



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ
ایمان کی ماٹھ سے کچھ اور شائش
ہیں۔ اور حیا (شرم) بھی ایمان کی ایک
شاخ ہے۔
(صحیح بخاری، صفحہ نمبر: 9)

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PTI govt responsible for current economic crisis: Maryam

PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz says PTI government is responsible for the current economic crisis. The mountain of problems we face today was created by Imran Khan so his call for protest against inflation is actually a protest the PTI chairman is holding against himself. IK used to say as the PM that he did not come into power to know about the rates of potatoes and onions, but now he has suddenly remembered to hold a protest.



Terrorist tasked to assassinate Imran Khan: Chohan

PTI leader Fayyaz Chohan says some people have tasked a terrorist with assassinating former premier Imran Khan. I have details that some people have ordered a terrorist named 'Cochi' in Afghanistan to assassinate PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

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Prosperity in sight

President Dr Arif Alvi in a meeting with the members of Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly in Gilgit. Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khursheed Khan is also present on the occasion.



Photo: PID

President underscores need to explore dev opportunities in GB

Spokesman Report

GILGIT: President Dr Arif Alvi has underscored the need to explore further avenues for the development of Gilgit Baltistan as the prolific region was gifted with huge tourism opportunities.

During a meeting with the members of the Gilgit Baltistan assembly the other day, the president expressed his optimism about Pakistan's progress and development and cited that during coronavirus pandemic, the country manifested its potential when compared with rest of the world.

Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khursheed Khan was also present during the meeting.

The president said that Gilgit Baltistan possessed tourism resources but it lacked the skilled people.

Felicitations to nation

Return to FATF's white list big success: PM

Commends FM, COAS for successfully fulfilling FATF conditions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the return of Pakistan to the whitelist of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a big success. PM Shehbaz Sharif felicitated the nation and welcomed the announcement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that Pakistan had met all its conditions for exclusion from the grey list.

In a statement, he said, "Praise be to Allah, return of Pakistan to the white list is a big success of Pakistan." He congratulated the government institutions, personalities and relevant team and said their joint efforts brought fruit, the state news agency reported Friday. He appreciated the performance of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and

the team of the Foreign Ministry. The PM said the efforts of the basic cell related to FATF and of military and civil leadership included in it, were praiseworthy

Shehabaz rings Bilawal to felicitate him on completion of FATF action plans

and credit went to them for their work in this national endeavour.

"I pay tribute to the whole team working for the success of Pakistan," he said adding the statement of FATF was a recognition of the restoration of the international

reputation of Pakistan. "More such good news will be the destiny of Pakistan in future," he said adding the return of Pakistan to the white list would help in improving the economic and financial situation of Pakistan. "We are working with the same determination for the economic revival of Pakistan," he concluded.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also telephoned all the persons relevant to the success of Pakistan in meeting the conditions set by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and congratulated them on the important success of Pakistan. The Prime Minister held a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and appreciated his efforts during the process of FATF for removal of Pakistan from the grey list.

During the telephonic conversation, the prime minister congratulated the Foreign Minister Bilawal on completion of action plans set forth by the FATF to get out of the grey list. Shehbaz Sharif said that the entire Foreign Ministry team deserves appreciation. Meanwhile, Bilawal Bhutto said that he would continue to strive for Pakistan to get the country out of every difficulty by using all his efforts.

The PM also telephoned Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and congratulated him on the important achievement. He lauded decision of the army chief to establish core cell in the General Headquarters.

Shehbaz felicitated all the civil and military leadership and their team which was part of the core cell.

Pakistan, TTP conclude Kabul talks

Mujahid assures Afghan soil will not be used for attacks against Pakistan

KABUL: Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has said that the negotiations between the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Pakistani government concluded two days back in the capital of Afghanistan.

Mujahid, who is the deputy of minister information and culture said that he hopes that this time, the negotiations bear fruit — as the last round of peace talks between the two sides did not yield results. The Afghan Taliban official said that his side played the role of a mediator.

He assured that in case the negotiations between the TTP and Pakistan fail, then the Taliban would not allow the Afghan soil to be used for attacks against Pakistan.

The TTP have carried out some of the bloodiest attacks inside Pakistan since 2007. It is not directly affiliated with the Afghan Taliban but pledges allegiance to them.

The deputy of minister information and culture noted that the TTP has announced an indefinite cease-fire and since then earlier this month, and since then, the attacks in the country have halted. APP

Power tariff likely to go up by Rs7.96 per unit

Shortfall peaks at 6,245 mw despite rainfall

ISLAMABAD: Central Power Purchasing Agency (CCPA) has sought hike in power tariff by Rs7.09. According to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), it will conduct hearing on CCPA plea for power tariff hike on June 27. The plea states that 8.80 percent electricity has been produced by furnace oil in May at a cost of Rs33.67 paise per unit. CCPA also said in the petition that 10 percent of electricity has been produced by local gas, 22.89 percent by imported LNG and 24.50 percent by hydel.

Temperature nationwide has reduced following rainfall in upper parts of the country, however, it could not help in bringing down the power shortfall which peaked at 6,245 MW Saturday. According to sources within the power division, the electricity supply stood at 20,755 MW against a demand of 27,000 MW, resulting in a shortage of 6,245 MW. The country is witnessing upto

eight hours of load shedding in urban centres and 14 hours of power outages in rural areas. They said that currently, power generation from hydel resources stand at 4,574 MW, 1,731 MW from public-owned thermal power plants, 11,595 MW from private-owned plants, 1,345 MW from wind-based plants and 1,239 MW from nuclear energy resources.

Other than decline in temperatures, the federal and provincial governments have also announced multiple measures to save energy to bring down power shortfall. Punjab has also decided to follow the suit like Sindh to enforce an energy conservation plan to address the power crisis. The authorities have completed consultations with traders bodies and chambers of commerce, informed sources said. The implementation of the energy saving plan will begin from the next week, according to sources. Agencies

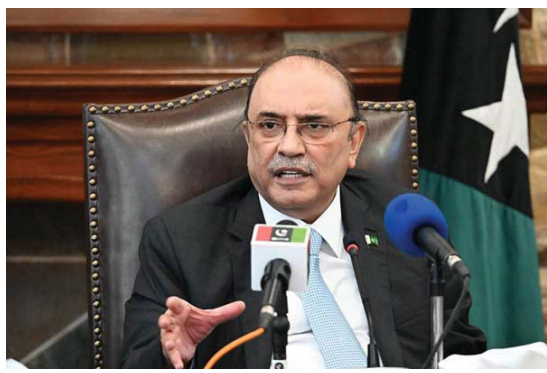
PPP will form next government: Zardari

Vows to completely change Pakistan if given chance to rule

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said Saturday that his party would form the next government and vowed to turn the country by "110 degrees". In a meeting with party leaders at Bilawal House, the former president said: "We will take the entire share [in the government] next time. If I get the chance to serve, I will turn the country by 110 degrees." The ex-president said he will engage party leaders in Punjab and work with them for the next polls. He added that claims of PPP's politics coming to an end in Gilgit-Baltistan and Punjab are "white lies".

PPP "weakened" its political presence in a bid to "save" the country, Zardari said. "They don't listen to us and only do when they need us," he said, without naming anyone. The PPP is currently ruling the Sindh province, where it has been forming the government since the last three general elections, while



it is also a major stakeholder in the incumbent federal government. Lashing out at former prime minister Imran Khan, the ex-president said the surge in inflation is due to the "favourite" person's policies that he adopted in his 3.5-year tenure.

Inflation across the country is surging after the government hiked the rates of petroleum products, electricity, and gas in a bid to revive the stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. Zardari said that he will completely change Pakistan if given a chance to rule the coun-

try. He said this in his meeting with party leaders and workers at Bilawal House in Lahore. The former president promised to make next government by the will of almighty Allah.

"I will now sit in Punjab and work with everyone," he said. The PPP co-chairman said that this was a blatant lie that his party has no representation in Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan, adding that we tried to save the country by weakening our policies. The country is in the clutches of inflation due to the wrong policies of former PM and PTI chairman Imran Khan.

MoS confirms seeking US support for IMF programme

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha has confirmed seeking United States support for revival of International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. According to details, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha has confirmed that Pakistan had reached out to the United States in a bid to revive \$6 billion IMF programme. Talking to journalists after standing committee meeting, the State Minister pointed out that talks were underway with the IMF as the global lender was seeking clarification on many issues. Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha further said that while the former rulers damaged the country's credibility the current government was seeking better relations with all the nations. "We have reached out to United States for the revival of IMF programme," she added.

The State Minister noted Pakistan's relations with the United States were improving. "Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's visit to the United States was also successful", she added.

PTI to announce future course of action today: Imran Khan

Says PTI's boycott of NA-240 by-elections irksome

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said that the looters have mortgaged the country to save their assets and inflicted inflation on the people but together we will decide the future course of action today (Sunday). He said this in his meeting with party spokespersons. During the meeting, former federal minister Hamad Azhar was congratulated for his hard work to get Pakistan out of FATF and bringing this milestone to Pakistan and tributes were also paid to the members and officers of FATF Coordinating Committee.

The meeting also reviewed the nationwide protests over electricity, oil and gas prices, while matters relating to inflation and imported govt also came under discussion. Imran Khan said that the party's future strategy will be decided in tomorrow's (Sunday) protest against inflation, adding that the incumbent rulers have increased the burden on the people of Pakistan by rising petrol prices. "These people don't care about the underprivileged class," he said, reiterating that the PTI would not tolerate 'oppression' on the people of Pakistan and would decide the future course of action together with the nation in tomorrow's [Sunday] protest.



The PTI chairman said that his government was shielding its people from the pandemic and global inflation all at once. The former prime minister said that the 'oppressors' could not stop the people from raising their voice for their rights. "The events of last two months have fully revealed the motives of each character of the conspiracy," he added. "The incumbent rulers are subjecting the institutions to the worst destruction to keep themselves in power," Imran Khan said, warning that the situation would become worst if the economy was further destabilised.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Saturday irked over PTI's decision to boycott the recent by-elections in NA-240. According to sources, the former Prime

Minister did not like the decision of PTI Sindh and Karachi to boycott NA-240. A day earlier, Imran Khan had expressed his displeasure at a meeting of PTI leaders. We should have contested NA-240 by-election, he said. Following the reprimand of the former PM, PTI has decided to contest elections on NA-245. PTI will field its candidate in NA-245, a seat vacated by the death of Aamir Liaquat, added sources.

It may be recalled that Dr. Amir Liaquat, Member National Assembly of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had passed away on June 9, 2022. A statement issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said that candidates for NA-245 by-election will be able to get nomination papers on June 20 while nomination forms will be submitted from June 22 to 24.

Achievement

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Saturday, June 18.



PHOTO: APP

FATF hails Pakistan's speedy progress: Khar

Says Pakistan one step away to come off FATF grey list

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar said on Saturday that Pakistan's positive and speedy progress was greatly appreciated and welcomed by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) members. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs said that Pakistan is now one step away from exiting the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list. State Minister for

Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar addressed a press conference on Saturday following an announcement by the FATF that Pakistan has "substantially completed its two action plans" and would be removed from the grey list after it passes the on-site visit to assess the implementation of Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism.

The state minister, during the press briefing, said that the outcome was enabled through "the comprehensive reforms that have been carried out in Pakistan in the Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT) domain and the sustained momentum of our efforts and the results of those efforts." "Because as you can see, the first action plan took us much longer while this one was completed before the set timeline and this was some-

thing which was very well recognized throughout the plenary by all the members," she said.

"The successful completion of the FATF action plan and its formal endorsement by the [watchdog] means that Pakistan is one step away from exiting the grey list, InshaAllah," she added. "FATF has now authorized an on-site visit of its technical team to Pakistan to validate the process of the implementa-

tion of the reforms," she said. "It marks the beginning of the end process that will eventually culminate in the exit of Pakistan from the FATF's grey list, InshaAllah and hopefully forever," she said. Regarding the dates of the on-site evaluation, Khar said that the authorities concerned are closely working with

the FATF to arrange their team's visit at "mutually convenient dates" with a view to conclude the entire process before the October plenary.

She reiterated that Pakistan's cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the international community was grounded in its strategic objective of strengthening its economy and further integration with the global financial system. She said that the 'good news from FATF will restore confidence in our economy, will give it a much needed boost and would improve the investment climate.' She said that Pakistan's positive and speedy progress, which paved the way for its exit from the grey list, was greatly appreciated and welcomed by the FATF members.

Sharing details of the FATF plenary session in Berlin, Germany where she headed Pakistan's delegation, the minister said during the meeting, the recommendations of the FATF's International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) on Pakistan's 2018 and 2021 Action Plans were discussed. The FATF had acknowledged by consensus that all action items had been largely addressed by Pakistan and the action plan was closed with no pendency on part of Pakistan, she added.

World grounds in its strategic objective of strengthening economy: MoS

Azadi March

ATC grants interim bail to PTI leaders

Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) Saturday granted interim bail till June 28 to more than a dozen PTI leaders for vandalism that took place during the party's "Azadi March" to Islamabad on May 25. An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore granted interim bails until June 28 to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in a case pertaining to violence during the party's May 25 Islamabad long march. The PTI leaders granted pre-arrest bail include former energy minister Hammad Azhar, PTI Central Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid, Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal, Mian Mahmood-ur-Rasheed, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, Musarrat Cheema, Murad Raas, and Aneeb Abbas. Subsequently, the court granted the PTI leaders interim bail till June 28 and directed them to cooperate during the investigation.

