhry, & Majeed, 2008). In 2019 Pakistan's government took the initiative of banning single use plastic bags o ensure environmental sustainability

Moreover, some institutions moved one step further and changed their lifestyles by eliminating plastic products like plastic bottles and plastic packaged food as much as possible and promoting plastic recycling. The world bank in Pakistan suggested the idea of 3P's that is People Practice and Policy to combat plastic pollution. (Javed & Khaliq, 2019) Pakistan has been fighting plastic pollution for over ten years now. During this time various policies on ban of single use plastic bags have been imposed such as those in 2006 and 2009 by Sindh government both of which has failed miserably due to poor implementation of law and providing any substitute. In 2014 the ban was imposed again but government failed to publicize it effectively as many eople were unaware of it.

Moreover, shopkeepers used fake stamps suggesting their bags were biodegradable but police lacked ne necessary equipment to test it in the first place. If the government plans to ban the plastic industry, it has no plans of compensating the workers. The problem of Pakistan is not plastic pollution but South Asia, economic advancements and changing lifestyles of people is resulting in rapid increase in plastic pollution. In Pakistan, plastic is cheap, ready available, durable, resistant and is widely used. Products of plastic that are disposable and of low cost are discarded without any hesitation among which

plastic bags is the primary component and adds to 45.72% of total plastic waste. Rag pickers pick up the valuable plastic waste for scavengers and get paid for a stipulated amount of 15 to 20 rupees per month. As long as people of big cities manage the waste from their homes by paying the waste management authorities, concerning for the waste in landfill is least of their concern, whereas people in rural areas manage their waste independently. (Ahmed,

Mehmood, Noor, & Bahadar, 2020) Conclusion and Recommendations:

It has been concluded that plastic pollution is as threatening as climate change and global warming. It is a worldwide problem and the world has very little time to prevent it otherwise it will take the form of an uncontrollable risk. The accumulation of plastic and severity of the problem will exponentially increase with the increase of global plastic production and consumption thus, the world needs to change its consumption methods. The inclusion of recycling, litter prevention and illegal dumping are some of the reasons of plastic litter. The growing concern about plastic pollution, and the building momentum, has already led to a ground-breaking, global agreements. Banning single plastic products or just plastic bags is not enough. An immediate substitute is the need of time for which global community must join hands in creation of eco-friendly plastic replacement that has similar advantages.

Moreover, people perception regarding plastic and its pollution is out of keeping with the world's present condition. Their habits and demand for plastic without thinking about the long-lasting impacts it could have on the environment, are irrational Awareness campaigns against plastic has profound impact on the literate community mostly whereas, people who are underprivileged do not necessarily care about the environment around them. Countries waste management and recycling. (Hadid, 2019) In like Pakistan are lacking strong law enforcement agencies and proper polices to combat issues like plastic pollution. People lack the sense of responsibility and the absence of waste management system, active administrations and recycling industries lead to the problem of heaping plastic waste.

The writer is a student

Letter to the Editor Social media boon or bane

n this era of social media, no one cares about anyone's confidentiality. It has become normal to disseminate positives and negatives of a person without considering the consequences. On one hand, positive aspects of a man's life create sense of pride, confidence, appreciation and encouragement that makes the life jolly, on the other hand; negatives lead to destruction and ruins a man's life along with his entire families. Nowadays, social media is very common and easily accessible tool to dishonor someone by spreading fake and shameless news that results in defamation and disrespect. One careless click of finger usually costs heavily like depression and in some cases to suicide.

There are numberless such cases in our country, the current one is of the famous anchor person Aamir Liaquat's video that may be attributed to the his death. Such cases have claimed lots of lives and caused huge morale damage to our society. So it's our prime responsibility to take care of everyone's privacy and avoid the misuse of social media to prevent such incidents that demands huge cost in terms of human life and bad stigma to a man's character. It is also responsibility of the concerned governmental organization to keep check on and discard such news that spread hatred and cause mental disturbance and disease leading to death. Moreover, strict action should be taken against those circulating that kind of videos like charging with hefty amount of fine.

RashidAliLarkana

Russians control 80% of Sieverodonetsk in eastern Ukraine

Ukraine says its air defense system shot down two Russian cruise missiles

LVIV: Russian troops control about 80% of the fiercely contested eastern Ukrainian city of Sieverodonetsk and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of the city but Ukrainian authorities are still trying to evacuate some wounded residents, a regional official said Tuesday.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, acknowledged that a mass evacuation of civilians from Sieverodonetsk now is "simply not possible" due to the relentless shelling and fighting in the city. Ukrainian forces have been pushed to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using," he said.

"There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the Ukrainian military and local residents," he told The Associated Press by telephone, adding that Russian forces have not yet blocked off the strategic city.

About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk compared to its pre-war population of 100,000. More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the Azot chemical plant, which is being relentlessly pounded by the Russians, according to Haidai.

In all, 70 civilians have been evacuated from the Luhansk region over the



past 24 fours, the governor said.

Russian forces in the last few weeks have pressed hard to capture Ukraine's eastern Donbas area, which borders Russia and is made up of the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk. It is the industrial heartland of the country.

Jan Egeland, the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, one of the aid organizations supplying food to the people there, said the fighting of the past weeks have made regular food distribution impossible.

"The situation is difficult," Ukrain-

ian President Volodymyr Zelesnkyy said in a news conference on Tuesday with Danish media. "Our task is to fight back."

Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday they had have received the bodies of 64 defenders of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol in the latest body swap

The statement by the Ministry for Reintegration of Occupied Territories said the exchange took place in the Zaporizhzhia region, but didn't clarify how many bodies were returned to

It was one of the several body swaps the warring sides have conducted. Earlier this month Moscow and Kyiv exchanged 160 bodies each. Russian officials haven't commented on the exchanges, and there was no immediate confirmation from Moscow on the swap reported by Ukraine on Tuesday.

