

National strategy

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



BS PTI leaders'

Ban on remarks against institutions: plea

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A petition has been filed on Tuesday in the Supreme Court against Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and other PTI leaders to restrain them from making statements against the institutions. The petition filed by the Advocate Qausain Faisal requested that Imran Khan and other PTI leaders should be restrained from making statements against state institutions and a judicial commission should be set up to investigate the conspiratorial statements of PTI leaders. PTI leaders are blaming the judiciary, army and other institutions including the Election Commission and these statements could damage the country's sovereignty, the plea further stated.

l 😂 Turn Around Pakistan' Conference

Our ultimate goal is economic self-reliance: PM

Bilawal, ANP delegation discuss political situation

😂 Senior Correspondent

Pakistan required tactical solu- offer enough opportunities for tary Fund (IMF) and pledged victory in the recently held first tions to address economic problems and stressed rising above politics to sort out the financial issues confronting the country. Addressing the 'Turn Around Pakistan' conference, he said economic self-reliance was the key to achieving the goals of development and prosperity. The event organized by Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives gathered stakeholders from all walks of life with an objective to finding solutions to the country's current

were compounded by the exist- national economy. He stressed ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister ing commodity super-cycle and the need for judicious utiliza- ing with PM Shehbaz Sharif. Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said geo-political situation. He said tion of the \$2 billion tranche The prime minister congratuthe current economic scenario of as the economic growth did not from the International Mone- lated Bilawal over People's Party's

and internal challenges which was vital to strengthen the International Monetary Fund

(IMF), in his one on one meetphase of local government elections in Sindh. Bilawal Bhutto had directly reached to the PM House after his arrival in Islamabad.

Dar to replace Miftah as finance minister

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Senator Ishaq Dar will likely return to Pakistan in the third week of July. The sources claimed that Dar would likely replace Miftah Ismail as finance minister as Ismail is not a member of parliament, his appointment has been undertaken as per Section nine of Article 91 of the Constitution, which pertains to making any non-elected person a member of the cabinet.

Under the law, if a person not a member of any of the two houses of the parliament is appointed as a minister, he or she has to be elected to the National Assembly within a six months' time. Earlier this year, Dar was re-instated to the Senate by the Elec-(ECP). The PML-N stalwart protective bail.

is eligible to assume responsibilities as finance minister as he is elected to the National Assembly

Dar will face his court cases and assume his responsibilities as Senator. He will decide on joining the federal cabinet after winning the cases. The PML-N leader, who has served as federal minister for finance four times between 1998 and 2017, has been living in a self-imposed exile in the United Kingdom since November 2017.

There are various cases against the senior PML-N leader, in which he is specifically accused of not submitting details of his assets for 22 years. An accountability court declared him proclaimed offender in assets beyond means case in December 2017. Sources privy to the development said that the lawyers of tion Commission of Pakistan Ishaq Dar will soon file for his

CAD hits \$1.4b in May: SBP

A decline in remittances, exports reasons behind deficit

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) widened stan (SBP) on Tuesday, "The SBP wrote.

Pakistanis despite a reduction in overall imports. "Excluding in-kind imports that are fully financed and thus do not to \$1.4 billion in May 2022, undermine the sustainability according to data released of the current account deficit, by the State Bank of Paki- it was modest at \$1 billion," the

socio-economic issues. The prime minister said Pakistan was facing many external

There is no shortage of anything in Pakistan: PM

measures could act as a catalyst for speeding up the growth. He said financial self-reliance was the top most priority of the coalition government. He said focusing on the areas of agriculture, agro-based industry and exports

national progress, short-term that every single penny would be spent prudently.

A delegation of Awami National Party (ANP) led by Aimal Wali Khan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Tuesday. During the meeting, views were exchanged about the country's political situation. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesdav called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the issues of the ruling coalition partners. According to sources, Bilawal Bhutto also discussed the funds received from China and the matters from the phrase "beggars can't be

"We have all accepted this challenge and will InshaAllah fulfil this responsibility," he said. PM Shehbaz said that although he may receive opposition in once again using the word that created much political drama in recent weeks, he will ask whether it is the "choosers" that are now going to receive \$2 billion or "the other word", referring to beggars pertaining to talks with the choosers".

current account deficit (CAD) rose to \$1.4bn in May. While overall imports fell compared to April, a decline in remittances and exports on account of Eid holidays contributed to this rise," the statement read.