Police had booked 14 PTI leaders in the case pertaining to violence at the Bhatti Gate police station and later



added Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) to the first information report (FIR).

Whilst granting the interim bail, the court directed the PTI leaders to cooperate in the investigation and asked the police to submit the case's record in the next hearing. In a separate case on Friday, the ATC further extended the interim bail pleas of 13 PTI leaders, including former education minister Shafqat Mahmood, Azhar, and Rashid in a case pertaining to the alleged vandalism and damage of property during the party's long march.

The ATC granted bail to the PTI leaders on June 10, which expired on

June 17. During yesterday's hearing, the court further extended the bail till June 28. In a separate case on Friday, the anti-terrorism court (ATC) extended Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders' bail until June 28, 2022.

On June 10, ATC issued non-bailable arrest warrants for 17 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including former federal ministers Hammad Azhar, Shafqat Mahmood, Yasmin Rashid. It is to be noted that several PTI leaders including former prime minister Imran Khan, Asad Umar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and others have been booked by police in various FIRs related to Azadi March.

Weekly Roundup

PSX gains despite dull trading

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 0.30% and 126 points in the last week. According to details, the PSX experienced a topsy-turvy ride in the last week as the KSE-100 index went up by 126 points in the last week. The KSE-100 index gained 126 points to settle at 42420 points on Friday. The lowest weekly level in the stock market was 40657. A total of 870 million stocks were bought stand sold in the market in the last week. The total business volume was over Rs26 billion, said the weekly report.

However, the market capitalization decreased by Rs19 billion to settle at Rs7092 in the last week. On July 17, the PSX opened on a positive note after optimism among investors regarding reports of Pakistan's exit from FATF as the KSE-100 index gained 441 points in the early day trade. On June 13, the PSX witnessed massive selling pressure on Monday

as the benchmark KSE-100 index shed more than 1,000 points. On June 10, PSX became the third-worst performing market in the region amid the boiling political temperature and melting economy.

PSX won the title of Asia's best-performing stock market in August 2020. PSX experienced sombre trading in the outgoing week as a lack of positive triggers dimmed investor sentiments and forced market players to remain on the sidelines. Resultantly, the KSE-100 index gained 126 points, or 0.3%, to close the week at 42,140.76 points. Trading during the past week kicked off on a negative note amid concerns over the dissatisfaction expressed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) upon measures taken in the federal budget for 2022-23, where the market plunged by 1,135 points day-on-day.

After the bloodbath, the market sentiment turned positive amid the expectation of the exit of Pakistan from the Financial Action Task Force's

(FATF) grey list. Moreover, the investors remained elated owing to the news flow regarding China agreeing to roll over loans worth \$2.3 billion to Pakistan and extending further assistance by \$2.5 billion to \$2.8 billion. Furthermore, the government increased the prices of petrol and hi-speed diesel by Rs24.03 per litre and Rs59.16 per litre, respectively, while completely eliminating the remaining subsidies, fulfilling one of the major conditions of IMF.

However, the Pakistani rupee continued to plummet throughout the week against the US dollar, closing at an all-time low of Rs208 while State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) reserves dropped to a staggering \$8.99 billion. Other major developments during the week were: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved Rs1.55 per unit hike for Discos, textile exports surged by 28.6% in July-May FY22, Oil and Gas Development Company discovered gas reserves in Sindh, and banks disbursed over Rs1 trillion agri credit during July-April period.

Power conservation

Punjab to close markets at 9pm

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shabbaz on Saturday announced that markets across the province would close at 9pm as the government seeks to conserve energy following a power crisis hitting the country. The chief minister made the announcement during a meeting with representatives from trade associations, according to an official post-meeting statement. The chief minister said on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, the government will consult with the traders and adjust the timings if required. The traders, according to the statement, have announced their complete support for the government's steps to save energy.

Punjab government and traders have agreed to enforce an energy-saving plan from June 20. The decision

was taken after a meeting of traders with Punjab CM Hamza Shabbaz Sharif in Lahore, the notification in this regard will be issued soon, the sources said. In the first phase, the energy-saving plan would be enforced in major cities of Punjab including Lahore and others.

According to sources, markets in Punjab will open 8 in the morning and close by 9:00pm. Pharmacies, bakeries and petrol pumps will be exempted from timing restrictions. The authorities also mulling over an early closure of restaurants and hotels. It is to be mentioned here that the Sindh government on Friday announced the closure of all markets including shopping malls by 9:00 pm across the province to conserve electricity amid a crippling power crisis faced by the country.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorist attack in Kabul



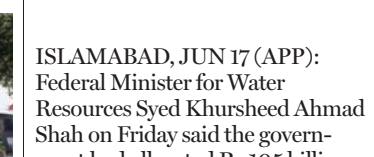
Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Saturday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a Sikh Gurdwara in Kabul, which had reportedly resulted in the loss of precious lives and injuries to many others while causing destruction of property. The Foreign Office Spokesperson in a statement said, "Pakistan is seriously concerned at the recent spate of terrorist attacks on places of worship in Afghanistan."

Yesterday, terrorists targeted the Imam Sahib Mosque in Kunduz, killing and injuring many worshippers. These acts of terrorism targeting religious places are utterly repugnant. "Pakistan reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations."

We express strong solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and support all efforts of the Afghan authorities in fighting the menace of terrorism and ensuring the protection of all their citizens," he added.

Rs 105b allocated for construction of dams: Khurshheed Shah



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD, JUN 17 (APP): Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshheed Ahmad Shah on Friday said the government had allocated Rs 105 billion in the federal budget 2022-23 for the construction of dams, and the amount would be increased by Rs 25 billion, if needed. Talking to PTV news, he said the government had expedited the construction work on Dasu, Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams with the aim to complete them at earliest for conserving water.

The minister said he will visit every under-construction dam four times in a year to ensure the quality of work as well as to resolve the grievances of the local community. The construction of new dams would not only help address water and energy crisis rather but also generate jobs, and tourism and business opportunities, he added.

Shah said the rivers need dredging and lining to enhance the water storage capacity and that he would raise this issue in the cabinet meetings. "The government should ensure the provision of irrigation water to the agriculture sector for protecting our food basket."

India uses FATF platform for political purposes: Hammad

Says PTI govt highlighted Indian negative role in FATF reviews

LAHORE: Former minister for energy Hammad Azhar on Saturday said that India's role, whenever the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) reviewed Pakistan's progress in combating terrorism and curbing money laundering, has historically been negative and this is something the previous PTI government highlighted. "It was clear that India was trying to use this platform for political purposes," said Azhar, addressing a press conference in Lahore shortly after Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar held a media briefing to discuss the FATF's latest verdict.

The FATF announced a day earlier that Pakistan has "substantially completed its two action plans" and would be removed from the grey list after it passes the on-site visit to assess the implementation of Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT). "When came into power, there was a lot of fear that Pakistan would be blacklisted,"

said Azhar. He said the PTI government formed an FATF Coordination Committee which included all the relevant state institutions. "Officers of the committee worked day and night," he added.

The former minister went on to say that last year Pakistan managed to complete the implementation of 32 items of the 34 that were part of the FATF action plan and a report on the remaining two was submitted in April. It bears mentioning that the Prime Minister Imran Khan and his cabinet was removed from office on April 11 via a vote of no confidence. "I am happy" we have completed all 34 items of the FATF action plan," he said, adding that a "difficult" phase had now come to an end.

Azhar said that the "best work" on an action plan by FATF given to any country in the world had been done by Pakistan. "The PTI government passed dozens of laws related to FATF. Financial systems were upgraded, officers trained," he said.



"The real heroes are the officers who are sitting in different departments," Azhar said, adding that they "performed continuously" for three and a half years. According to the minister, the PTI exposed the Indian team in this period.

"This is a technical forum, not a political forum. An attempt was made to make it political," said Azhar. "We found a lot of benami accounts. This is a victory for the whole of Pakistan," he said. "This has sent a positive signal to the world about our financial system and legal system," he highlighted.

The minister said that after getting out of the grey list, Pakistan should get FATF membership, akin to Russia, who too had been on the list but now is a member. "Credit goes to the whole of Pakistan, including military officers," he said. The minister said that remittances rose in the last three-and-a-half years as work on reforms began, and that the country is "currently running on remittances from abroad". Criticising the current government, he said that they have "malice" in their heart when it comes to overseas Pakistanis. "The current rulers think that the Pakistanis are closer to Imran Khan," he said.

Railway fares hiked for 2nd time in a week

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways has hiked the fares for the second time in a week that will come into effect on June 21. Pakistan Railways issued a notification regarding a 5% hike in fares for passenger trains and a 10% hike for freight trains. The railway officials said that the fares were increased for the second time due to a hike in diesel rates by Rs59 per litre. Earlier in the week, PR increased fares from 10% to 15%.

On June 15, the PML-N-led coalition government on Wednesday has jacked up petrol prices by Rs24 per litre and Rs59.16 on diesel.

CM orders police to get ready for local bodies poll

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed Additional IG Karachi Javed Alam Odho to inquire into the firing incident that happened during by-election in NA-240, Korangi on June 16 and take strict action against the involved culprits.

He expressed these views while meeting with Adl IG Karachi here at CM House on Saturday evening.

The chief minister, during his meeting with Adl IG Karachi, got details of the firing incident and directed him to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident which claimed a valuable life

and created law & order situation during the by-election. "In the inquiry the culprit(s) involved in (firing) incident must be identified along with their supporters so that strict action could be initiated against them.

Mr Shah said that peace in this city has been restored after a lot of sacrifices and nobody, at any cost, would be allowed to destroy it. "Every political party has the right to participate in the political process but with peace and tranquility," he said and added he would never allow the politics of hatred and killing and violence in the city.

Punjab by-polls

ECP rejects transfers of DPOs

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Saturday has rejected the transfers of the district police officers (DPOs) ahead of by-elections in Punjab. As per details, the IGP Punjab in a letter to the ECP sought transfers of DPOs of Khushab, Hafifabad, Khanewal, DG Khan and Rajanpur. The plea has been rejected by the ECP. We have not okayed the transfers of any of the DPOs in Punjab and added that news circulating



on social media in this regard is baseless.

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

defecting MPAs of the PTI were de-seated.

According to the schedule, nomination papers for the by election could be submitted from June 04 to 07. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted on June 11, the ECP stated. The candidates will be announced as election symbols on June 24, while polling will be held on July 17. The ECP had de-seated 25 dissident Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPAs who voted for PML-N's Hamza Shahbaz Sharif in Punjab chief minister's election

US Embassy launches Pak-TESSOL AJK Chapter to train teachers

Our correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: The United States' Embassy in Islamabad in collaboration with Azad Jammu and Kashmir University (UAJK) Muzaffarabad has launched a comprehensive training program titled "Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) to build capacity of the teachers in public sector universities, colleges and schools in AJK.



The inaugural ceremony of the program was held here at Chela Campus UAJK with Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik as chief guest while Vice Chancellor UAJK Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi chaired the event.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, AJK Minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik thanked the US Embassy officials and Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Muzaffarabad for establishing the Pak-TESSOL Azad Kashmir chapter for the training of English language teachers in the State.

He said English language has become the biggest medium of international communication and language of technology. "The TESOL program has brought an opportunity to the teachers community to polish their skills to deliver the best in the class rooms.

Zafar Malik assured the organizers of the program that AJK government, particularly Higher Education Ministry would extend full cooperation for this vital project.

Addressing the function, the Vice Chancellor of UAJK Muzaffarabad Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi expressed his deep gratitude to the officials of the Public Diplomacy Department of the US Embassy and Regional English Language network for launching the Pak-TESSOL Azad Kashmir Chapter for the promotion of English language.

He hoped that this program will play an important role in the professional training of English language teachers in the state and will be very useful for acquiring the skills to teach English language with modern trends and methods.

The Vice Chancellor added that

UAJK is paying special attention to the training of teachers and equipping them with modern teaching skills and hoped that this program of US Embassy will help in achieving the goal of faculty development of the university.

He also expressed the hope that besides the faculty members of the university, teachers of different colleges and schools would also get full benefit from the program.

Giving a detailed briefing on the objectives of Pak-TESSOL, Project Director Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan said that the main objective of the program is to promote scientific thinking in English language teachers and to introduce them through education, research and professional media. He added that this includes introducing modern teaching methods to the teachers of public and private sector educational institutions and establishing links between them at national and international level.

US Embassy Officer and Country Project Director Syed Rashid Hussain Naqvi in his address said that he belongs to AJK and has been working in the education sector since 2006. He said that he is confident of learning new educational trends in Azad Kashmir and according to these trends, there is potential to promote education.

Asad Mahmood strongly condemns terrorist attack in Kach, Harnait

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad Mahmood has strongly condemned the attack of terrorists on sub camp of the contractor engaged on construction of Ziaratmor-Kach Harnai-Sanjavi road project on Friday night. This is an important project of National Highway being completed in Balochistan.

He said that engineers, construction experts and other workers engaged in the construction process would be given full protection. We will not be intimidated by these terrorist attacks. The ongoing construction and development projects of Balochistan will be completed without any delay. According to details, on Friday night in Balochistan, terrorists attacked the camp office of contractor Omar Jan & Co., located at 42km of the project, and set fire to the construction machinery there.