Ukraine says its air defense system shot down two Russian cruise missiles targeting the southern Odesa region.

Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odesa regional military administration, thanked the country's air defense forces for striking down "two enemy" cruise missiles.

There was no independent confirmation and it was not clear if any missiles hit their targets. Odesa is a key western port for Ukraine on the Black Sea.

Reports of overnight shelling came from other Ukrainian regions as well, with five people wounded in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

Day after day, Russia is pounding the eastern Donbas region of Ukraine with relentless artillery and air raids, making slow but steady progress in seizing the industrial heartland of its neighbor. With the conflict now in its fourth month, it's a high-stakes campaign that could dictate the course of the

Speakers US President to visit Saudi Arabia next month

RIYADH: US President Joe Biden will visit Saudi Arabia on July 15 and 16 upon the invitation of King Salman, Saudi Press Agency reported.

The US president will meet with the king and his Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman "to discuss areas of bilateral cooperation as well as joint efforts to address regional and global challenges."

A statement from the White House said that Biden will also attend a tant visit to Saudi Arabia, support to the UN-mediat-Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council plus Egypt, Iraq and Jordan while in the Kingdom.

"The President apprecilooks forward to this impor-

Sohail Anium Malik

BRUSSELS: Chairman

Kashmir Council Europe

(KC-EU) Ali Raza Syed has

asked a high ranking Euro-

which has been a strategic partner of the United States for nearly eight decades," the

statement read. While in Saudi Arabia, the House added. ates King Salman's leader- US leader will discuss a range ship and his invitation. He of bilateral, regional, and means for expanding region-freedom, and opportunity

Chairman KC-EU briefs EU

official about IIOJK situation

ed truce in Yemen, which has led to the most peaceful period there since war began seven years ago, the White

"He will also discuss global issues. These include all economic and security

cooperation, including new and promising infrastructure and climate initiatives, as well as deterring threats from Iran, advancing human rights, and ensuring global energy and food security," the statement said.

The US leader will begin his travel in Israel, where he will meet with Israeli leaders to discuss Israel's security, prosperity, and its increasing integration into the greater region, the White House statement said.

He will also visit the "West Bank to consult with the Palestinian Authority and to reiterate his strong support for a two-state solution, with equal measures of security, for the Palestinian people

demand release of Yasin Malik

WASHINGTON: Speakers at a function in the United States expressed solidarity with Muhammad Yasin Malik, prominent leader of Jammu and Kashmir's political resistance

icate distribution ceremony hosted in the honour of 2022 graduates at 'Kashmir House' Maryland. It was hosted by Kashmiri Americans.

Yasin Malik was given life imprisonment by an India's kangaroo court for raising demand for freedom of his motherland from the illegal occupa-

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General, World Kashmir Awareness Forum, said if Yasin Malik is a terrorist as India has charged him, then why the-then prime minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh urged him during an official meeting on February 17, 2006, to help initiate a peaceful negotiation for the resolution of Kashmir dispute. Dr. Manmohan Singh sought the meeting with Malik because of non-violent ideology that Yasin Malik

The world powers must realize that alienating peace-loving leaders like Yasin Malik, closes any chance of peace in the region of South Asia and pushes the new generation towards actions that can be detrimental to the peaceful resolution of Kashmir

"As we know that the youth has been raised with blood and tears for which death no longer poses a threat for what can death do that life has not done before: their suffering is freeing them from fear. Kashmiri freedom from fear has led to the powerful peaceful protests we have witnessed on the streets of Srinagar," Fai contin-

Fai emphasized the need to strive for making South Asia a region of peace and of shared prosperity. "It could be achieved if India moves beyond its present inflexible political agenda and realizes that the people are the real stakeholder when we talk

Human rights are cheapened, said

Sardar Zarif Khan appealed to the United Nations and other world Mohammad Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri detainees like Khurram Andrabi and Masarrat Aalam Butt.

The speakers said this at a certif-

was pursing since 1994.

conflict.

about the conflict of Kashmir."

Dr. Fai, when enforcement of world powers is selective.

organizations to shed their protracted silence and earnestly impress upon the Indian government to let international standards of justice prevail and free Parvez, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Aasiya

Turkey is a safe country:

ANKARA: Turkey is "a safe country," its foreign ministry said on Tuesday after Israeli authorities urged their citizens to leave over fears of

In an indirect response that did not mention Israel, the ministry noted "some countries" had issued travel warnings.

Turkey "is a safe country and continues to fight against terrorism," the statement said. "These travel warnings are considered to be related to different international developments and motives," it added.

Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid on Monday urged citizens in Turkey to leave "as soon as possible" over threats that Iranian operatives were planning attacks on Israelis in Istanbul. He said there was "a real and immediate danger" from Iranian agents.

On Monday, Israel's Yediot Ahronot newspaper quoted an unnamed security official saying several Iranian "cells" were planning operations against Israeli tourists in Turkey.

The warnings come amid the latest surge in tensions between bitter rivals Iran and Israel, with Tehran blaming Israel for a series of attacks on its nuclear and military infrastructure, in Iran but also in Syria.

Turkey is a popular holiday destination for Israelis, including through

more than a decade of diplomatic rupture between the two countries. Ankara and Israel have mended ties in recent months, with senior Turkish leaders citing the importance of Israel to Turkey's tourism

Indian troops martyr two more youth in HŌJK

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

The youth were martyred by troops and paramilitary forces during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Bemina area of the district.