"Moreover, excluding in kind imports that are fully financed and thus do not undermine sustainability of the CAD, the deficit was more modest at \$1bn," it added.

Taking to its official Twitter account, the bank noted that the change has taken place largely due to a decline in remittances sent by overseas

Meanwhile, cumulatively, during the eleven-month period of the ongoing fiscal year (July-May of FY22), the current account deficit stood at \$15.2 billion compared to a deficit of only \$1.183 billion during the same period of the previous fiscal year (FY21), showed SBP data. With current account balance being an important indicator of Pakistan's economy, a widening deficit leads to an outflow of US dollars, which puts pressure on the currency that has continued to struggle against the greenback.

Pak committed to religious harmony: COAS

British Sikh delegation calls on Army Chief

country.



Staff Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has unwavering commitment asserted that Pakistan was committed to promoting and harmony," the Army religious harmony and freedom, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on appreciated the efforts of Tuesday. He was talking to a delegation of 12-member British Sikh soldiers' headed by Deputy Commander Field Army UK, Major General on him at the General Headquarters here.

The Army Chief said that witnessed a flag-lowering Pakistan respects all religions and also recognizes the need for the promo-

tion of religious tourism um and Badshahi Mosque.

in the country. "Kartar- The British Sikh soldiers also visited several relipur corridor is a practical manifestation of Pakistan's gious sites of the country, including Darbar Hazrat towards religious freedom Mian Mir, Haveli Naunihal Singh, Gurdwara Janamast-Chief added. Speaking on han Guru Ram Das, Samathe occasion, the delegation di Ranjeet Singh, Gudwara Dera Sahib, Kartarpur Pakistan's armed forces in Corridor, Nankana Sahib bringing peace and normaland Dera Panja Sahib. cy to tribal districts of the The delegation also visited Orakzai District and

During their stay in witnessed Samana Fort, Celia J Harvey, who called Pakistan, the British Sikh Lockhart Fort and Saragarsoldiers visited Lahore, hi Monument. This was the where the dignitaries place where 21 Sikh soldiers laid their lives in 1897 as ceremony at the Wagha part of British expedition border. They visited Lahore and has much historical Fort, Allama Iqbal Mausolesignificance for Sikhs.

Rupee strikes back against US dollar

KARACHI: The rupee snapped its losing streak against the US dollar, gaining Rs1.07 in the interbank market as Pakistan receives the draft Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) from the International Monetary Fund for the combined 7th and 8th reviews. According to details, the dollar closed Rs206.87, against Monday's close of Rs207.94. In open market, local currency also posted gains and was being traded around Rs207 against the greenback.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency gained Rs1.07, or 0.52%, to close at Rs206.87 against the US dollar in the interbank market. Since the beginning of this fiscal year (July 1, 2021) to date, the rupee has collectively dropped by a massive 31.31% (or Rs49.33) compared to the previous fiscal year's close at Rs157.54. The rupee has maintained a downward trend for the last 13 months. It has lost 35.85% (or Rs54.6) to date. compared to the record high of Rs152.27 recorded in May 2021.

😂 Document received Pakistan could get \$2 billion from IMF: Miftah

Says IMF combines 7th, 8th tranches for Pakistan through MEFP

Benior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday received memorandum of economic and financial policies (MEFP) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for combined 7th and 8th reviews for

Extended Fund Facility (EFF), Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said. He said that the government had received Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policy (MEFP) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which would combine the seventh and eighth tranches.

The government would receive from the IMF \$ 900 million as the seventh tranche and \$1 billion as the eighth tranche, the Minister said this while addressing the conference titled "Turnaround Pakistan" here. The Minister said that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shabaz Sharif's dream was to take Pakistan towards self reliance, sustainable and inclusive growth. "This goal is not difficult.

The government has examples of China, Japan and South Korea, which have grown by 10% annually.