The number of terrorists is said to be 15 to 20. As a result of this attack, one worker of the company was martyred and two were seriously injured while four persons are still missing. Two bulldozers, two dumpers and two Pick-up vehicles were also involved. As soon as the terrorist attack was reported, NHA Member West Zone Shahid Ehsanullah and the concerned NHA team immediately contacted the FC force for help, and their staff reached the spot and rescued the contractor staff. Expressing deep sorrow over the terrorist attack, the Federal Minister for Communications assured the contractor involved in the construction process that the missing persons would be traced as soon as possible while no effort would be spared to bring the terrorists to justice.

AJK PM appreciates KORT chief's rendered social services

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while appreciating the social services of Chairman Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) Chaudhry Muhammad Akhtar has said that the KORT chief and his team have rendered exemplary services to mankind during natural disasters.



The PM expressed these views during a meeting with Overseas Kashmiri Leader and Chairman Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) Chaudhry Muhammad Akhtar. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said, "The efforts of Chaudhry Akhtar and his team in the natural calamities like earthquakes, cloud bursts and floods in Azad Kashmir are historic."

Terming Kashmiri expatriates as a valuable asset for the state, the PM said, "We will set up health, education, employment and welfare institutions with the help of our Kashmiri expatriates and manage drug shortage and lack of modern machinery in the civil hospitals".

He said that the welfare institutions were a great blessing for our society. "One of the major causes of our social problems is absence of spirit of service in the community", the PM said, adding that many people around us were desperately craving for help.

"It is our moral and religious duty to help the economically less privileged people especially orphans, widows, and those who are affected by floods or earthquakes or other calamities", he said.

Referring to his surprise visit to one of the largest hospitals in the capital city the PM said, it was found that patients were denied medicines despite availability of medicines in the hospital. "Doctors were absent from duty and filth littered all around", the PM said. He said that it was quite surprising to see that despite having medicines in hospitals, people were being forced to bring medicines from outside. This kind of mistreatment of patients, he said, would not be tolerated in future, he warned.

"In collaboration with overseas, the government would provide modern equipment including ambulances, X-ray machines to hospitals to ensure

better treatment facilities", the PM said adding that he won't let the patients suffer at any cost. "I will make a surprise visit to all the hospitals established at the level of the Union Council of Azad Kashmir", he said, adding civil society should point out the shortcomings in the health system.

"Doctors will either do their duty or run their own private hospitals", he said, adding that doctors would have to ensure their attendance in government hospitals otherwise legal action would be taken against those who violate the rules.

On this occasion Chairman KORT Chaudhry Muhammad Akhtar while reiterating his commitment to social cause said that Kashmiri expatriate community would co-operate with the government in every possible way to bring about reforms and innovation in the health and education sectors.

Proposals to promote SMEs in GB discussed

CEO SMEDA Hashim Raza's meeting with Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: There is a vast scope of developing small businesses in Gilgit Baltistan in the fields of Mineral, Agriculture and Tourism. It was stated by Hashim Raza, Chief Executive Officer of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) at a meeting with a delegation of the Gilgit Baltistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBCCI) led by its President Ashfaq Ahmed.

Speaking on this occasion, Hashmi Raza said that present government was giving special priority to achieve economic prosperity through SME development across the country. SMEDA has been tasked to manage equitable development of small and medium businesses in all provinces, he said. "We are focusing special attention on economically neglected areas of the country, he add and emphasized to organize coordinated efforts of the provincial and federal policy makers. He assured to play its due role in achieving this important goal.

President GBCCI Ashfaq Ahmed, expressing his views on this occasion, highlighted various kinds of businesses having potential of rapid growth in Gilgit Baltistan. He said that the province is known for its tourism potential, but the abundant resources of mineral and horticulture also have huge potential for trade and investment that can be explored by giving impetus to SME growth with easy access to finance. He expressed deep gratitude to the CEO for focusing attention on SME growth in Gilgit Baltistan and reiterated to continue a sustainable coordination with SMEDA to lay down an effective strategy in this regard.

CM Punjab approves IUB's project to increase rainfall



Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Chief Minister Punjab, Hamza Shehbaz gave in-principle approval to the Islamia University of Bahawalpur's project to increase rainfall. In this regard, a special online meeting was attended by Chief Minister of Punjab and Provincial Secretaries.

From Bahawalpur, Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Raja Jahangir Anwar, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Irfan Ali Kathia and other officers were present. Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob briefed in detail about the plan to increase rainfall in Cholistan through the system.

The Chief Minister Punjab termed the project as significant in the context of growing population and national food security. He directed the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and provincial department to implement meteorological technology system project on a trial basis. He said that this project of artificial rain should also be tested in Lahore for elimination of smog.

It was informed in the briefing that the implementation of this project would increase the rainfall rate in Cholistan by up to 500 mm which would create a special agro-economic zone on an area of 6.5 million acres. The project will significantly increase livestock along with land resettlement in Cholistan.

The project will benefit the national economy to the tune of 10 billion and the locals of Cholistan will be prosperous. On the occasion, the Punjab Chief Minister praised the Vice Chancellor of Islamia University Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob and the scientists for presenting a project of national importance.

Celebrating Fathers for Everything that They Are



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Fathers are the key pillar of the fabric of society by adorning many hats and supporting their families with love and care. In the words of the Australian poet, Pam Brown, "Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers and singers of song." Every year, fathers are honored on the third Sunday in the month of June with a celebration dedicated to them. This year in the spirit of Father's Day 2022, Mondelez Pakistan organized and celebrated this occasion at its offices. Kids of employees were invited to work, and a variety of activities were arranged to keep kids engaged and to demonstrate the significance that their fathers hold.

The celebration by Mondelez Pakistan served an opportunity for all fathers who are a part of the Mondelez family with multiple benefits. It showcased how every father works hard, day in and day out, for their families. At the same time, it also shed light on the contributions that each employee has made towards the company and how Mondelez respects these efforts extensively. Featuring fun-filled activities for children that included face painting, magical performances, arts and crafts, refreshments and musical chairs, the event had everything that would keep a kid hooked for hours. Moreover, gaming options were also provided along with creative giveaways like hats, bags and keychains decorated with unique designs.

Making education viral

TikTok, Edkasa and LUMS partner to make Pakistan #ExamReady

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: TikTok has partnered with Edkasa and LUMS to launch a digital learning programme to facilitate online education and distance learning for high school students. Driven by TikTok, the programme #ExamReady will promote digital learning designed to help millions of Pakistani students.

In this first of its kind year-long partnership, TikTok, Edkasa and LUMS will collaborate to bring to life over 500 educational videos online covering Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, including

study tips and exam hacks. The Syed Ahsan Ali and Syed Maratib Ali School of Education at LUMS will provide guidance on teaching methodologies and cover monitoring and evaluation of the project whereas Edkasa, as the implementing partner, will develop all content and host it on TikTok and other social media profiles. The programme's first round of content is expected to go live in August this year.

The announcement comes at an opportune time for Pakistan that is seeing pressure on its low- and middle-income groups with education costs becoming

a cause for distress. In a country where access to high-quality educational content remains a major hindrance to human development, Edkasa has achieved over 15 million minutes of viewing time in 2021, enrolled over 145,000 students, and 129 online courses. With demographics of over 140 million Pakistani citizens below 30 years of age, while more than 10 million currently enrolled in high-schools, the partnership could not have come at a better time. TikTok, home to 1 billion monthly average users globally, will help disseminate the

content to millions of Pakistani students through its platform.

Farah Tukan, Head of Government Relations & Public Policy at TikTok-Middle East, Turkey, Africa & Pakistan (METAP) said: "This partnership with LUMS and Edkasa promises digital access to quality education for everyone. We look forward to working together for the nationwide promotion of literacy, and to enable Pakistani students to use our platform to hone their knowledge and skills to set themselves up for successful professional lives."

LUMS will be co-creating the



content, while engaging learners. The intellectual experience of the University will enhance the teaching efficacy of this innovative programme, while the learning and performance of each participant will also be evaluated by scholars from LUMS.

LUMS Vice Chancellor, Dr.

Arshad Ahmad, spoke about how the University is able to amplify the impact created by its dynamic alumni; Edkasa too was cofounded by LUMS alumni Annum Sadiq (BSc 2011) and Muhammad Fahad Tanveer (BSc 2005, MBA 2010). Dr. Ahmad added, "At LUMS we embrace change and look for

opportunities to better pedagogy, and to personalise education to engage students."

Annum Sadiq, Chief Education Officer and Co-Founder of Edkasa, said: "As one of Pakistan's top-ranked, specialised apps for online teaching, we're excited to come on board as an implementing partner in this initiative. Edkasa pledges to provide the right technological solutions, products and services to enrich the students' knowledge and perceptions. With over 300,000 downloads in one year, Edkasa enables distance learning of essential subjects like Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English and Computer Science (STEM), along with 21st century skills, educating nearly 30,000 students per month."

Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:21 pm
Isha	9:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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MH	561116
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Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

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Met Office	9250360-6
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TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Local Govt polls in ICT to be held in July

The date for publication of the revised list of candidates will be July 4

ISLAMABAD: The polling for Local Government election in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) will be held on July 31. As per revised schedule issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the conduct of Local Government Election in ICT, the consolidation of results will be on August 4.

The date of public notice for Returning Officer inviting nomination papers was June 10 while the date for filing nomination papers by the candidate with the Returning Officer was from June 13



The date for publication of the Names to June 20.

of the nominated candidates will be June 21 while the last date for scrutiny of nomination papers will be June 22 to June 24.

The last date for filing appeals against acceptance or rejection of nominations will be June 25 to June 28 while the last date for deciding on appeals by the Appellant Authority will be July 2.

The date for publication of the revised list of candidates will be July 4. The last date for the withdrawal of candidature will be July 5. Agencies

Foreign tourists depart on Islamabad to Khunjerab

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A group of foreign tourists has found a unique way of incorporating rickshaws into an adventure as on Saturday it departed on a mission to cover around 745 kilometre distance from Islamabad to Khunjerab Pass on the three-wheelers. "Our eight-member outfit include four adventurers from UK and one each from Italy, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands," the team leader Carnall Julian Rohann told media here at Media Center of Pakistan Sports board (PSB).

"We'll complete our mission in a week. We know we'll have to tackle a huge distance. The journey is quite tough but this is what the adventure is all about," he added.

He said that the trip was aimed at promoting mountain sports and tourism in Pakistan. He said after the venture, the team would release vlogs, stories and pictures of the mountain tourism of Pakistan, especially of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"The majestic scenes of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are second to none. The snow-laden peaks and sun-kissed valleys along with winding roads at highly dizzying altitudes make the region a perfect tourist destination. We want the world should know about it," he said. "Reaching there in the rickshaws is quite challenging. But we've years of experience as we have already been taking part in such voyages in India, Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

We've also practiced here in Pakistan and are confident to complete the mission," he added.

The adventurers will initially stay at Balakot where tourist police will be welcoming them. Their next stopover will be at Batakundi. On the third day, they will cross the Babusar Top and reach Chilas where they will be received by Chilas District Administration. After spending the night there, they will proceed to Gilgit and move to Hunza valley.

Finally, they will reach Khunjerab Pass, which is located at a spectacular height of almost 5,000 metres. The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and the Special Communication Organization would hold a reception for the team. Agencies

Pakistan records uptick in daily COVID-19 cases

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A slight rise in Pakistan's COVID-19 positivity ratio was witnessed as 151 people were found infected during the last 24 hours, data from the National Institute of Health (NIH) showed on Saturday.

According to the stats, the new infections were detected after 12,906 coronavirus diagnostic tests performed across the country, which placed Pakistan's positivity ratio at 1.77% and the overall case count at 1,531,830.

Moreover, at least 58 patients of the infectious disease have been shifted into the critical care unit during the last 24 hours.

According to the NIH stats, Pakistan's active case count reached 3,148 after 20 recoveries in a single day.

The case count has increased across the country, particularly in Islamabad where the positivity ratio reached 3.06% after 48 more cases, the district health officials reported.

Health Corner

Game-Like Exercise Helps Older Adults Improve

ISLAMABAD: As human lifespans increase, new societal challenges arise. In a "superaging society," in which young people are few and older people are many, caring for the older adult population adequately with limited resources is a difficult balancing act to perform. However, the hope is that by implementing new knowledge of how to keep aging adults healthy, caring responsibilities may be lightened.

In an article that was recently published in Alzheimer's & Dementia, a research team from the University of Tsukuba puts their findings that a game-like intervention called Synapsology helps to improve cognitive function and physical capabilities in older adults and its implications into perspective.

In areas of research such as pathological changes to the brain during aging (for example, mild cognitive impairment and dementia), a lot remains unknown. Although drug therapies to treat dementia are available and more are continually being developed, prevention is arguably the most important area of focus in working toward humankind's goal of healthy long life. Convincing evidence exists that dual-task exercises, which are performed by the brain and body simultaneously, have the potential to be beneficial for the physical and mental health of older adults. However, as highlighted by the World Health Organization, the weak link in this area of research was the lack of translation of dual-task exercises into practice to yield concrete evidence on efficacy.

"We conducted a study to assess the effects of 60-minute sessions of Synapsology twice per week," says Professor Jiyeun Yoon. "The exercises combined body movement with tasks that stimulate frontal, temporal, and occipital brain activity. We found that, in comparison with older adults aged 85 to 97 who did not take part, those who did maintained or improved their cognitive and physical abilities over a period of 24 weeks."

Synapsology is also a cost-effective intervention, because it doesn't require special tools or facilities. This means that the findings of the study were likely to be useful because Synapsology can be scaled and adapted.