The operation continued till last reports came in. Indian troops launched a violent cordon and search operation South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The Indian troops along with paramilitary and police personnel cordoned off the Mishipora area of the district and launched searches. A senior police officer confirmed to the media about firing by Indian troops in the area. The incident triggered tension in Mishipora.

Indian SC moved against demolition of Muslims' houses

LUCKNOW: Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has moved the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Uttar Pradesh government to ensure that no further demolitions are carried out without following due process.

Houses of Muslim figures including prominent Muslim activist Afreen Fatima demolished after thousands of Muslims protested across Uttar Pradesh and they were arrested by the police for being alleged 'masterminds' of protests over anti-prophet Muhammed remarks.

The top Muslim body's application has sought directions to initiate action against officials responsible for the houses demolished in violation of the rule of law and the municipal laws enacted by the State of Uttar Pradesh, reported Live Law.

According to the Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, the present situation is more alarming as the Supreme Court had already ordered a stay of demolitions that were being carried out as a punitive measure in Northwest

55 people killed in attack in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU: Gunmen killed at least 55 people over the weekend in northern Burkina Faso, authorities said Monday, the latest attack in the West African country where mounting violence is blamed on

Suspected militants targeted civilians in Seytenga in Seno province, overnment spokesman Wendkouni Joel Lionel Bilgo said at a ne conference. While the government put the official toll at 55, others put the figure far higher.

Attacks linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are soaring in Burkina Faso, particularly in the north. Jihadists killed at least 160 people in an attack in the town of Solhan in June 2021. In January, mutinous soldiers ousted the democratically elect-

ed president, promising to secure the nation, but violence has only increased. The government is asking people to remain united in the fight against the insurgents.

While no group claimed the weekend attack, conflict analysts say it was likely carried out by the Islamic State group.

"In recent weeks, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara have been the most aggressive group, notably in Seno and Oudalan provinces. In addition to attacks against security forces, civilians have also been targeted," said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan-based organization focused on econom-

South Korea says North completed prep for new N test

 $WASHINGTON: South \ Korea's top\ diplomat\ said\ Monday\ that\ North$ Korea has completed preparations for a new nuclear test and that only a political decision by the country's top leadership can prevent it from going forward. After talks with Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington,

South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin said the North would pay a price if it goes ahead, as feared, with what would be its seventh nuclear test in the coming days. "North Korea has completed preparations for another nuclear test

and I think only a political decision has to be made," Park said. Prior to Monday, U.S. and South Korean officials had said only that the North was nearing completion of such preparations. "If North Korea ventures into another nuclear test, I think it will only

strengthen our deterrence and also international sanctions," Park said. "North Korea should change its mind and make the right decision." Apart from sanctions, Park did not say what that price the North

would pay or outline how the deterrence policy would change, but Blinken said the United States and treaty allies South Korea and Japan could adjust their military postures in response.

pean Official that the persons involved in human rights abuses in the Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) should not be given impunity at all. Chair of KC-EU talked to said, we are totally not in favor authorities. Chair of KC-EU said,

Marie Arena, the Chair of of the impunity in all over the Human Rights Sub-Commit-

tee of European parliament Pierantonio PANZEafter a press conference at the RI, Chair of Fight Impu-EU Parliament in Brussels on nity organization who is former chair of human rights Ali Raza Syed updat- sub-committee of EU parliaed the EU official about the ment and Etienne BASSOT, latest situation of human Director Members' European rights in occupied Kashmir Parliament Research Service and urged that the Indian (EPRS) were also present on personnel involved in viola-

tions of human rights of the Ali Raza Syed also urged oppressed people of Kashthe European authorities mir should not be exemptto use their good offices for ed at all while they should be early release of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik, noted punished through fair judicial trial. Answering to Ali Human rights activist Khur-Raza Syed, the Chair of the ram Parvez and other illegally Subcommittee Marie Arena detained Kashmiris by Indian

Yasin Malk has been recently sentenced to life imprisonment on fake charges and his life is in danger in the Indian jail. It is also possible that Indian government may increase his sentence. His mistake is that he is struggling for the freedom of the people of Kashmir. the human rights defender Khurram Parvez is also detained on false allegations because he prepared true reports of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir in the recent years.

Ali Raza Syed also handed over a letter to Marie Arena and other European officials reveals, how Indian security forces abuse the human rights in the Indian occupied Kashmir. The letter asked international community including Europe to prevent human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir. Exposing the brief story of

on the occasion. The letter

human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, the letter explained how India denied right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. A large number of the Indian army and paramilitary forces are deployed in order to implement black laws and these forces committing the human rights violations by use of these inhuman laws in the occupied Valley.

The letter also mentioned EU parliament resolution of 2008 for condemning the mass killings identified by the mass graves discovered in the occupied Kashmir and UN High commissioner for human rights' report of 2019 on human rights violations in the occupied Kashmir.

Amnesty urges India to stop 'vicious' Muslim protest crackdown

NEW DELHI: India must immediately end a "vicious" crackdown on Muslims who took to the streets to protest a ruling party official's remarks about the Prophet Muhammad, Amnesty Interna-

tional said Tuesday. Two demonstrators were killed and hundreds of others arrested last week in nationwide protests over the comments, which embroiled India in a diplomatic furor and caused widespread outrage in the Islamic world.

Footage of bulldozers demolidentified as protesters has since last week's rallies.

been spread on social media.

Authorities were "selectively and viciously cracking down on Muslims who dare to speak up... against the discrimination faced by them," Amnesty's Aakar Patel said in a statement.

"Cracking down on protesters with excessive use of force, arbitrary detention and punitive house demolitions... is in complete violation of India's commitments under international human rights law."