He said: "We intend to provide relief to 6 million people, of which 4 million are already registered. The Prime Minister has provided a scheme



for cheap petrol and food which will benefit 6 million people," he said adding that the government had made difficult decisions to strengthen Pakistan's economy. "When we left the government, country's debt servicing stood at Rs 1,500 billion per year, which currently stands at Rs 4,000 billion and now our debt has doubled. Now Pakistan can't afford any more deficits," he said while explaining anomalies involving tax to GDP ratio which is one of the lowest in the world.

He said that the government made petrol more expensive and the poor people understood the situation and sided with us. Similarly, "we imposed tax on rich people and also imposed super tax on 10 percent of industries. The government is also bringing shopkeepers all over Pakistan into the tax net," the Minister said adding that economic growth in Pakistan required strong fiscal discipline and economic management. He said that our savings and investment ratio was very low which needed more work. The government was budgeting the deficit at the moment and the current deficit was forcing us to take new loans.

He further said that the government was giving subsidies of Rs. 700 billion this year. He said that in order to balance our annual budget, we have to move towards export led growth so that the country's economy can achieve sustainable growth. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that under the direction of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the government had launched a project which would provide special package to 25 poor districts of Pakistan in coming 5 years to resolve the issue of these areas.



The Spokesman

Official narrative

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb is addressing a news conference flanked by the Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qaamr Zaman Kaira.



S Medical grounds

New visa regime for Afghan citizens approved: Marriyum

Federal cabinet reviews overall political, economic situation

casting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said the federal cabinet had approved a new visa regime for the Afghan citizens including traders and those who sought to visit the country on medical grounds. The visa policy for Afghans was reviewed by the Interior Ministry (Afghan Inter-ministerial cell) during an apex committee meeting which also included representatives of the Foreign Office, NADRA and Board of Investment, Marriyum informed while addressing a news conference, following the federal cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Flanked by the Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qaamr Zaman Kaira, she said under the reviewed policy, the Pakistan missions abroad would process the visa applications of Afghans on the basis of existing passport and nationality instead of their country of origin. In order to further promote bilateral trade with Afghanistan, she said the cabinet had okaved the inclusion of a sub-category in the work

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broad-visa category for drivers, transporters and helpers. The approval for introducing the sub-category in the online visa system was also given during the meeting.

The information minister further apprised that a multi-entry visa for six months would be issued within 48 hours, while the interior ministry had been authorized to extend the period to one year.

She said the documents required for obtaining the visa would include the applicant's picture, passport, and transport company registration and employment letters, while the entry visa page would need to be submitted for the visa extension. Marriyum said the Afghans who sought visas in driver, transporter and helper categories were exempted from obtaining the BOI's letter of recommendation and registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

The said initiative, according to the minister was aimed at ensuring the ease of doing business which would eventually boost the trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, she added. She said the National

Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) had been directed to bring changes in the online system after approval of the policy. A committee had been set up to ensure the continuity of ease of doing business for traders, she added. The minister said the cabinet approved relaxing the visa policy for those coming from Afghanistan on medical grounds. Meanwhile, the cabinet had also ratified decisions taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) during its meeting held on June 22. The technical supplementary grants approved by the ECC included Rs 125,819,029 for various requirements of 6 Aviation Squadron, Cabinet Division (Customs Duties and Payment of Clearing Agent), Rs 40 Million for the media publicity campaign by the NCOC, Rs 1,224.41 million for payment admissible to the families of deceased / shaheed families under Prime Minister's Assistance Package, Rs. 39.363 million for purchase of surveillance cameras with accessories for maintaining law & order situation during upcoming protest / sit-in by a political party and others

Pervaiz our candidate for CM Punjab slot: Ch Shujaat

Denies supporting Hamza for Chief Minister's office

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League- Pervaiz Elahi. Chaudhry Shujaat Quaid (PML-Q) Chief Chaudhry Hussain clarified that he has never Shujaat Hussain on Tuesday dismissed the claims made by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of his support for Hamza Shahbaz for Chief Minister's election in the Punjab Assembly. In a statement, tions made by his younger brother the PML-Q Chief while rejecting the rumors said that, "I want to make it clear that Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi is our candidate for the Chief Minister's post and our members will vote for him."

Chaudhry Shujaat further termed the false rumors as an attempt to mislead the PML-Q assembly members. He added that PML-Q members of Punjab Assembly have gations then they were repugnant. I always adhered to party discipline have not raised my kids like this, my and they will support Chaudhry children are quiet because I told them.