"Furthermore, we used well-known measures to quantify the changes to cognitive and physical function," adds Professor Yoon, "which means that both the intervention and the assessment can be extended to different populations of older adults to yield sufficient evidence to support the use of this dual-task intervention at a scale that can have a societal impact." (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Pak Army soldier martyred in North Waziristan: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of the Pakistan Army was martyred during an exchange of fire with terrorists in North Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Saturday. According to the military's media wing, the fight occurred in Miran Shah. "During intense exchange of fire, one terrorist got killed, later identified as terrorist Zia Ullah. Weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the terrorist," read the statement issued. Naik Zahid Ahmed, 32, resident of Charsadda, "having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat", the ISPR said. Agencies

To remain observant, vigilant

NDMA issues instructions to GBDMA, DDMA

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued instructions to Gilgit-Baltistan DMA (GBDMA) and DDMA to remain observant and vigilant as there is possibility of flash floods, landslides and gusty winds in vulnerable areas of the region.

These instructions were issued on the basis of Pakistan Meteorological Department Glacial Lake Outburst Flood alert owing to prevailing weather conditions and rain spells in Gilgit-Baltistan, Radio Pakistan reported. The GBDMA has been directed to coordinate with departments concerned to ensure arrangement and pre-placement of necessary inventory and equipment along with availability of emergency services personnel at vulnerable locations. Agencies

RDA organizes seminar, walk on dengue control, prevention

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General, RDA, here on Saturday organized a seminar and walk on dengue control and prevention with an aim to raise awareness against the disease. The seminar was attended by Director Admin and Finance RDA, Asif Mehmood Janjua, Director Engineering, RDA, Amir Rashid, Deputy Director Admin, Iftikhar Ali, Deputy District Health Officer (DDHO) Pothohar, Rawalpindi, Dr. Naveed Akhtar Malik, officers and staff members of RDA. Director Admin and Finance RDA thanking the officers of the Health Department said that the government departments and citizens should join hands to control the virus.

The DDHO addressing the participants recommended preventive measures against the dengue mosquitoes and stressed the importance of collective preventive measures against it.

He also urged the RDA staff members to ensure cleanliness of the office and their homes.

He said awareness played a key role in the fight against dengue because prevention was far better than cure.

The DDHO stressed the need for collective as well as individual efforts along with collaboration of all the stakeholders for the awareness, implementation and control of any epidemic. He also highlighted ways to control various developmental stages of dengue from its eggs to larva and full grown mosquitoes. The citizens are advised to remove stagnant water so that dengue larvae could be prevented. On severe violations, strict action in accordance with the law is taken against the violators and FIRs are also lodged, he added. Agencies

Police arrest five gamblers; recover Rs 10,450 stake money

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police have arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 10,450 stake money, three mobile phones and valuables from their possession here on Saturday, a police spokesman said.

He informed that Rattaamral police conducted a raid and arrested five gamblers namely Ali, Mithu, Hanif, Amir Bakhs and Qasim.

A case has been registered against all of them while further investigation is under process. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Babar Javed Joia said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession. Agencies

HIV prevalence rate in Pakistan stands at 0.12 per 1,000 population: report

ISLAMABAD: The HIV prevalence rate is 0.12 per 1,000 population and tuberculosis incidence is 259 per 100,000 population in Pakistan.

According to the official report available, Pakistan is on track for three out of 14 indicators including Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 live births). It added all other indicators are either moderately improving or stagnating. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Pakistan has declined to 54.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020 from 55.7 in 2019, while the Neonatal Mortality Rate declined to 40.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020 from 41.2 in 2019.

Pre Monsoon

ISLAMABAD: A view lightning flashing over the city during a thunderstorm in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

5th Global Ambassador Awards ceremony held in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Diplomatic Insight Group organized the 5th Global Ambassadors Award Ceremony to acknowledge the services of Ambassadors and diplomats, heads of an international organization, and businessmen for the promotion of people to people contact, business, trade and constructive bilateral relations with their respective states. Apart from Ambassadors, Heads of the UN organizations and different business groups were also given awards. These Awards are given annually on behalf of the people of Pakistan to acknowledge the services of outstanding Foreign Ambassadors, Diplomats served in Pakistan and Pakistani businessmen for their contribution in furthering Pakistan's trade and economic relations a global scale. The awards are meant to encourage the momentous and tireless work of awardees for promoting the political, economic, cultural, education, people-to-people contacts, and development works. The awards recognize nominees for outstanding achievements in furthering the softer image of Pakistan and vice versa. The winners of this exclusive award have been selected by a committee of distinguished experts from various backgrounds.

Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Federal Minister for State and Frontier Regions graced the occasion as Chief Guest and presented Awards to the Award Winner. While speaking on the occasion, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood said that Pakistan is seeking friendly ties with all the countries of the world. Pakistan is a growing economy and a land of opportunities for the world to invest and collaborate for a peaceful and better world. Farhat



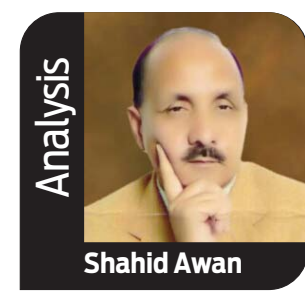
Asif, Chairperson of Diplomatic Insight Group, made welcome remarks while memorizing her journey as the founder of Diplomatic Insight Group spanning more than a decade and efforts go on in close coordination with foreign diplomatic missions. Meanwhile, she thanked participating global ambassadors for accepting appreciatory awards from the people of Pakistan. During the Awards, Diplomatic Insight Group launched the Global Business Alliance (GBA).

The list of the awardees of the Global Ambassador Awards includes Adam Mulawarman Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Andreas Ferraresse Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, Ibrahim Almadani Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador, Republic of Kazakhstan, Al Sheikh Mohammed Omar Ahmed Al Marhoon Ambassador of Oman, General (Retd)

"Ahmed Jawad" A. A. Rabei, Ambassador of the State of Palestine, Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani, Ambassador of Qatar, Yuki Takemoto, Representative of UNAIDS in Pakistan, Chris Kaye, Representative, and Country Director, WFP Pakistan, Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to EU and China, Kanwar Muhammad Tariq, Consular General of Paraguay, and Yasin Joyia, Honorary Consul General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Punjab, Pakistan. Additionally, the receivers of the awards also included the representatives of business entities Hatim Yaqoob Tabani, the Director of Tabani Group of Companies, Zeeshan Ahmed Siddiqui, and Kabuljon K. Sabirov, Director of the Centre for Public Diplomacy of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan. Many Ambassadors, diplomats, and other important civil society leaders and personalities attended the ceremony.

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Jecinda Ardern's Tribute to Benazir Bhutto



Analysis
Shahid Awan

A few days back Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, paid tribute to former Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaheed Benazir Bhutto while giving a lecture at Harvard University. Thousands of students and parents were present at inauguration. Jacinda's feelings and emotions were also visible. She was saying that what former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto said in 1989 is still true today. According to the International News Agency, the Prime Minister of New Zealand said that she was the first female Prime Minister of the Islamic world and the first female politician to have a child while being the head of state. Her son Balawal is the Foreign Minister of Pakistan today.

"I am proud to be speaking today at the place where Benazir Bhutto spoke in 1989, and I am fortunate that my daughter was born on June 21, 2018, which is also Benazir Bhutto's birthday," she said. She said that there are some things of the past that keep you together even years later, like

the speech of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in June 1989 at the same Harvard University entitled "Democratic nations must unite". The Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern said that Benazir Bhutto had said at the time that we should understand that democracy could be weakened. In her speech, the Pakistani Prime Minister spoke about her political struggle, the importance of the people, representative governments, human rights and democracy.

Jacinda's speech is circulating all over the world through social media. The enthusiasm with which the audience listened to her speech, because there will be many students who were not even born in 1989, it will be a pleasant moment to hear her tribute to former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto. As she recounted her martyrdom, she was overwhelmed by the emotion that pervaded the vast auditorium of the university, and thousands of people fell silent for a moment. The tribute was not only to Benazir Bhutto but also to the lady of an Asian world whose entire life was spent on the survival and protection democracy. When General Zia-ul-Haq shed blood on the elected government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and brought Bhutto to martyr to the gallows by his insidious tricks and by imposing ruthless martial law in the country suspended public rights and banned political parties. Against this, Benazir Bhutto, along with other political parties, struggled

for restoration of democracy from the platform of MRD.

Syed Ghayur Abbas writes in his book "From Benazir Bhutto to Quaid" that Pakistan Peoples Party is the only political party which has been facing difficulties from day one, although in the first general elections held in the early years of its existence in West Pakistan the party gained a clear majority but the party got the government after a big tragedy. Opponents then tried to portray the PPP as an enemy of the homeland and Bhutto was criticized. Attempts were made to overthrow him in the early days of the coup, but then the party leadership was in strong hands and Bhutto's opponents were closely watched. The party had won a clear majority in the 1977 elections but allegations of rigging tarnished the victory and a dictator like Zia ousted the real representatives of the people. This was a difficult period for the Pakistan Peoples Party.

The party was banned from engaging in political activities, the name of the party was sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labor and ten lashes. Salam to those members of the party who held the banner of truth and justice in the time of oppression. The execution of Bhutto Shaheed was a tragedy which affected everyone associated with the party. This tragedy was strongly condemned not only at the national level but also at the international level. The execution of a great father like Z.A Bhutto

had deeply affected Benazir Bhutto. Of course, the execution of a father is not a trivial matter for any daughter. From this point of view, Benazir should have left the party leadership and settled down in another country, but she respected her father's wishes and on the other hand, there were sacrifices of the people.

She declared the path of struggle as her destination, struggle for the rights of the people, for the restoration of democracy and for the solution of the problems of the people. That is why after Bhutto's martyrdom, Benazir Bhutto, along with her opposition political parties, started a movement for restoration of democracy against the government. It should be noted that this movement was launched at a time when political activities were completely banned. The movement for restoration of democracy is unique in the political history of Pakistan in two respects. The parties involved had strong ideological differences, thus most of the yeast of MRD was due to the situation, otherwise Benazir Bhutto was not mentally ready for an alliance with the anti-Bhutto elements and neither were the PPP workers happy with this alliance.

One was to maintain the confidence of the PPP workers and the other was to lead an open front against the government. It may be recalled that during this period of trial, a significant number of PPP leaders, fed up with the government's atrocities, had written to the martial law authorities stat-

ing that they had nothing to do with the party, including a large number of such workers those who were mentally and ideologically associated with the PPP but were disillusioned with the persecution of martial law but still had heartfelt sympathies with the PPP. Apart from Benazir Bhutto and Begum Nusrat Bhutto, other prominent personalities like Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, Asghar Khan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Malik Qasim and Khan Wali Khan were present in MRD.

The efforts and struggle of Malik Hakim Khan, Bhutto's soldier from Attock, for the establishment of MRD were also unforgettable. The time to come has proved that the PPP is truly the Awami Party. The MRD movement is central to Benazir Bhutto's long struggle and has a profound effect on her political future. These were the days when along with Malik Hakim Khan, Dr. Sikandar Hayat Khan, Hayat Khan and Sardar Zulfikar Hayat, are holding the party flag in Attock District and are following in the footsteps of their leaders. The Prime Minister of New Zealand pays tribute to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto not just in words but to her real struggle and history will never forget Bhutto and Benazir whenever their name is mentioned in the world to come.

The writer is senior political analyst.

Muslims threatened in India

Though the Indian ruling party suspended two of its leaders over derogatory remarks to show its contrite face to the world, yet the Narendra Modi regime contrarily continues to demolish Muslim activists' houses to pursue its ideology of Hindu supremacy. Following the blasphemous remarks in a television debate by the BJP leader Nupur Sharma, the Muslims has taken to the streets across India. The protesters demanding stricter action against Sharma had to face police cases, arrests, and violence. The most disturbing visuals of the police repression of Muslim protestors came from the state of Uttar Pradesh where the bulldozers were used to demolish the homes of the activists accused of organising the protests.

Owing to the massive use of the bulldozers to demolish Muslim properties in Uttar Pradesh, the state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been nicknamed 'Bulldozer Baba'. Among those whose houses were demolished, also included Afreen Fatima, a Muslim activist who had risen to prominence during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). This was not the first time bulldozers had been used to raze the homes of Muslims in UP. Yogi Adityanath made bulldozers a central motif in his re-election campaign earlier this year. The message given to Muslims is that the Constitution or judiciary won't come to their rescue no matter what action the state takes against them. It is another milestone in the dissolution of the de facto 'semi-citizenship' of Indian Muslims.

The protestors were slapped with terror charges merely for articulating their grievances against the government in a peaceful manner. Numerous cases were lodged against prominent Indian fact-checker. The BJP has responded to Muslims with bulldozers — and the unambiguous message bulldozer asserts is that the ruling BJP considers Muslims not as citizens to be negotiated with, but rather as a group to be controlled and managed, using brute force when and wherever they deem it necessary. "This is a demolition of India's constitutional values. This is state-sponsored targeting of poor & minorities. BJP must bulldoze the hatred in their hearts instead.

It was all shattered within two hours. It was the only home we had. I watched it all live, the media was showing it live, they were helping the administration make the allegations. We are homeless now. Everything my Dad worked for was shattered in two hours. It was so painful; I don't have words to explain. Ashok Swain, a professor of peace and conflict research in a Sweden university, who is also a prominent critic of the Narendra Modi regime's fascist approach also commented on the demolition of the Muslims' houses in India. "When farmers were protesting, no one demolished their houses; when Gujjars were protesting, no one demolished their houses; when Rajputs were protesting, no one demolished their houses; only when Muslims protest they demolish their houses. Yes, India is very secular," Ashok Swain wrote on Twitter.