More than 300 people have been arrested in the northern ishing homes of those arrested or Uttar Pradesh state for joining

The state's chief minister, firebrand monk Yogi Adityanath, is one of India's most prominent Hindu nationalist politicians, known for sectarian rhetoric against India's 200-million strong Muslim minority.

Adityanath has repeatedly called on authorities to demolish the homes of people accused of crimes, an exhortation critics say violates constitutional and human rights law prohibitions on collective punishment.

Amnesty has demanded an "immediate and unconditional release" of detained protesters, and

Patel said the arrests and demolitions were "part of an alarming escalation of the states' measures targeting Muslims."

Since coming to power nationally in 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been accused of championing discriminatory policies toward Muslims.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government proposed a controversial law that granted faster citizenship to refugees in India, but not if they are Muslim, while state BJP governments have passed laws making inter-religious marriages harder.



Cities around India saw sizeable Nupur Sharma — the BJP spokesdemonstrations on Friday, with woman whose comments during some crowds burning effigies of a TV debate show set off the furor.

Sharma has been suspended from the party, which issued a statement saving it respected all religions, while the governments of nearly 20 Muslim-majority countries called in their Indian envoys to register their disapproval. Friday also saw huge protests in neighboring countries, with police estimating more than 100,000 people mobilized across Bangladesh after midday prayers. Another 5,000 people took to

the streets in the Pakistani city of Lahore, demanding that their government take stronger action against India over the comments.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

IIIGEX	Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 1	Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close				
41,054.68	40,879.93				
Day's High	Day's Low:				
41,115.72	40,657.88				
Index Value	Change				
2,604,055,730	+174.75				
Percentage	Time				
+0.43%	14 Jun, 2022 5:00 pm				
Europe: FTSE 100 Index					
Index Value	Change				
7,187.46	-18.35				
Percentage	Time				
-0.25%	14 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1				
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average				
Index Value	Change				
30,402.49	-114.25				
00, 10E: 10	-114.23				
Percentage	-114.23 Time				
Percentage -0.37%	Time 14 Jun, 11:56 am				
Percentage -0.37%	Time 14 Jun, 11:56 am GMT-4				
Percentage -0.37% Asia Pacific: Nikk	Time 14 Jun, 11:56 am GMT-4 ei Stocks Average				

Open Market Forex Rates

Time

14 Jun, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Percentage

-1.32%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	141.7	142.95
Bahrain Dinar	542.79	547.29
Canadian Dollar	158.75	160.1
China Yuan	29.5	29.75
Danish Krone	28.62	28.97
Euro	214	216
Hong Kong Dollar	27	27.35
Indian Rupee	2.61	2.69
Japanese Yen	1.47	1.51
Kuwaiti Dinar	663.29	668.29
Malaysian Ringgit	46.33	46.78
NewZealand \$	128.02	129.22
Norwegians Krone	20.63	20.93
Omani Riyal	530.79	535.29
Qatari Riyal	56.07	56.57
Saudi Riyal	54	54.7
Singapore Dollar	146.41	147.71
Swedish Korona	20.06	20.36
Swiss Franc	204.74	206.49
Thai Bhat	5.84	5.94
U.A.E Dirham	56	56.7
UK Pound Sterling	252	254.5
US Dollar	204.5	206.5

Tree Plantation Drive

METRO commemorates World Environment Day'

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: METRO, the leading international wholesale company, in line with its vision of 'Clean & Green Pakistan', held a tree plantation drive at its Head Office in Lahore, in collaboration with the Punjab Forest Department (Extension Wing).

The event was part of the activities to commemorate the "World Environment Day", attended by the senior management of METRO, along with the participating employees and customers. More than 200 tree saplings have been planted at METRO Canal Bank Store under this

Sharing his thoughts, Mr. M. Thiru, Head of Store Operations, METRO Pakistan said. "METRO being a socially responsible organization realizes the importance of environment for the well-being of all and has been always at the forefront in the areas of environmental stability and sustainability.

PSX closes range-bound session in green

Market manages to close with minimal gain of 174.75 points or 0.43%.

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Tuesday witnessed a range-bound session despite negative cues that dented sentiments of other financial markets. The stock market opened in the green, however, it soon succumbed to the selling pressure as the bears staged a comeback and held a firm grip during the session. However, the market managed to close with minimal gains. At close, the benchmark KSE-100 index closed at 41,054.68 points with a gain of 174.75 points or 0.43%.

According to Arif Habib Limited, the PSX observed a positive session due to the expectations of Pakistan's exclusion from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The KSE-100 index stayed in the green zone as investors opted for value hunting in the oil marketing companies (OMCs), exploration and production and cement sectors. The volumes remained sluggish on the main board day once again in the foreign exchange market against the greenback today surpassing the last much-needed bailout payments.

whereas third-tier stocks witnessed healthy volumes. Sectors contributing to the performance include Banks (+52.6 points), exploration and production (+43.2 points), OMCs (+32.1 points), technology (+28.4 points) and fertiliser (+15.6 points).

Shares of 315 companies were traded during the session. At the close of trading, 163 scrips closed in the green, 128 in the red, and 24 remained unchanged. Overall trading volumes rose to 120.12 million shares compared with Monday's tally of 163.79 million. The value of shares traded during the day was Rs3.36 billion. Unity Foods Limited was the volume leader with 8.18 million shares traded, losing Rs0.12 to close at Rs20.05. It was followed by K-Electric Limited with 7.42 million shares traded, gaining Rs0.02 to close at Rs2.57 and Hum Network Limited with 7.27 million shares traded, gaining Rs0.08 to close at Rs7.16.

the other hand olatility emerged on Tues-



as the Pakistani rupee depreciated over Re1 against the US dollar to Rs205.16 in the interbank market.

day's historic low of 203.86. The local currency dipped to an all-time low against the greenback owing to a delay in the revival of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$6 billion loan programme. However, \$2.4 billion in financial assistance from China coupled with the constant assurances by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail regarding economic stability slightly arrested the rupee's slide.