Rs300b extra

Photo: PID

FBR beats tax collection target FY 22

B Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) collected a tax of Rs 6 trillion in the fiscal year 2021-22, exceeding the target of Rs5.8 trillion. According to details, a total of Rs 6 trillion in tax was collected in the fiscal year 2021-22, an FBR spokesperson said. Rs2.2 trillion was collected in income tax, while an amount of Rs2.7 trillion was collected as sales tax in 2021-22. FBR spokesperson told that a total of Rs1, 007 billion were collected in customs duty in 2021-22; while the FBR issued an amount of Rs 305 billion in refunds.

Former spokesperson of the finance ministry Muzammil Aslam said that the FBR data is a 'shut up call' to all the people who were claiming that the tax collections for the fiscal year 2021-22 would not be met. The PTI leader took to Twitter and said that income tax increased by 31%, while an increase of 28% was witnessed in sales tax. If the PTI has successfully implemented the Petroleum sales tax, the figure had gone up to Rs6.5 trillion.

misrepresented and he is always clear in his statements."Don't spread such baseless rumors," he said.

Earlier on June 25, the PML-Q President rejected the allega-Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain against him and his sons, terming them 'repugnant'. Taking to Twitter, the PML-Q president pointed out that his younger brother talking to "some people" in Gujrat, had made allegations against his sons that they had taken dollars from Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairperson Asif Ali Zardari. "If he had made such alle-

S Cases

Courts extend interim bails of PTI leaders

LAHORE/ ISLAMABAD: Anti-terrorism Court heard the case of vandalism by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in their long march to Islamabad. PTI leaders have been granted interim bail till July 19 by the court on Tuesday. The anti-terrorism court judge Abhar Gull approved the pre-arrest bails of PTI leaders. Earlier, the ATC in Lahore had issued non-bailable arrest warrants for the former ruling party's leaders at the request of Shahdara police station under charges of damaging public property, torturing police officials, and creating chaos during the party's long march to Islamabad on May 25.

Outside the court, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid said that PTI will contest in the by-poll elections in Punjab with zeal while she also said that the party will not let anyone do rigging in the elections. While PTI leader Hammad Azhar said that Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz has lost majority in the Punjab Assembly. Other PTI leader Mian Mahmood Ur Rasheed said that PTI will win the by-polls of Punjab with prominent lead.

S No isolation

Our foreign policy moving in right direction: Khar

Says Pakistan playing much bigger role on the int'l front

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar on Tuesday made it clear that Pakistan was in no isolation as its foreign policy moved in the right direction with all diplomatic missions working complicatedly on all fronts. Winding up the debate on Demands for Grants for the unfriendly country, she said, want-Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the next ed to block Pakistan and succeeded fiscal year and responding to criticism by Dr Ramesh Kumar in the National China's intention". Assembly, she said Pakistan was playing much bigger role on the international front than its size in term of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

mats, Pakistani statesmen and Paki-

said there was absolutely no denying of the fact that China was the most effective strategic partner of Pakistan. "China is part of BRICS which means Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, where all the member countries have to work to cooperate each other", she added. If a certain in doing so, then "how can we doubt

Chinese government's statement also came the other day, which said that China wanted Pakistan to be part of this and it also recognized Pakistan's "We are very happy to state that role in global development. She said the over the years, Pakistani diplo- foreign policy of a country was useful if it severed in the interests of the people stani politicians have contributed of that country. We are making it sure towards [effectiveness of] a policy that the government works for Pakiin the multilateral institutions", she stan not for any individual and party,

added. With respect to BRICS, she she added.

She said in BRICS "we don't have a role but we still have core roles in many other international forums such as heart of Asia". With respect to the case of Afia Siddiqui, the foreign affairs' state minister said as far as fighting her case was concerned, Pakistan was doing it at every level and that the country was consistent in its policy across the governments to fight in favor of the

But obviously, she said every country had its own laws, rules and regulations besides its sovereign right. "At present, she has the counselor access and her requirements are also being fulfilled", she said adding Afia's case was also being fought at every diplomatic level. Speaking about the case of detained Kashmiri Leader Yaseen Malik, she said Pakistan was raising voice and working on it with effective diplomacy.