"Bulldozer has become a signifier of targeted violence against Muslims in India, with demolitions being deployed not as punishment of an individual for violation of law, but as a form of collective punishment that seeks to demoralise and deter anyone who questions the government or their majoritarian politics. The arrest and the demolition of people houses that exercised their fundamental human rights in India in an Israeli style is a clear violation of human rights and stands condemn.



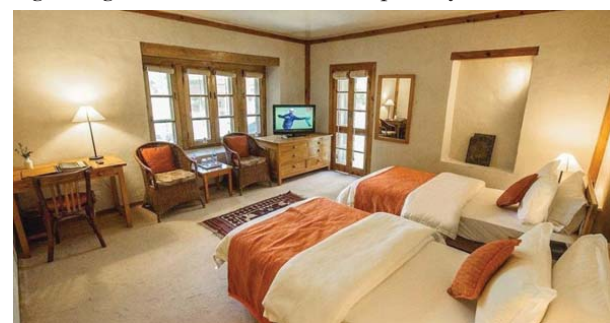
Serena Shigar Fort: A Historic Heritage Hotel of Pakistan



Analysis
Munaza Kazmi

The classical History-lovers are pinned everywhere in the world, looking for exploring another piece of art. Pakistan! Famous for its wildest and most dangerous peaks, is a home to Indus Valley civilization, Gandhara, Mughal Rule, Tribal Kingdoms and a lot many. However, one can only look at them in Museums, Palaces or Forts, but had never got the opportunity to live the History. What if I take you somewhere? IMAGINE! in the middle of gigantic mountains, a day into the actual homes of Kings and Queens, the splendor of Royalty on the rhythms of History.

Ancient mountain landscapes, stunning views and the ambience of a 400-year-old Fort-Palace set our 15 rooms and 5 suites among Pakistan's most serene and timeless sanctuaries. Ornamented in warm earth tones, all accommodations feature locally inspired design touches like wooden floors, exquisite woodwork, native stone and period furnishings. These non-smoking heritage rooms offers either



double, single or twin beds covered by cloudy white sheets and a well-appointed bathroom with shower.

Spacious Garden House Rooms feature double or twin beds, a lobby area, cable television and a romantic private wood balcony facing the picturesque Baradari monument and Amacha Garden.

Providing a little more space than Garden Rooms, Garden Suite feature a king bed, sitting

area with Diwan, in-room cable television, a modern bathroom equipped with all the modern-day facilities, and a glamorous private balcony facing the beautiful Baradari monument and Amacha Garden, from where the scented smell would keep coming.

The hotel's 3 Heritage Suites originally served as the chambers of the royal women and the Raja's mid-season quarters. Spacious and opulently decorated with

period antiques, these Suites offer a king bed in the main bedroom, a single bed in a separate anteroom or Shah-e-Nasheen and a sitting area. Special features include beautiful paneled ceilings and carvings on Shah Nasheen.

Originally the Raja's royal summer quarters, this non-smoking suite features one comfortable king bed, an adjoining sitting area, originally Raja's Baithak, a "Shah-e-Nasheen" and an airy, hanging wooden lattice-work balcony. Decorated in period antiques with a splendid view of the Shigar stream, the room is appointed with a working desk, one exquisite bathroom and a powder room.

The culinary philosophy at Serena Shigar Fort is based on providing the finest seasonal and, where possible, local ingredients from Shigar Valley farms and providers. All meals feature fresh produce from hotel's very own cherry orchards and vegetable garden, including a handmade cherry ice cream sure to be the delight of your stay. Amidst a historic stone and wood design, Fong Khar Restaurant invites conversation among guests while savoring an innovative menu of Pakistani, Balti, Chinese and Continental specialties.

During the warmer months, the al fresco garden is the perfect setting for a meal beneath the grapevine with beautiful views of the Shigar stream and surrounding village. However, for private dining events, the first floor offers a Turkish-style seating area with an open veranda seating presenting gorgeous village and stream views. From the traditional stone and wood architecture to the tranquil sight and sound of the Shigar stream flowing in front of the hotel, the experience here is that of a peaceful home away from home in an ancient, historic undisturbed wilderness.

The Modern era of science

Ghulam Nabi Dhilloo

Science is based on intellectual and physical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through the observation and experiment. Science is totally based on observations and experiments. Through the based on observations and experiments science reached in modern era. In the 19th century was the industrial revolution created multitude machinery increasingly larger cities. In the 20th century was the revolution of Physics and Chemistry created huge industrial activity like petrochemical, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, the atom bomb, transmitters, the laser and microchips. Now in the twenty-first century created a historical revolution which is associated with Biology and Technologies.

The combination of Biology and Technology created a Biotechnology field which is big achievement of the 21st revolution. Biotechnology is the branch of science which is used for manipulating of genetically material of an organism to create useful product which will be beneficial of humans, plants, animals and Environments. The new biotechnologist are developing new therapies and cues for many human and animal disease, developing diagnostics tests for increasing disease prevention and pollution control, improving many aspects of plants, animals, agriculture and food production, cleaning-up and improv-

ing environments, designing clean industrial manufacturing process, exploring the potential for biological fuel generation and unraveling the power of steam cell technology.

Biotechnology can be seen to be most innovative technology that mankind has witnessed. Another other most dangerous revolution of 21st century is Robotic system and Information technology. A Book of 21st lessons for the 21st century written by Yuval Noah Harari is very much relevant in this regard. According to this book, when Biotechnology and information technology will merge to each other will explain what is life, why we are come here, what is purpose of life, and where we should go. When human being or drop of blood will pass through in this technology then whole manuscript of life will displayed on computer screen, still no one can explain what is life but according to the information technology and Biotechnology will explain what is life and what is purpose of life, it will be possible in 2030 or in 2050.

While in the Robotics system will make the more luscious and comfortable life of human being, utilizing of robot system from home to offices and industrial level you gate more benefits no need huge labors one Robot can work 100 of people ultimately your cost of labors will be reduced and you will gate more and more benefits. But Robot system will become more dangerous when it will become out of control it will destroy the whole universe.

The writer is a graduate from University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

Letter to the Editor

It becomes quite challenging for parents to provide a vigorous, flourishing and healthy up bringing to their children. This is because of the fact that every work demands time then its result comes out. Hence, time trouble is main cause of devastating nurture. However, in this current era, everyone is busy with their own selfishness. Verily, good nurture and quality education play key role towards successful life. Therefore, shortage of anyone can cause incompetence in life.

A good nurture diverged in many ways. Such as, it increases the well-being, promotes physical, emotional, social and cognitive development. Additionally, it leads to new paramount and build better contact forms.

Moreover, it is said that "Children are mirror of parents". Also, children grow up by imitating their parents, what their parents really are. Their behavior, gestures, and body language are reflective images of their parents. Considerably, it is nature's greatest gift to bless me with such an intellectual, thinking and observing minded parents. Nurture is every influence that affects child after his birth. Therefore, every parent should play pivotal role in nurturing their children in the best order.

Tajdar Munir Student of Sindh University, Shabdalkot, Sindh.

Ukraine president visits soldiers on southern front line

Putin condemns 'mad and thoughtless' Western sanctions

KYIV/MOSCOW: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy visited soldiers on the southern front line during a working trip to the Mykolaiv region, he said on Saturday, without specifying when the visit took place.

In his trademark khaki t-shirt, the president handed out medals and posed for selfies with the servicemen in what appeared to be an underground shelter, according to a video posted to his official Telegram account.

"Our brave men. Each one of them is working flat out," he said. "We will definitely hold out! We will definitely win!"

Russian forces reached the outskirts of the regional capital Mykolaiv in early March but were then driven back to the eastern and southern edges of the region, where fighting is ongoing.

Zelenskiy's office said the president also visited the city and inspected the destroyed regional administration building, where 37 people were killed in late March when a missile blasted through the building.

He also visited a hospital in Mykolaiv and awarded honours for bravery to Mayor Oleksandr Senkevych and



Governor Vitaliy Kim for their work during the four months of Russia's invasion, his office said in a separate statement.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has offered to launch a military training programme for Ukrainian forces as he met President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in Kyiv on his second trip to the Ukrainian capital

since Russia's invasion.

Johnson, who survived a no confidence vote earlier this month, was greeted by Zelenskiy as a "great friend" and posted a picture of himself with the Ukrainian president, with the words "Mr President, Volodymyr, It is good to be in Kyiv again".

Johnson offered to launch a major training operation for Ukrainian forces,

with the potential to train up to 10,000 soldiers every 120 days at the meeting, his office said.

"My visit today, in the depths of this war, is to send a clear and simple message to the Ukrainian people: the UK is with you, and we will be with you until you ultimately prevail," Johnson said.

"That is why I have offered President Zelenskiy a major new military training programme that could change the equation of this war - harnessing that most powerful of forces, the Ukrainian determination to win."

Russia has "nothing against" Ukraine's possible membership of the European Union, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that after the European Commission recommended granting Kyiv candidate status of the 27-member bloc.

"We have nothing against it. It's their sovereign decision to join economic unions or not... It's their business, the business of the Ukrainian people," Putin told Russia's annual economic showcase, the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

Israeli warplanes strike various sites across Gaza Strip

GAZASTRIP: Israeli military aircraft have carried out a series of airstrikes against targets in the central and northern parts of the Gaza Strip as the Tel Aviv regime continues with its acts of aggression against the besieged Palestinian coastal sliver.

According to the official Palestinian Wafa news agency, an armed Israeli unmanned aerial vehicle fired a missile at a site in the center of the Strip in the early hours of Saturday, followed

by four other missiles launched by warplanes. The airstrikes destroyed the building and caused a fire in the area.

An Israeli fighter jets also fired two missiles at Malaka site, which lies east of Zeitoun district and in the southern part of of Gaza City, leveling it to the ground.

Balls of flame shot into the air, leaving dark smoke drifting over the territory, after the strikes.

The report added that a drone

struck a location north of Beit Lahya city in the northern Gaza Strip, completely destroying it and causing damage to nearby homes.

Another site east of Beit city on the northeast edge of the Gaza Strip also came under a drone strike, and was reduced to rubble.

Israeli warplanes and unnamed aerial vehicles reportedly continue to fly over the Gaza Strip and more explosions are being heard every now

and then.

The Israel army said in a statement that its aircraft hit a number of targets belonging to Hamas resistance movement. No immediate reports of casualties in the aerial assaults were available.

The statement added that the strikes were conducted in response to a rocket fire from the Palestinian enclave towards the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon.

DPRK soon recovers peace and stability

Spokesman Report

After the malicious novel coronavirus had infiltrated its territory, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea promptly imposed nationwide blockade, and soon peace and stability gradually set in with the epidemic situation controlled in a stable manner.

What made such a quick recovery possible? The major factor is that the ruling Workers' Party of Korea has assumed direct responsibility for the anti-epidemic war. On May 12, the Eighth Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth WPK Central Committee was convened. At the meeting Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the WPK, had the Political Bureau adopt a decision on switching the state epidemic prevention system to the top-level emergency anti-epidemic system.

Then he had a series of measures taken to promptly contain and manage the epidemic situation and to firmly hold the strategic initiative in the anti-epidemic campaign. He presided over the consultative meetings of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on May 14 and 15. A meeting of the Presidium of the Political Bureau was called on May 17, and consultative meetings of the Political Bureau were held on May 21 and 29 under his guidance.

Within the 18 days after the top-level emergency anti-epidemic system had been put in place, he guided six

major meetings to cope with the crisis, an unprecedented fact in the history of the WPK, which clearly shows how prompt and timely his measures were for the lives and safety of the people. Kim Jong Un personally visited the sites of anti-epidemic work in spite of high risk to acquaint himself with the situation and take relevant measures, and had the household medicines from his family sent to those experiencing difficulties. It would also be written on a new page of the world history of anti-epidemic work.

He visited the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters to acquaint himself with the national epidemic situation and had measures taken to implement immediately and thoroughly the items of the decision of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee so as to take up the winning position in the campaign proactively and definitely. On May 15, shortly after the consultative meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Jong Un visited some pharmacies in the capital city of Pyongyang. It was not long after the shop assistants recovered from the disease.

Despite personal risk, he approached them and familiarized himself in detail with how medicines were supplied and stored, whether the pharmacies were open round the clock, what kinds of medicines were in highest demand and how much they cost. He also asked them to tell him what they thought the best

treatment method was and how they would consult those with fever. Then he saw to it that officials put to rights the faults in the medicine supply system and take powerful measures with regard to the transport of medicines. The DPRK's recovery of stability through the anti-epidemic campaign can also be attributable to the state's unified guidance, all the people's voluntary unity to keep pace with it and their displays of tenderness and human feeling. Since the enforcement of the nationwide blockade, the Korean people have been proactive and responsible in implementing the government's measures including disinfection and closure.

According to the special order of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, nearly 3 000 medics of the Korean People's Army were deployed in hundreds of pharmacies in Pyongyang to conduct transport and supply of medicines.

They did not merely wait for the people to come to the pharmacies but visited the families in their charge to provide necessary medicines and actively engage in medical treatment, instilling in them confidence and courage. According to the data, tens of millions of medicines of over 90 kinds were supplied in Pyongyang and other provinces in a single day of May 24, and in early June the number increased to more than 360 million of over 430 kinds.