Today's rupee decline was in line with the expectations of the market, with dealers anticipating the domestic currency to fall further in case Pakistan fails to convince the IMF about its budget proposals. A day earlier, the Fund had said that additional measures will be needed to bring Pakistan's budget for the next fiscal year 2022-23 in line with the key objectives of its IMF programme. Pakistan had unveiled an Rs9.5 trillion Pakistani (\$47 billion) budget for According to the State Bank of Pakistan 2022-23 on Friday aimed at tight fiscal consol-(SBP), the local currency shed Rs1.3, or 0.63%, idation in a bid to convince the IMF to restart

Recognition

MANAMA: Khalid Athar, Chief Editor, Teletimes International is receiving the award at MEET ICT Conference in Bahrain as International Media Partner of the event.



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

Electrifying Pakistan: Audi EV Charger inaugurated

Audi in collaboration with SIEMENS unveiled Pakistan's first and only Ultra-Rapid DC Charging Station

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Audi in collaboration with SIEMENS, Tuesday, unveiled Pakistan's first and only Ultra-Rapid DC Charging Station equipped with Siemens SICHARGE D series chargers with power up to 160kW in Karachi.

"I am particularly pleased to be present today at the inauguration of this example of brand new German innovation. The future is electric-we are learning that more and more today in times of climate change and global warming. However, electro-based mobility also requires a corresponding infrastructure. I am pleased that another step in this direction is being taken



here today," said Germany's and Administrator Karachi Bernhard Schlagheck.

person for the Government by reducing exhaust fumes

Ambassador to Pakistan Hon (KMC), commented: "Karachi must also become a metropolis Speaking as the chief guest geared towards the new world on the occasion, Barrister of transportation with elec-Murtaza Wahab, Advisor to tric vehicles, which will vastly CM Sindh for Law, Spokes- improve emissions in our city

from fossile fuels. We need to build up an infrastructure of charging stations. Germany's innovative technology can lead us in this direction. Let us plug-in Karachi into its electrical future!

Audi is driving its transformation as a provider of sustainable premium mobility. The brand plans to ramp up its efforts by 2025 with a wide range of more than 20 fully electric models. The key to its success and the crux of this transformation is the availability of charging infrastructure. Together with LIBRA, this Ultra-Rapid DC Charging Hub is the start of significantly expanding charging infrastructure in Pakistan.

Finance Minister lauds efforts of ICAP

ICAP Post Budget Conference 2022 on a theme of Pakistan's Economy-Way Forward held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Fiscal Laws Committee and the Economic Advisory Committee in collaboration with Northern and Southern Regional Committees of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) organized the flagship conference of the year "ICAP Post Budget Conference 2022 on a theme of Pakistan's Economy – Way Forward. The conference was held simultaneously in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad using RTGS technology. Being highly professional and the most prestigious brains on public finance and economy as speakers. Senior. The conference was well attended by more than 1000 professionals from the top management of renowned organizations, government officials, CA fraternity and tax practitioners.

The well attended conference provided a platform to leading industry experts and business professionals to discuss, debate and seek pragmatic solutions of and economy related issues. important conference.



Miftah Ismail, Federal Minister of Finance was the chief guest of the conference. He applauded the efforts of ICAP for holding this conference on such big magnitude. He shared his views on federal budget 2022-23. He highlighted the increased pressure imposed by the circular debt and the issues arising from subsidizing the power and gas sector in past years. The fallouts of subsidizing these budget debate of the Coun- commodities, and unsettry, the Post budget confer- tling the differences, causence presented country's best ing a crash in economy, he further added. He further added that this budget also focused on agriculture and exports sector to increase the growth of Pakistan's GDP.

Asim Ahmad, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue was the guest of honour. He said that this year's budget will also initiate some productive debates like giving reliefs to salary individuals. This is first time, when finance bill is focused so much in direct taxes. He congratulated the emerging budgetary, taxation ICAP for holding this very



KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Muhammad Idrees presenting crest to Director Tobacco Control, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSRC) Dr. Samra Mazhar during her visit to KCCI. Vice President KCCI Qazi Zahid Hussain, Chairman Health & Education Subcommittee KCCI Jawed Siddig Mittiwala, KCCI Managing Committee Members are other are also seen in the picture.

Digital Financial Solutions

MMBL collaborates with CARE Int'l

Maveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: To bolster the mission of promoting financial inclusion across the nation through innovative digital financial solutions, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), Pakistan's largest digital bank is collaborating with CARE International in Pakistan (CIP). The collaboration is powered by CARE's Ignite project, funded by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, enabling financial and technological access for entrepreneurs, especially females. The Ignite project is part of a global collaboration between CARE and the Center for Inclusive Growth, Mastercard's social impact arm.

On the occasion, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister praised the collective efforts of both CARE International and MMBL towards fostering a synergistic approach to enhance the financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. Moreover,

she indicated that women's economic empowerment is a key priority area for the government and encouraged the promotion of similar initiatives to reach the underbanked segments of the population, especially women. She added that such projects continue to lend unwavering support for women's long-term financial levelopment and the nation's economic growth.