Court may hold CM Punjab election again

LHC vows to announce verdict without any pressure

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday granted more time to Advocate General of Punjab and adjourned the hearing till Wednesday on plea against Hamza Shahbaz s election as Punjab Chief Minister. During the hearing, Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan remarked that the court will announce its verdict without any pressure and granted one day to AGP to brief Chief Minister of Punjab and tell the court how soon Punjab Assembly session can be summoned.

The court asked how a political crisis would be avoided if matters are taken back to the Punjab Assembly session on April 16 and polls are held again. In this case, the same presiding officer will hold the polls who was on duty during the April 16 polling," the court said. Meanwhile, PTI s counsel maintained that the party has also challenged the election held with Depu-However, the court remarked that the

order of the LHC is available and it has PTI's lawyer objected that the changes not been challenged.

considering the polls for the Punjab chief minister's slot again, the court remarked on Tuesday while hearing the case challenging Hamza Shahbaz's election as the Punjab CM. An LHC bench, headed by LHC Chief Justice Ameer Bhatti, resumed hearing on separate pleas — filed by PTI and PML-Q – against Hamza's election as CM. During the hearing, the Punjab advocate-general sought a day's time to brief Punjab CM Hamza Shahbaz about the situation. Meanwhile, PTI's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar maintained that Hamza will no longer be the chief minister if the votes of 25 PTI dissidents are not counted.

"New elections should be staged after removing Hamza from his post," Barrister Zafar stressed, seeking at least 10 days time to hold polls again. At this, the court remarked that the election ty Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari. of the Punjab chief minister should be the order of the LHC is available and held under the voter list as of April 16.

made so far cannot be reversed. Howev-The Lahore High Court (LHC) is er, the court remarked that it will give legal cover on this matter. At this, PTI's lawyer sought the inclusion of the five voters on the reserved seats as decided by the LHC in Monday's order. "How could these voters be included when they weren't there on April 16?" Justice Tariq Saleem responded.

Earlier, the court said it wants to wrap up the case today. While hearing the arguments from PTI's counsel, the court asked how a political crisis would be avoided if matters are taken back to the Punjab Assembly session on April 16 and polls are held again. "In this case, the same presiding officer will hold the polls who was on duty during the April 16 polling," the court said. Meanwhile, PTI's counsel maintained that the party has also challenged the election held with Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari.

However, the court remarked that it cannot be challenged.

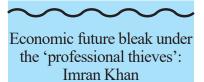
Govt preparing to rig Punjab by-polls: Imran Khan

Holds ruling coalition responsible for economic turmoil

ISLAMABAD:; Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday alleged that preparations being made to rig by-elections in Punjab. In his televised address on Tuesday, Imran Khan said that the incumbent government came into power through conspiracy. They came to power to reduce inflation but the inflation is increasing for the past two months, while the stock market has crashed and exchange rate of dollar has hit record high.

The former PM said that the International Monetary Fund has also appreciated PTI government's performance. The PTI chairman further said that the nation is staging protest today and the government should resolve issues of the general public instead of baton charging them. "There was no load shedding during the tenure of PTI government," Imran Khans said and asked what has happened in two months that the power outages in the country has increased. "The nation is paying capacity payments despite the electricity not being generated in the power plants," he added.

The former premier went on to say that the future of the country's economy under "experienced thieves" was going to be dark. The by-elections in Punjab will





take place on July 17 for 20 provincial constituencies after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) unseated 25 PTI MPAs for voting against party lines. The former prime minister said that Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz will "lose his power in Punjab soon" as he was "illegally ruling the province".



Talking about the increase in electricity load shedding across the country, Khan claimed that there were no such issues when he was in power. "The PML-N signed the agreements on power project, yet our party did not increase the prices," the ex-PM highlighted. "The PML-N government had installed power plants on imported fuels, however, no elec-

tricity is being generated and they are paying money for the capacity charges," said Khan.

He urged people to come out on the streets to protest against inflation and the coalition government.