Throughout the country nearly 500 rapid mobile anti-epidemic groups and

rapid diagnosis and treatment groups conducted confirmative diagnosis, transport and treatment of the cases and other anti-epidemic work.

More than a million of medical workers and teachers and students of the medical education institutions and hygiene activists were mobilized for treatment, examination and disinfection. The tenderness and human feeling of helping and leading one another forward can be said to be a major characteristic of the current anti-epidemic campaign in the DPRK.

Many people donated spare medicines, money and grains to help the families in hardship. Some young pupils sent pharmacies medicine envelopes they made with their own hands. Thousands of people who retired from the public health sector and even other ones volunteered to take part in the medical service. The volunteers also participated in the work for stabilizing the people's living. Nearly 10 000 mobile service groups were organized across the country, and over 160 carts of vegetables, foodstuffs and daily necessities were deployed in each district of Pyongyang alone.

According to mass media of the DPRK, the daily occurrence of cases with fever continued to drop by 6.1 per cent on average from May 15, a few days after the blockade was imposed (May 12), and as of 18:00 hours, June 9, 4 265 860 (98.068 per cent of the total cases with fever) fully recovered and 83 980 (1.93 per cent) are under treatment.

UAE sends aid for Ukrainian refugees

LONDON: The UAE has sent a plane carrying 27 tons of food and medical supplies to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland, state news agency WAM reported on Friday.

The move was "part of continuous relief support from the UAE to contribute to alleviating the humanitarian repercussions faced by displaced Ukrainians and refugees," it added.

Salem Ahmed Al-Kaabi, the UAE ambassador to Ukraine, affirmed his country's keenness to help provide humanitarian relief and the necessary support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees, within the framework of the Emirate's approach to help alleviate suffering around world.

The UAE has sent 6 planes to Poland and Moldova, carrying 156 tons of food and medical aid and ambulances, since the Ukrainian conflict began in February, as part a \$5 million donation in response to an urgent appeal from the UN.

India suspends internet over military recruitment protests

BHUBANESHWAR/LUCKNOW: Indian authorities suspended Internet services in several parts of the eastern state of Bihar in a bid to stop public gatherings and violent protests over a military recruitment plan, police officials said on Saturday.

One protester was killed and more than a dozen have been injured in a series of protests in some regions of the country against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new policy to hire soldiers for short tenures.

The Agnipath or "path of fire" system aims to bring more people into the military on four-year contracts to lower the average age of India's 1.38 million-strong armed forces and cut burgeoning pension costs, the government said.

Protesters, mainly young men, say the plan will limit opportunities for permanent jobs with the defense forces, which guarantee fixed salaries, pensions and other benefits.

Many took to the streets in Bihar, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to protest against this plan.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp have been blocked in 15 of 38 districts of Bihar, said Sanjay Singh, a senior police official in the state, where protesters burned passenger trains and buses this week to express their outrage.

APHC concerned over surge in Indian state terrorism

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has expressed serious concern over the surge in the state terrorism unleashed by Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government across the territory to suppress the Kashmiris' just struggle for securing their right to self-determination.

The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the killing of several youth in fake encounters in different areas of the territory by Indian troops in the last few days, after taking them into custody, is the worst display of brutal Indian imperialism. He maintained that killings, arrests, use of force and other Indian brutalities cannot subdue the Kashmiris' freedom sentiment and they will continue their struggle till complete success. The spokesman urged the international community particularly the United Nations to play a role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute to save the Kashmiris from the Indian atrocities.

Meanwhile, Indian troops along with paramilitary and police personnel continued their violent cordon and search operations in Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Islamabad, Srinagar, Badgam, Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipore, Kishtwar, Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts. The forces' personnel during the operations harassed the residents, mainly youth, and summoned them to the nearby police stations and army camps.

Ecuador's President declares state of exception

QUITO: Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso has declared a state of exception in three of the Andean country's provinces, in a bid to calm protests called by indigenous groups in rejection of the government's economic policies.

The measure will last for 30 days in the provinces of Imbabura, Cotopaxi, and Pichincha—areas that include capital city Quito—which have seen greater violence amid protests, with attacks on flower farms and damage to infrastructure, while police officers have also been detained by protesters.

Curfews in Quito will run from 22:00 local time (03:00 GMT), until 05:00 starting Saturday, Lasso said late on Friday, while gatherings will be banned all day in the affected provinces. He did not say how long the measures would last.

"I called for dialogue and the answer was more violence, there is no intention to find solutions," Lasso said in a televised broadcast.

Indigenous groups launched protests on Monday, with demonstrators blocking roads across the country in opposition to Lasso's social and economic policies, demanding gasoline price freezes, a halt to further mining and oil projects, and more time for small farmers to pay their bank loans.

Lasso will increase help for the most vulnerable sectors and will subsidize fertilizer costs by 50% for small and medium farmers, while the public bank will forgive overdue loans worth up to \$3,000.

There will be no increase in the costs of diesel, gasoline, and gas, Lasso added.

Bibi-Khanym is the most grandiose mosque in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Spokesman Report

One of the greatest and magnificent mosque all over the Islamic World as well as the biggest mosque in Samarkand, this great complex which contains with mysterious, and high walls in it. All these descriptions are about architectural monument Bibi-Khanym ('senior princess' or 'senior wife'; also spelled Bibi-Khanom, Bibi-Khanum; Uzbek: Bibi-Xonim masjidi) which is located in the Samarkand region of Uzbekistan. Most Uzbek people go to this mosque to pray and make a wish especially on Fridays.

Bibi-Khanym was the nickname of Saray Mulk Khanym (interchanging with variant spellings Serai, Mulk, Khanum), Amir Temur's senior wife. Ruy Gonzalez de Clavijo, the ambassador of Henry III of Castile to the court of Amir Temur in 1403-1405, wrote she was also nicknamed Cano ('the great khanym'). According to this legend, it was Saray which was ordered to built to please her husband when he came home from his victorious campaign in India. (Hence the mosque was named after her.) However,

historians believe Bibi-Khanym Mosque was built by order of Amir Temur himself.

According to Clavijo (see the quotation below), Amir Temur wanted to erect the mosque in honor of his wife's mother. Besides, the word bibi also translated as 'mother'. This fact, however, has not been authenticated.

They launched the construction of the mosque on May 4, 1399, on the site Amir Temur had chosen it by himself. The best master craftsmen of the day were involved in the building works, including 200 hundred stonemasons brought from the conquered countries; 500 more workers were busy preparing the stone for the mosque in the mountains and delivered it to Samarkand. Around 100 elephants had been brought to the site from India to speed up the progress of the construction.

The major part of the mosque complex was completed in 5 years, a record at the time. Its yard could accommodate 10,000 of the faithful as early as in September 1404. However, Amir Temur did not like the structure when he returned to Samarkand after another campaign. He found that the portal was not large enough in

comparison with the madrasah standing across from it. (Named Khanym Madrasah, it had been earlier built by order of Saray Mulk). He wanted the mosque to be the grandest, impressing on people the power of God and the imperial might of himself. Enraged, he ordered that the two aristocrats who had supervised the construction be hung and the portal be replaced with a larger one (finished in November 1404).

In his embassy diary Clavijo writes: The mosque which Temur had caused to built to the memory of the mother of his wife seemed to us to be the noblest of all we visited in the city of Samarkand, but no sooner had it been completed than he began to find fault with its entrance gateway, which he now said was much too low and must be pulled down.

All the structures the mosque consisted of initially formed a coherent whole as they were connected with an arcade with 480 marble pillars. The huge portal featured carved marble ornaments and an alloy gate made of seven metals, including gold and silver. When opened, the gate vibrated and dinged to the muezzin calls issued from the tops of

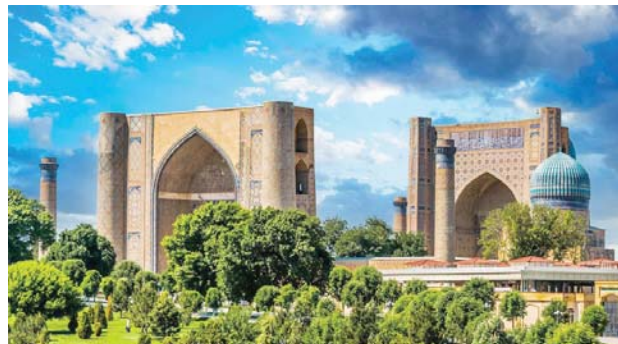
the four 80-meter-tall minarets.

The largest dome of the mosque was 18 meters in diameter; the height from the floor to its top was 40 meters. The spread of the portal arch and the height of the portal were, too, 18 and 40 meters, respectively. A 15th-century historian compared the dome of the mosque to the heavens, and its portal arch to the Milky Way.

However, the technologies and materials the builders of the mosque used were not adequate to make such a huge structure durable enough, and they had not provided for seismic risks. The mosque began crumbling away as early as Amir Temur's lifetime; the dome cracked and sometimes its bricks fell on the heads of the worshippers praying inside.

Only five of the original mosque structures have survived from those times: the portal, the large domed hall, two small domed halls and one of the minarets. There is also an enormous stone reading stand for the Koran, set up during Ulugbek's region, in the centre of the courtyard.

The mosque exterior decoration features rich geometric, floral and inscriptional designs made of glazed, majolica and terracotta



tesserae - standard and specially shaped - in combinations. The interior is decorated with patterned murals; the inside of the dome is adorned with gilt paper-mâché ornaments.

The restoration of Bibi-Khanym Mosque, started in 1974, was completed only in the 21st century. All the remaining structures of it have been reinforced and restored to their original beauty by now.

Khanym Madrasah, which stood across from the mosque, has not survived into the present except for the mausoleum in its courtyard - an octagonal pillar-like structure with a crypt in it. When archeologists opened its marble sarcophagi in 1941, there were remains of two middle-aged

women in rich clothes in them. One of these women was probably Saray Mulk Khanym.

There is a 600-year-old bazaar near Bibi-Khanym Mosque. It still retains its medieval features and aura and so is quite worth visiting as well.

Bibi-Khanym Mosque Legend has it that Bibi-Khanym ordered that the mosque was built because she wanted to please her husband with it after he returned from war. She invited the best craftsmen from all over the world, and soon the construction began. When Temur was on the way back to Samarkand, the mosque had been completed except for the arch of its main portal. The young architect delayed finishing it, for he would

otherwise have to part from beautiful Bibi-Khanym whom he was very much in love with. Bibi-Khanym was enraged, but the young man was indispensable for the construction. She begged him to hurry up and he finally agreed to - but only on condition that she let him kiss her cheek. The empress had to give in, but when he was about to kiss her, she covered her cheek with her hand. However, his kiss was so hot that it left a small spot on her cheek even through this cover.

When Temur and his troops marched into the city, they were amazed by the splendor of the domes and minarets of the mosque. However, his mood changed when he saw the spot on his wife's cheek. He demanded an explanation and Bibi-Khanym had to tell him about the architect. Enraged, Amir Temur ordered that the young man be captured, but he made wings and flew to Mashhad.

There is a popular belief that if a woman who is not able to get pregnant for a long time comes to Bibi-Khanym Mosque, touches the Koran reading stand in its courtyard and prays, she will certainly have a baby.

Banks may play pivotal role in poverty alleviation: Economists

Pakistan holds unique position in Asia for maximum digital banking consumers



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Banks may play a pivotal role in poverty alleviation by maintaining the growing trends of digital banking and access to banking for the deprived masses. These views were expressed by financial experts belonging to the banking and technology sector during a discussion on "Visionary Banking in Pakistan". The discussion was hosted at lunch at the Schatzalp Hotel, Davos by Pathfinder Group of Companies in collaboration with Martin Dow Group during the World Economic Forum.

Participants included United Bank President Shazad Dada, Bank of Punjab President Zafar Masud, U Bank President Kabir Naqvi, CEO of Pathfinder Group Syed Tassawur Hussain, and CEO of Path Ali Shah Asani, while CEO VRG Salman Ali moderated the session.

Pathfinder Group Chairman Ikram Sehgal welcomed the participants and the audience and introduced the distinguished guests. He said that Pakistan's banking sector was growing rapidly due to tech advancements. Highlighting the importance of digital banking and mobile wallets, Ikram Sehgal called them the credit cards of deprived people.

Initiating a discussion on the role of banking industry in Pakistan and its future, UBL President Shazad Dada said that the banking sector was going through a revolutionary period and digital banking was becoming increasingly popular not only in this sector but also in the national economy playing the most important role.

Shazad Dada shared important figures with the audience through his presentation on "Visionary Banking in Pakistan". He said that in this age of technology, modern banking was taking full advantage of innovative inventions like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT).

Zafar Masud, President of The Bank of Punjab, said that harmonization with traditions and culture was very important for successful banking. On this occasion, a special documentary on Pakistan was also shown. He said that in this age of technology, the banking sector was facing many challenges and it was only by tackling them that we could achieve the target of visionary banking. Zafar Masood informed the audience that future banking would depend upon five pillars, namely consumer & community, strategy & branding, staff & environment, governance & compliance, and operations & technology.

Mastercard Economics Institute

Global leisure, business flight bookings surpassed

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: After a turbulent two years, new research from the Mastercard Economics Institute reveals that while spending on cruise lines, buses and trains saw sharp improvements this year. A new report, Travel 2022: Trends and Transitions, delivers critical insights across 37 markets about the global state of travel in a post-vaccine and less restricted chapter of the pandemic era.