Through this strategic partnership, MMBL and CARE aim to accelerate the financial inclusion of more than 12,000 entrepreneurs, especially females who have been running their businesses for at least two years and have employed a minimum of 2-10 staff members. Enhancing access to credit and subsidized loan products helps scale their operations considerably. In addition, the collaboration will also support the capacity building and mentoring of these budding entrepreneurs with a focus on the use of digital technologies. With the power of technology and telecommunication connectivity,

female entrepreneurs attending the event were given mobile phones, to facilitate convenient and secure access to premium digital financial services and hybrid lending solutions to help scale their businesses

Addressing the audience at the event, Ghazanfar Azzam, President & CEO of MMBL said, "There are about 100 million unbanked people in Pakistan, and at least 82% of them are women. Women, in particular, lack access to formal digital financial services, making it difficult for them to participate in economic activity. MMBL, through this strategic partnership with CARE, is focused on training female entrepreneurs across the country to upskill their technical and professional skillsets, thereby reducing poverty and boosting prosperity by financially empowering them. This strategic partnership will play a critical role in promoting financial inclusion across the country and further the common goal of closing the gender gap in the



financial sphere."

Speaking at the launch, the Country Director of CARE International in Pakistan, Adil Sheraz said: "With women constituting nearly 50% of Pakistan's population, gender equality in all its interventions is a key focus area for CARE. Through this collaboration with MMBL, we seek to facilitate the much-needed access to finance

and capacity building for growth-oriented entrepreneurs, especially women. This collaboration with MMBL is part of CARE's focus on synergistic efforts to enhance financial inclusion in the country, especially for women."

Lisa Richman, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa Director for the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, said: "At Mastercard, we believe that financial inclusion is the path to a prosperous future for all. We are committed to supporting entrepreneurs in their digital transformation journey and through the Center for Inclusive Growth, we will continue to provide entrepreneurs, especially women, with the financial tools, training, know-how, resources, and technologies they need to connect with the digital economy to drive further growth and become more resilient. We are proud to build on our longstanding global partnership with CARE as we mark the next chapter in our journey in

Babar Azam wants more from Pakistan ODI side

Says bench strength always gives you a lift

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan captain Babar Azam says his side needs to keep improving if it wants to become a powerhouse in One Day International cricket.

The in-form Pakistan side cruised a 3-0 series sweep at home over West Indies last week and have lost just one 50-over match this calendar year as they attempt to continue their good recent run in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League.

But Babar believes his side still have plenty of work to do if they want to ensure automatic qualification for next vear's tournament and claim a second 50-over World Cup title in India.

"We still need to improve in certain areas," Babar said following the series victory that helped Pakistan rise past India and into fourth place on the latest Men's ODI Team Rankings.

"We still lose wickets in clusters in the middle which puts us on the back foot. "Here the players need better concentra-



tion; it's an area to work on.

"The fielding has improved, but our body language still deteriorates when a good partnership develops, and it's another thing we can try and improve." Pakistan's recent upsurge is much to do

with Babar's own form with the bat, with the No.1 ranked ODI batter in the world recently becoming just the second player to score three consecutive one-day centuries on two separate occasions.

But Babar knows he requires contribu-

tions from the entire side for Pakistan to thrive and the right-hander was buoyed by some of his team-mates performances during the series against West Indies.

Opener Imam-ul-Haq hit three consecutive half-centuries and was deservedly awarded Player of the Series, while Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz took seven scalps apiece to be the joint leading wicket-taker.

Babar was also impressed with the powerful hitting of Khushdil Shah as the 27-year-old continues to make a name for himself in the final overs of an innings.

"Bench strength always gives you a lift," Babar noted. "Knowing you have players on the bench who are ready to use is good to know.

"We had Iftikhar (Ahmed), Abdullah Shafique and (Shahnawaz) Dahani on

"We tried a different bowling combination and they performed very well. "It's very satisfying as a captain to see that."

IFAB approves permanent use of five substitutes



DOHA: Football's rules body on Monday said five substitutes would be permanently introduced for all top-level matches and a semi-automated offside detector is closer to being used at this year's World Cup. FIFA president Gianni Infantino said the change to more substitutes, which was first allowed in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, followed "strong support from the entire football community".

He said after the annual meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) that experts would decide on whether offside detection technology would be used for the World Cup that starts November 21. FIFA's Referees Committee chairman Pierluigi Collina said he was "confident" the system would be introduced in time for the 32-nation tournament. Tests were carried out at the FIFA Arab Cup last year and Club World Cup

The system monitors data points on the limbs of players to create. is reviewed pitchside by the referee. "We are very satisfied so far and our experts are looking into it before deciding whether it will be introduced for the World Cup," Infantino told a press conference. It is officially known as "semi-automated" as it will be the referee that makes a final decision on an offside. FIFA is also looking into introducing a VAR system with fewer cameras to a wider number of competi-

It is currently only used at international tournaments and in some domestic competitions. Tests on the less-tech heavy, cheaper system have already been held at 100 matches in Europe and will now be extended. As well as making the five substitutions permanent, IFAB said that teams can now name 15 substitutes on a team sheet instead of 12. IFAB said that trials of referees wearing body cameras may be started in a bid to counter a growing number of attacks on match officials.

The members agreed to establish initiatives to tackle these issues including potential trials with body cameras worn by referees in adult grassroots football." The English FA has pressed for action to protect referees. IFAB - made up of the game's founding national associations from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with FIFA - could also start trials for kick-ins as an alternative to throw-ins. "Proposals were made to test kick-ins," said Infantino.

Tearful Marcelo wants to keep playing



MADRID: Marcelo said an emotional goodbye to Real Madrid on Monday as the most decorated player in the club's history but insisted he has no plans to retire.

The 34-year-old has spent 15 years at the Santiago Bernabeu and will be a free agent when his contract expires at the end of the month. Marcelo won 25 trophies at Real Madrid, including five Champions League, six La Liga and two Copa del Rey titles. Among those attending a farewell ceremony in Valdebebas were Marcelo's teammates, Real Madrid president Florentino Perez, as well as Carlo Ancelotti and Raul, who is currently in charge of the club's B team

When I signed for Madrid, in my head I thought I could reach the top, and here I am the player with the most titles in its history," said Marcelo who broke down in tears. "It's not goodbye, I don't feel like I'm leaving Madrid. If you don't give me a ticket, there will be trouble," he joked. Marcelo said he would have no problem playing against Real Madrid in the future, keeping open the possibility he will join another team in Europe. "I haven't thought about retiring, I think I can still play," he said.

"I don't think playing against Madrid will be a problem, I couldn't have done any more. I'm very professional." Marcelo collected his fifth Champions League title last month as Real Madrid defeated Liverpool in Paris to win a 14th European Cup. But he did not play in the final, with Ancelotti favouring Ferland Mendy at left-back for Madrid's biggest games last season. Marcelo made only five starts in La Liga. "This season I've hardly played but I have felt useful even without playing.

I felt a responsibility," Marcelo said. "Sometimes I would be furious with Ancelotti and then the next day we were sharing kisses and hugs." Marcelo joined Real Madrid in 2007 and made 545 appearances for the club in all competitions. He scored against Atletico Madrid in the 2014 Champions League final to make it 3-1 in extra-time, as Real Madrid won 4-1 in Lisbon. "You are irreplaceable," said Perez. "You should be proud of your brilliant career."

Nigeria create AFCON record with 10-0 win

JOHANNESBURG: Napoli forward Victor Osimhen scored four goals as Nigeria crushed Sao Tome e Principe 10-0 in Morocco on Monday to record the biggest victory in Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying history.

Qualifying for the biennial competition has been staged since 1961 and Ghana, Kenya and Libya shared the record with eightgoal victories until Nigeria went on a rampage in the Atlantic resort of Agadir. Nigeria led 3-0 at half-time in the Group A matchday two encounter and the other scorers were Terem Moffi (two), captain Moses Simon, Oghenekaro Etebo, Ademola Lookman and Emmanuel Dennis. With Nigeria 153 places higher in the world rankings than Sao Tome, a one-sided encounter was expected, but after a fairly competitive first half, the game turned into shooting practice for the Super Eagles. Nigeria eclipsed their previous highest score in a Cup of Nations qualifier of seven against Burkina Faso in 1991 when now-deceased Rashidi Yekini notched four. It was a home fixture for Sao Tome, but had to be moved to southern Morocco because the tiny island nation does not have an international-standard stadium.

Redmayne seals World Cup place for Australia

DOHA: Australia on Tuesday celebrated the antics of dancing goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne whose penalty shootout save against Peru saw them to a fifth straight World Cup finals. The 33-year-old clowned his way along the goal line as Peru's players prepared to take their penalty kicks and his block of Alex Valera's shot gave Australia a 5-4 win after the two sides had been deadlocked without a goal for 120 minutes.

Australia coach Graham Arnold brought Redmayne on for team captain Mathew Ryan for the final minutes of extra time as a ploy for the shootout. Martin Boyle missed Australia's first penalty but the next five were all on target. Redmayne danced and jigged along the line to unnerve the Peru players and Luis Advincula's shot cannoned off a post. Redmayne's save of Valera's shot set off wild celebrations among the Socceroos and their band of a few hundred supporters. Arnold said that Ryan is a "fantastic goalkeeper" but Sydney FC's Redmayne "is a good penalty saver and at that stage of the game I was just trying to do something that could affect them (Peru) mentally".

"Maybe that's why they hit the post," Arnold said. "They thought they had to put it closer to the post to score. It's a risk but it worked." Redmayne denied he was the hero of the night, saying his routine was "a little thing I do" for Sydney that has "proved quite successful". "If I can gain one percent by making a fool of myself then I will," he said. "I love this team, I love this country and I love this sport. I am under no illusions that all I did was to save one penalty." Victory gave Australia the penultimate place available for the tournament that starts on November 21.

Secretary Sports inaugurates Kohsar Sports Festival

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz inaugurated Kohsar Sports Festival at a grand colourful opening ceremony at Mall Road,

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz unveiled the trophy of Kohsar Sports Festival at a mega ceremony attended by athletes, thousands of enthusiastic fans and families. Sufi, Cultural and Gymnastic performances were also presented at the archery, skating and cycling inaugural ceremony. Attrac- and volleyball are being enthusiastic boys featured in at Bhurban cricket ground.

tive fireworks and regional organised in Kohsar Sports the cycle race. songs won huge appreciation from a large crowd.

Qaiser, Divisional Sports Officers Waheed Babar, the promotion of sports at Manzar Shah, Ata-ur-Rehman and District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah also attended the inauguration ceremony.

Talking to media on this occasion, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz said the competitions of eight games-table tennis, marathon, tug-of-war, football,

Festival. "Kohsar Sports Festival has turned out to Director Sports Nadeem be a major event. Definitely, it is a big step towards

> regional level". Meanwhile, the competitions of Murree Cycle Race, Murree Marathon, Inter-Club Football Cup, Inter-Club Volleyball Cup and Tug-of-War were organized on the second day of Kohsar

Sports Festival on Tuesday. The event of Murree Cycle Race was conducted from Lower Topa to Bhurban Cricket Ground. Dozens of

The race of Murree Marathon was run from Lower Topa to Bhurban Cricket Ground. Around 200 boys from Rawalpindi division took part in the marathon contest. Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser and Divisional Sports Officer Rawalpindi Waheed Babar inaugurated the race.

The Inter-Club Football Cup was played at Gharial Football Ground. Inter-Club Volleyball Cup was played at Bhurban Cricket Ground while the event of Tug-of-War was conducted

Haaland can 'get better' under Guardiola

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland believes he will Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola after completing his transfer from Borussia Dortmund to the English champions on Monday.