Importantly, if flight booking trends continue at their current pace, an estimated 115 million more passengers in Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa will fly in 2022 compared to last year, according to an analysis by the Mastercard Economics Institute. Key findings through April 2022 include: Leisure and business flights surpass pre-pandemic levels: Travel recovery has been a largely consumer story for much of the pandemic. By the end of April, global leisure flight bookings surpassed 2019 levels by 25%; short- and medium-haul leisure flight bookings were up 25% and 27%, respectively.

Hard-hit transportation industries see spending rebound: Recent spending levels point to greater comfort with group travel. Global spending on cruises gained 62 percentage points from January to the end of April, though remains below 2019 levels. Buses are back at pre-pandemic levels, while passenger rail spend remains 7% below.

Travel spending shifts back to experiences over things: For the better part of a year, international tourists spent more on experiences instead of souvenirs when in destination. Experiential spending is now 34% above 2019 levels; the areas seeing the largest spending increases are F&B outlets (72%) and amusement parks, museums, concerts and other recreational activities (35%). In the U.K., spending growth each month in 2022 more than doubled compared to 2019 levels, currently 140% for April.

To facilitate growth

PSF ready to fund research projects of pharma industry

Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig says pharma industries should send their research projects through ICCI to PSF

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) is ready to provide direct funding to the research projects of pharmaceutical industry in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) that would help it resolve its key issues and achieve better growth.

This was said by Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation while addressing the representatives of local pharmaceutical industries at ICCI. He said that currently there was a disconnect between academia and industries and a consultative meeting of PSF with the representatives of local pharma industry was part of efforts to strengthen academia-industry linkages.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig said that pharma industries should send their research projects through ICCI to PSF for funding that would be considered on merit. He said that universities were doing good research work and pharma industries should also send written issues to PSF and PSF in collaboration with universities would try to find their optimum



solutions. He said that PSF was also ready to work with the pharma industry on a public-private partnership model to promote research projects in order to resolve its major issues and facilitate its better growth.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated the efforts of PSF for promoting scientific research and providing funding for research projects

in various fields of science & technology. He stressed that the government should accord top priority to S&T as its role was crucial in resolving the industrial, economic, social and environmental issues of the country and put it on the path of sustainable growth. He emphasized that the universities, R&D institutions and industry should join hands to resolve key issues of the economy and steer it out of the current challenges. He said that ICCI was ready

to work with PSF to address the key issues of local industries of various sectors that would help them to produce value-added products and improve exports.

Nasir Qureshi, Convener, ICCI Pharmaceutical Committee said that Pakistan pharma industry has grown from 30 companies to 850 companies now including MNCs due to which Pakistan has become self-sufficient in medicines and was exporting to many countries. However, he stressed that the government should cooperate with the pharma industry to achieve the latest technology and knowledge and get registered with the US Food and Drug Administration that would enable it to further boost export pharmaceutical products around the world.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President ICCI, Zahid Maqbool, Naem Siddiqui and representatives of pharma companies also spoke at the occasion and highlighted issues that needed the attention of PSF and the government for redress. They said that the government should withdraw sales tax from the pharma industry to save it from further troubles.

Commerce Minister highlights challenges being faced by Pakistan

At 12TH Ministerial Conference of WTO

Spokesman Report

GENEVA/ISLAMABAD: The 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation was held in Geneva from 12-16 June 2022. Minister for Commerce and Investment Syed Naveed Qamar led the delegation from Pakistan comprising officials from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO and the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad. During the Opening Ceremony on 12th June, Minister for Commerce addressed the Conference on the Challenges confronting the Multilateral Trading System. The lacking implementation of mandates from Ministerial Conferences, a dysfunctional dispute settlement body, a tendency to ignore the rules-based system and unilateral actions of members were highlighted as some of the major challenges confronting the system.

The Minister highlighted some of the challenges being faced by Pakistan in the wake of balance of Payments crisis, and looming Food Security threats. He underscored Pakistan's commitment to the system and called for a focus on issues that would help us build back from the pandemic and prepare for the future, such as finding solutions to challenges posed by the intellectual property system, lack of technology transfer to developing countries, and the access to policy tools to augment production. The Minister further emphasised the need for upholding the fundamental principles enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement such as consensus-based decision making and special and differential treatment to achieve the objectives of economic growth and sustainable development, raising standards of living and generating employment.

During the Conference, the Paki-



stan delegation participated actively in all major areas of negotiation to achieve its main interests. On the issue of the WTO response to pandemic, Pakistan played a central role in leading a coalition of several members and successfully negotiated Ministerial Declaration on response to Covid-19

and preparedness for future pandemics. This document clearly recalls members' commitments under the WTO, the challenges faced during the pandemic, lessons learnt, and a commitment to prepare for future emergencies by focusing on issues of food security, technology transfer,

intellectual property, trade in services, and regulatory and international cooperation. As a cosponsor of the demand for a waiver on intellectual property rights to secure safe, equitable, and affordable vaccines, Pakistan successful negotiated an outcome under the Covid-19 TRIPS decision that would help local manufacturers develop vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.

The Minister for Commerce actively led the delegation in the negotiations on an Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. The agreement calls for the implementation of the UN SDG 14.6 to secure sustainable development by prohibiting harmful subsidies for fishing. At the same time, it allows developing countries the essential special and differential treatment to assist fishing activities in particular for resource poor, artisanal and coastal fisheries.

FPCCI's Nadeem Qureshi calls for adopting new approach of enhancing productivity

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FPCCI) Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi stressed upon the need to promote and adopt new approach of enhancing productivity instead of depending on old methods.

He said this while addressing an awareness seminar on 'Implementation of productivity improvement competitive reinforcement initiative' organized by National Productivity Organization of Ministry of Industries and Production at a local hotel on Friday.

He said that FPCCI motive for the year 2022 was to promote small medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

He said that unfortunately when it comes to production the country was far behind in this area while giving example of wheat production the chairman said that in world different countries were obtaining 100 maund of wheat from per acre of land and in Pakistan per acre production of wheat is 20 to 25 maund adding that even progressive grower in Pakistan was getting around 40 to 45 maund of wheat from per acre of land.

He said that capacity building and implementation of modern methods were vital to reduce cost of production and to become competitive.



He said that if we look at world where ever the SME sector had come forward, industry had flourished in that country.

"SMEs are backbone of the country," No doubt that country's SME sector was meeting international standards and had full potential to ensure development in the country, he added. He said that collective efforts were required to make Pakistan a prosperous for coming generations.

National Productivity Organization Chief Executive Officer Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhary in his welcome address said, NPO is an organization which works for the promotion of productivity."

He said productivity was all about efficient use of resources adding that human

resource, technology and processes of production were vital areas to boost productivity and to achieve business excellence.

He further said that efforts were being made to introduce productivity based incentives. Cluster Development Initiative Project Director Tayyaba Kamal briefed about the need of the cluster development and the intervention of Punjab Small Industries Corporation.

It is pertinent to mention here that Cluster Development Initiative, Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) launched a project to improve productivity in four selected sectors i.e. auto parts, leather footwear, Ready made garments and surgical sector.

Xiaomi Pakistan announces Redmi 10A

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Xiaomi Pakistan, Saturday, announced the Redmi 10A, the latest member of the Redmi 10 series family, dedicated to bringing consumers a well-rounded user experience at an affordable price.

Redmi 10A offers a large 6.53" HD+ display to provide a better experience for watching videos as well as contents you enjoy. The 3D-curved back produces a natural feel to Redmi 10A that other entry-level smartphones can't match. The device also features a rear fingerprint sensor to make it more convenient to unlock.

Comes with a 13MP main camera for capturing and sharing your life, as well as a 2MP depth camera that helps to achieve a natural blur effect in the background when you take portraits, Redmi 10A



is comfortably capable of recording your memorable moments of daily life.

Powering up Redmi 10A is a MediaTek Helio G25 processor, with an octa-core CPU up to 2.0GHz. Equipped with a long-lasting 5,000mAh battery and 10W fast charging, Redmi 10A provides enough power to last you a full day.

The new Redmi 10A comes in 2 variants - 3GB + 64GB, and 4GB + 128GB are available at top distributor partners such as M&P, Airlink, Smartlink, PhoneLink, and CoreTech. For those looking to purchase these online, we've news for you too as these are also available on MiStore and Daraz.

Huawei: Fostering Talent Development to Strengthen Pakistan's ICT Infrastructure - II

Dr. Waqar Mehmood

At the awards ceremony, Chief Guest President Alvi said, "I am aware of the cooperative arrangement of the Huawei Academies with about 80 different universities in Pakistan to develop and groom young talent. I also appreciate companies like Huawei for training a large number of students in the field of information technology," noting that international companies wanted to create an ecosystem for harnessing talent.

MOITT Secretary Muhammad

Sohail Rajput said, "If we want to increase our exports and reduce our trade deficit, the only way is to invest in our youths because they are our biggest asset. And the most suitable avenue for investing in youth and talent is IT. Under the president's leadership, we are putting more investment in the ICT sector so that Pakistan can achieve its targets in the short-, medium-, and long-term." In the upcoming Global finals from 17-22 June 2022, Bhagchand is set to take the global stage along with his esteemed teammates, aiming to win at that level as well.

Such examples showcase that if incentivized and facilitated, the technology industry could help overcome the current account deficit of the country by boosting exports as well as addressing the issue of unemployment.

The relevance of Huawei to the current notion of Pakistani development, with special regard to the creation and country-wide implementation of Special Economic Zones, cannot be overstated. It is not simply the Chinese connection, nor the fact that Huawei is a business that has been operating in Paki-

stan before there was a gargantuan project intended to lift Pakistan's economy, that makes Huawei such a prominent figure in this rapidly progressing game — it is their demonstrated dedication to the cause of long-term projects in the furthering of Public-Private Partnerships throughout the nation.

While many major companies, many of whom are Huawei's global competitors, have shunned attempts at partnering with a country which has a checkered history when it comes to political and economic stability, Huawei has decidedly never

backed down from the challenge. Their successes might only be tangible in the future, but their investment into the talent ecosystem, as well as the safeguarding of Pakistan's ICT future, will provide a labor cushion for the Pakistan that we cannot yet envision, but for which all this work is being done: a Pakistan that is digital, connected, and thoroughly intelligent in all respects.

The writer is a Professor and Director of Al-Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), UET Lahore.

Concluded

City Cricket Associations' two-day matches commence today

Around 1,800 cricketers to feature in bid to graduate to the next level

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Ninety-three sides will be in action across the country in the City Cricket Association Tournament 2022-23 from today (19 June) which will provide a pathway to around 1,800 cricketers to graduate to the Cricket Association tournaments that include first-class, non first-class three-day, 50-over and 20-over competitions.

The squads of 13 sides from Balochistan and 19 sides of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also announced and available here. The remaining squads from four Cricket Associations will be unveiled early next week.

The CCA squads have been selected through a robust process. The performers from last year's CCA tournament, players that have featured in last year's



CA U19 events and are not eligible to feature in future U19 tournaments have been selected.

The remaining players were selected from open trials (preference to be given to performers from winter league). In Central Punjab Cricket Association, beside players' performances in the CCA tournament, the players were also selected from two-day camp of performers of community cricket.

19 CCA teams of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been divided into four pools. The matches will commence in this jurisdiction from 19 June. Balochistan comprise 13 City Cricket Associations that are divided into three Pools. They will host the matches from 20 June. Sindh consist of 17 teams which are divided into four Pools. The matches in this part of the region will begin from 21 June.

Matches in Central Punjab, Northern and Southern Punjab jurisdictions will begin after a week's delay due to pre-monsoon rain in this part of the country.

The three Cricket Associations will now hold their matches from 24 June. 19 teams from Central Punjab are split into four pools. 11 teams from Northern are divided into three pools, while 14 teams from Southern Punjab are divided

into three pools.

The winners from Central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh CCAs will be declared after group leaders progress to the semi-final with the top two teams playing the final. In contrast, Balochistan, Northern and Southern Punjab CCAs will be divided into three groups each with group leaders to progress to the triangular series stage and the side with most points to be adjudged as winner.

According to the event format, each match will be of two days with 100 overs to be bowled each day in six hours and 40 minutes of play with a one-hour break from 1200-1300. To encourage positive and result-oriented cricket, first innings will be limited to 75 overs per side and no bowler shall bowl more than 15 overs in an innings.

AAA Associates sponsors 36th Early Birds Golfers Tournament

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: AAA Associates is a proud sponsor of the 36th Early Birds Golfers Tournament 2022, held at Rawalpindi Golf Club (RGC).

The event drew players from all walks of life. The tournament allowed participants to play in different categories. The event was presided over by the Director Marketing AAA Associates Mr Usman Iqbal. Director Corporate Sales AAA Associates Syed Wajahat Ali, Brig (r) Mehmood and Brig (r) Abdul Salaam Akhtar also graced the occasion with their presence.

AAA Associates is dedicated to promoting sporting events at the grassroots level in order to optimize everyone's potential. In addition to powering and sponsoring elite level sporting events, AAA Associates is known for sponsoring numerous



athletes and sportsmen, and promotes grassroot level sports activities for a healthier society.