City announced last month they had beaten off competition from Europe's top clubs to agree a deal with the German giants after triggering Haaland's reported He also now has 20 goals in under Pep and in this club. £51 million (\$63 million) release clause. The 21-yearold has now signed a five-year contract to follow in the footsteps of his father Alfie Inge Haaland, who played for City football's biggest talents ends between 2000 and 2003. "I was born in England, I've been a City fan my whole life, I know a lot about the club," Haaland told Man City TV on why he choose the Etihad as the destination for the next stage of his career. "In the end (it was) two things; I feel at summer, but Guardiola's home here and also I think I men still had enough to pip can develop and get the best out of my game at City."

pick of Europe's top clubs thanks to a buyout clause below his market value and but Haaland is confident the a stunning record of 86 goals two will be the perfect match. in 89 games for Dortmund.



21 international appearances after scoring five times in four games this month for

Norway. The arrival of one of world City's search for a specialist striker to succeed the club's all-time record goalscorer Sergio Aguero, who left Manchester last year. City's attempt to sign England captain Harry Kane from Tottenham fell short last Liverpool by a point to win a fourth Premier League title Haaland had almost his in five seasons. Guardiola without a recognised striker, "I think I can develop a lot

I think I can get better in a lot of things and hopefully I can score a lot of goals,"

added Haaland. "I've spoken a little bit with him and we both look forward to working together." Guardiola has won nine major trophies in six seasons as City boss, but the Champions League has eluded him. City were beaten 6-5 on aggregate by Real Madrid in a dramatic semi-final in May to extend their wait to win European club football's biggest prize. Haaland, who has scored 23 goals in 19 Champions League appearances for Dortmund and RB has often preferred a system Salzburg, will be expected to get City over the line when it matters most in Europe. "I want to score goals, win trophies, and improve as a

footballer and I am confident I can do that here. This is a eat move for me, and I can' wait to get started in pre-season," he said. "There are so many world-

class players in this squad and Pep is one of the greatest managers of all time, so I believe I am in the right place to fulfil my ambitions," he added. Despite failing to land the Champions League, Haaland's decision to choose City over the likes of Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester United is a huge coup for the club's rising status as one of European football's superpowers. "His rise has been remarkable, but he is still only 21.

His best years are ahead of him, and we are confident he can get even better working with Pep," said City's director of football Txiki Begiristain. "He is a huge talent and has been one of the best strikers in Europe over the last few seasons. "His goalscoring record is exceptional and his performances at Borussia Dortmund and in the Champions League in particular have proved he can succeed at the highest level."

Majestic Modric gives Croatia victory in France

gave Croatia a 1-0 win over off-form France in Paris on Monday as the World Cup holders finished their June run of UEFA Nations League matches without a victory in four outings. Veteran Croatia captain Modric stroked in his spot-kick after just five er Deschamps' team may now need minutes at the Stade de France, and the home side could not find an equaliser despite Kylian Mbappe returning the less glamorous League B. to join Karim Benzema in the starting line-up.

"We had an inferiority complex World Cup and so to win at the Stade not an excuse but in this get-together de France in front of almost 80,000 Zlatko Dalic. France won the previpoints from their four outings this month, with home defeats against Denmark and now Croatia sandwich-

Austria. As a result, Les Bleus are bottom of League A, Group 1, seven points behind leaders Denmark who beat Austria 2-0 in Copenhagen on Monday with first-half goals by Jonas Wind and Andreas Skov Olsen. Didito win their last two group games in September to avoid being relegated to

Those matches are also the only games they have left before they begin their defence of the World Cup against against France after their win in the Australia in Qatar in November. "It is we have lacked strength, energy and people against the world champions character too," said Deschamps, who is extraordinary," said Croatia coach missed the defeat against Denmark earlier this month following the death ous edition of the Nations League last of his father. "It hurts because we have year but they have managed just two not managed to win a game. Maybe I didn't have the usual energy to trans-

mit to them either. "We will need everyone at the

PARIS: Luka Modric's early penalty ing draws away to the Croats and in start of next season to be in the half was when Christopher Nkunku right frame of mind and in the right blasted just wide from range. athletic condition." This clash was the latest meeting between the sides who contested the 2018 World Cup final in Moscow, although Mbappe, Modric and Marcelo Brozovic were the only players who started that day to line up at kick-off here. The home fans in the crowd of over 77,000 were left stunned as the Israeli referee awarded the visitors an early penalty when Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate was adjudged to have fouled Josip Brekalo. The evergreen Modric, back at the

round where he won the Champions League with Real Madrid at the end of last month, made no mistake with the resulting penalty even though France goalkeeper Mike Maignan got a touch. From then on it took the occasional burst of pace by Mbappe to bring the crowd to life, although the closest France came to scoring in the first

Mbappe had come off injured against Denmark and so missed the draw in Croatia before emerging from the bench to score a late equaliser in Austria. The Paris Saint-Germain forward did his best to conjure a leveller here as he came close twice early in the second half, and the hosts also had an appeal for a penalty dismissed when Lucas Digne went down in the

Meanwhile Maignan parried away a fine strike by substitute Lovro Majer at the other end, but Croatia - with Modric as majestic as ever - saw the game out as goalkeeper Ivica Ivusic stopped Josip Sutalo scoring an own-goal. The final whistle was greeted by jeers and Deschamps will hope France's summer slump is simply down to the fatigue among his players after a long campaign, rather than a sign of what might be to come later



in the year. The last raft of Nations comes down on the European season ladbach in the standout game.

will take place on Tuesday, when League matches before the curtain Germany take on Italy in Moencheng-