Chairman AAA Associates Mr. Sheikh Fawad Bashir congratulated the winners of the tournament and said, "In this day and age, the sport has become one of the most important components of any country's socio-economic development. Active participation improves community collective health and productivi-

ty, lowers medical risk, and strengthens social cohesion. More events and tournaments like these can help to develop sporting infrastructure, create jobs, and even help Pakistan's economic development."

MD AAA Associates Lt. Col (r) Shahzad Ali Kiani expressed gratitude to all tournament participants and promised to continue organising sports activities for the general public. He said, "Golf is on its way

to becoming a sport accessible to all, irrespective of skill level. We saw some amazing performances by professionals and amateurs. Pakistani golfers' participation is increasing gradually in international tournaments, as more young amateurs gather enough experience and exposure to represent the nation in the sport. We are committed to the betterment of sport in Pakistan by sponsoring a diverse range of competitions in the future."

The 36th Early Birds Golfers Tournament 2022 concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, honouring the winners of all three main categories. Col. (r) Aurangzeb won the Grass category trophy, while Abdul Shakoor won the Net Category. Shehryar Sarfaraz won first in the Grass Juniors category. Director Marketing AAA Associates Mr Usman Iqbal distributed the prizes among the winners.

Brutal England create history to go 1-0 up



AMSTELVEEN: England scored 498/4, the highest team total in the history of ODIs, before bowling Netherlands out for 266 to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

Despite losing Jason Roy early, England went hell for leather, showcasing their aggressive intent right from the very off. Phil Salt and Dawid Malan were in sizzling form, making the Dutch bowlers look hapless.

It was a memorable moment for Salt, who timed the ball brilliantly through-out, bringing up his maiden ODI century. Dawid Malan was also at his best, notching up his first ODI ton as well. Their partnership of 222 set up the platform perfectly for the devastating England middle-order to unleash carnage in the backend of the innings. Salt scored a 93-ball 122 and Malan contributed a 109-ball 125.

Are there any more in-form batters in the world currently than Jos Buttler and Liam Livingstone? The pair enjoyed a brilliant run in the recently-concluded IPL and carried on from where they left off in Amstelveen. A 91-run run stand between the pair came in only 32 deliveries, as England closed in on re-writing the record books.

Buttler scored his 10th ODI ton, ending up unbeaten on 162 off only 70 deliveries. His knock constituted of 14 maximums and 7 fours. Livingstone was also in devastating touch, narrowly missing out on scoring the fastest-ever fifty in the history of ODI cricket. He remained unbeaten on 66 off only 22 deliveries, hitting 6 sixes and 6 fours.

Be it pacers or spinners, nobody was spared as the pair cleared the ropes with the utmost of ease. When it was all said and done, England had the world-record total to their name, ending their innings on 498/4.

Chasing down a target as massive as 499 was always going to be a tough ask but the Netherlands batters did put up a fair resistance. Max O'Dowd and Scott Edwards scored fighting fifties with a host of scores in the twenties from the middle-order batters. But it was never going to be enough.

Netherlands would fall way short of the target, being bowled out for 266 in 49.4 overs, with England registering a massive 232-run victory, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Moeen Ali was the pick of the bowlers, ending up with figures of 3/57.

It was the first time in England's history that they had three centuries in the same ODI. Phil Salt, Dawid Malan and Jos Buttler all notched up sizzling tons, to help set up England's massive victory. Certainly, a day for the records!

Game will remain 'sharp': Johnson

LOS ANGELES: Dustin Johnson does not expect his golfing skills to suffer from playing on the LIV circuit where the 48-player events feature no cuts and lucrative paydays for the entire field.

Former world number one Johnson, who made his debut on the Saudi-funded breakaway circuit last week, shot a three-over-par 73 in second-round US Open action on Friday which left him in contention going into the weekend of the year's third major. Johnson, who was suspended indefinitely by the PGA Tour for playing the LIV event, was asked on Friday how sharp he expected to fare at the majors given his only other competition will now be against relatively weak fields on the breakaway series.

"Just as sharp as I would playing anywhere," the twice major champion told reporters. Johnson earned a 10-year exemption to the US Open after winning it in 2016 and was cleared to play this year after the United States Golf Association (USGA) said last week it would not be fair to punish LIV golfers given entry criteria that has already been in place. While the USGA has since said LIV golfers could someday face a tougher route into future US Opens, Johnson was confident in his decision to make the move and added that he felt a sense of relief after finally agreeing to join LIV. "Obviously it was a tough decision, but I feel very confident in the decision I made," he said. "Yeah, I'm definitely happy and looking forward to obviously this weekend and the rest of the events this year." While not getting the results he enjoyed during his torrid stretch late in 2020 when over a two-month stretch he won the Masters and nearly every tournament he played, Johnson is feeling good going into the weekend.

"I had tons of really good looks for birdie, hit a lot of really good putts. Just nothing was going in," said Johnson, who opened with a two-under 68 on Thursday. "That was kind of the difference between yesterday and today."

Berrettini enters Queen's semi-finals

LONDON: Champion Matteo Berrettini booked his place in the semi-finals of the Queen's Club ATP grass-court tournament with a straight sets win over Tommy Paul on Friday as British rookie Ryan Peniston's dream run finally came to an end.

Berrettini, last year's Wimbledon runner-up, was 4-1 down in the first set but he rallied to defeat the American 6-4, 6-2. The Italian will now play Botić van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands in the last four of the Wimbledon warm-up event. Marin Čilić is also through to the last four, the first time he has got this far in a grass-court tournament, after the Croatian beat Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori 7-6 (7/2), 6-4. Čilić will play Filip Krajinović, who finally put an end to Peniston's remarkable ATP main draw debut, with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

Peniston, a lowly 180 in the rankings prior to this week, had already knocked out world number five and French Open finalist Casper Ruud on Tuesday. He looked on course to make it into the last four when he took the first set against Krajinović before the Serbian's greater experience of match play proved decisive. Nevertheless 26-year-old left-hander Peniston, who survived cancer as a baby, could console himself with a cheque for £50,000 (\$61,000) – almost double his earnings for the rest of the year – having secured a Wimbledon wild card which guarantees he will earn at least as much again.

"It's definitely a lot of money," said Peniston, who will now move up 35 places in the rankings to 145 in the world. "I was playing on the Futures Tours a couple of years ago and then the Challengers. So it's definitely going to help my career a lot. I'm just going to reinvest it in myself."

"Just being able to pay for training and travel and now I'm starting to be able to afford a coach to travel with. "The next step is being able to afford a physical trainer on the road, which I think is super important, and trying to basically improve the team and have them as much with me as possible." Peniston, from London, added: "I'm going to remember a lot from this week I think, for sure." A forehand winner which clipped the baseline gave Peniston the first set in 47 minutes on a swelteringly hot day in London, with temperatures on centre court touching 33 Celsius (91 Fahrenheit).

Krajinović, however, kept his cool sufficiently to level the match with the only break of the second set and edged ahead in the third before Peniston's overhit forehand gave the world number 48 the match. "That was really tough," said Krajinović.

Halep storms into Birmingham semi-finals

BIRMINGHAM: Former Wimbledon champion Simona Halep booked her place in the semi-finals of the WTA Birmingham grass-court event with a straight sets win over Britain's Katie Boulter.

Boulter had been in career-best form at the tournament, defeating Alison Riske in the first round of the Wimbledon warm-up before knocking out former top-10 player Caroline Garcia. But second seed Halep ultimately proved too strong in a 6-4, 6-1 victory.

The 30-year-old Romanian, however, did not have things all her own way in a tightly-contested first set. Boulter, who only returned from nearly three months out with a leg injury at Nottingham last week, kept pace with Halep for the opening eight games. The 25-year-old, to her credit, saved three break points at 4-4 only to double fault on the fourth. That proved to be the cue for Halep to pull away in what is her first grass-court event since a superb straight sets win over Serena Williams in the 2019 Wimbledon final.

"She's clearly one of the best tennis players out there," said Boulter of Halep. "So, for me to be able to stand out there and feel like I can compete and win the match – I really did feel if I brought a bit more game today, then it would have been closer and it would have been a tough match for both of us."

Liverpool reaches agreement with Bayern over Mané

DUBAI: Sadio Mané looks to be headed for Bayern Munich, ending his trophy-filled six-year spell at Liverpool in a move that would finally split up one of the most devastating forward lines in the history of English soccer.

A person familiar with the situation said on Friday that Liverpool reached an agreement with the German champion for the transfer of the 30-year-old Senegal forward in a total package worth 41 million euros (\$42.9 million).

The person spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details of the deal, which has not yet been completed.

Liverpool will receive 32 million euros (\$33.5 million) up front for Mané, with a further 6 million euros (\$6.3 million) due when he meets a specified appearance clause and an additional 3 million euros (\$3.15 million) based on individual and team achievements.

Mané just completed arguably the best season of his career, converting the clinching penalty in a shootout to win the African Cup of Nations for Senegal, helping his country qualify for the



World Cup, and starring for Liverpool in a campaign where the club nearly achieved an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies.

His last game for Liverpool was the 1-0 loss to Real Madrid in the Champions League final last month.

He has won every major honor with Liverpool — the Champions League and World Club Cup in 2019, the Premier League in 2020 and both the FA Cup and League Cup in 2022 — and looks to be seeking a fresh challenge with what is likely to be the last major move of his career.

Along with Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino, Mané was part of a front three that led Liverpool to most of those titles and had pretty much

everything — power, pace, great movement and combination play.

Firmino was marginalized last season because of injury and the performances of Diogo Jota and Luis Díaz — attackers who have joined Liverpool over the past two years — and could be the next of the established trio to leave. Firmino and Salah have one year left on their current deals.

Mané mostly played as a left winger for Liverpool after joining from Southampton in 2016 but converted to a central striker for the second half of last season following the signing of Díaz. He impressed in his new role, scoring nine goals in his last 14 games in all competitions, and could continue there at Bayern amid uncertainty over the future of striker Robert Lewandowski.

The prolific Poland striker said last month he wants to leave Bayern and has been linked with a move to Barcelona.

Liverpool have already signed a replacement for Mané in Darwin Núñez, the Uruguay international who has joined from Benfica.

PM, SCP urged to take notice of sorry affairs at ACP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Mountaineering Rapid Response Brief (NMRRB) launched on Saturday has urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Supreme Court of Pakistan and Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial to take urgent notice of the sorry affairs at Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP).

Over a decade, it has been at the mercy of nonprofessional government officials who have nothing to do with high altitude mountaineering and climbing. Fake and irrelevant membership of ACP has ousted the genuine and globally known Pakistani mountaineers.

The NMRRB has heightened that a cartel of government baboons and nonprofessional membership has brought the ACP at the verge of collapse.

The national mountaineering body is surrounded by the lack of vision and capacity, nonprofessional membership, inefficiencies, corruption, nepotism, vested interest and closed-door internal politics. Having no experience of their own of high altitude mountaineering, the two government officials have been playing havoc to the ACP on the basis of "give and take" between them.

The National Mountaineering Rapid Response Brief (NMRRB) was prepared and launched by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Saturday.

The NMRRB has asked the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Justice of Pakistan to seize the ACP offices for the scrutiny of its membership by high level committee including professional mountaineers such as Nazir Sabir, Col (Retired) Sher

Khan, Col (retired) Abdul Jabbar Bhatti. The high level committee shall also examine the ACP national activities and allegations of nepotism and favoritism. An audit of the ACP officials' international visits and the outcome shall also be on the agenda of the high level committee. A thorough professional audit of ACP accounts shall be conducted by the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) its accounts and irregularities.

The NMRRB reveals that a ceremony was hosted by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Bajwa in March this year to award cash prizes to some of the ACP blue-eyed mountaineers. This was an effort by some in-service army officers in collaboration with the Alpine Club. The ceremony is being kept as a national secret as yet. One of the ACP officials has said, "The hosts have

asked not to make the ceremony public."

Talking to Devcom-Pakistan, present Secretary of the Alpine Club Karrar Haidri said, "ACP is planning something with the army personnel. I cannot reveal until it's finalized."

Realistically analyzing the two statements of the ACP officials, the NMRRB concludes that perhaps a hijacking of the Alpine Club of Pakistan is in process. Perhaps that is why all is being kept as a national strategic asset.

The hardcore professional mountaineers have termed the move as "militarizing of the Alpine Club". No harm to have all three services chiefs as patrons, but the chief patron shall be the president of Pakistan. The professionals have asked the Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan to play their role to save the ACP as a civilian professional



body run by the genuine professional mountaineers.

The NMRRB reveals that the ACP foremost objective was to promote high altitude mountaineering in Pakistan and safeguard the rights of mountaineers and high altitude porters. Unfortunately, the ACP could not organize any international or national high altitude training or moun-

taineering expedition since its inception in 1974.

The ACP has been engaged with school children for wall-climbing, and nature walks type activities. There are hundreds of school environment clubs and organizations doing the same.

Quoting well-known mountaineer Nazir Sabir, the NMRRB

mentions that Lt General Ghulam Jilani Khan was the founding president of the ACP. Then, one could never think of going for any mountaineering or high altitude climbing expedition without NOC from the military agencies. After NOC, an army officer was deputized with the expedition.

Col (retired) Abdul Jabbar Bhatti said the ACP is under siege by the nonprofessional government officials and their blue-eyed ones for over 12 years. They have ruined everything. Only the prime minister's intervention or a committee by the CJP would save it from further decay.

Hassan Jan has said that Nepalese Sherpa's have captured the local high altitude mountaineering market that is already quite shrined. Their presence shall be restricted to save the livelihood of the local high altitude porters.