Last week, Khan announced that he will hold a public gathering next week at Islamabad's Parade Ground. He said that further harm

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he is gathering people from Islamabad and Rawalpindi to join him. He said that the economic future of Pakistan is bleak under the rule of the current government. While talking in a party meeting, former prime minister said that the group of thieves has come unprepared and tried to cover up their wrongdoings.

He said when PTI came into power; the country was on verge of bankruptcy. While he added that despite the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) pressure and affects of COVID-19, PTI did not let the inflation affect common people. Attacking the current government, he said that after 9 weeks the "imported puppets" have taken revenge from people in form of inflation. Imran said that he had warned that the PTI government strengthened the economy after hard work and political crisis could have damaged it. He said that transparent elections are the need of the hour to protect Pakistan from

JCP defers judges' appointment in SHC

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Tuesday failed to reach consensus on the appointment of seven judges in the Sindh High Court (SHC). The meeting of Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) was chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial has ended. Sources privy to the development said the JCP could not reach any conclusion on the issue of appointment of judges in Sindh High Court (SHC) during the five-hour-long meeting, due to which the issue of appointment of judges has been postponed.



B Uniform Development Allocation of equal funds govt's top priority, says PM AJK

The PM directed that all the ministers and MLAs to fully participate in the budget session

😂 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas has said that within the resources available in the budget allocation of equal and fair distribution of funds was the government's top priority to ensure uniform development in the region.

The AJK prime minister said this while speaking at a consultation meeting with ministers and members of the legislative assembly at PM secretariat on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion the PM assured all the ministers and members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) that within the resources available in the budget funds would be budget session and play their constitu-



ination in the allocation of funds won't be tolerated.

The Prime Minister directed that all the ministers and MLAs to fully participate in the budget session and play their positive role in the House in accordance with the democratic norms and traditions. He said that the opposition lawmakers should also attend the allocated equally. He said that discrim- tional role effectively. "The people of friendly budget.

Azad Kashmir had given a mandate to the members of the Assembly to sit inside the House and defend their rights", the PM said.

Underlining the opposition's role in parliamentary democracy, the PM said, "Opposition and government are essential wheels of democracy". He said, "The government not only holds the opposition in high esteem but also respects their mandate". He said that opposition has been given appropriate rights in development and non-development funds. The Prime Minister, while interacting with the Ministers and Members of the Assembly, said that the despite difficult circumstances the government presented a people

He said that efforts have been made to move the region towards self-reliance within its own resources. Regarding the non-development budget, the PM said that the revenue target has been increased to meet the budget expenditure. He said that the development budget provided by the federal government has been increased by Rs 2 billion.

While reiterating his government's commitment to achieve the revenue targets set for the next financial year, the PM said, "The PTI government will not only achieve the target of local revenue during the next financial year but will also succeed in solving the basic problems of the people through the completion of development projects".

Protest

KARACHI: Activists of plastic bags manufacturing and dealer Association hold a protest in favour of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.



No reduction or cut in AJK development budget: Ahsan Iqbal

Rain likely in

CM Hamza Shahbaz Sharif seeks report from IGP

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif has sought a report from Inspector General of Police aboutrape-cum-murder of a child in Mandi Bahauddin.

The chief minister ordered that strict action be taken against the impenitent accused. The hardened criminals deserve severe punishment; he emphasised and extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family while assuring the provision of justice to them. Agencies

Memon says 100 more buses arrived at Karachi Port

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon who also holds the portfolio of Transport and Mass Transit said that 100 more buses of Sindh People's Intra District Bus Service from China reached Karachi port on Tuesday.

He said that a total of 240 modern buses of People's Bus Service have reached Karachi and red buses will be seen running on Route-2 on July 1- a 32.9 kilometre long route from Nangan Chowrangi to Landhi road in Korangi district

"Buses will run on all seven routes in Karachi within two months," he claimed adding that the Orange Line of BRT will also be launched for the citizens of Orangi soon after the launch of the People's Bus Service.

Sharjeel said that Pakistan Peoples Party was materialising the promises made to Karachiites and determined to bring thousands of buses in a year or two to address problems of public transport in the metropolis.

He further informed that Sindh government wanted to set up a bus manufacturing plant in Karachi and progress has been made in discussion with a Chinese and a Turkish company in the regard. Agencies

IUB is emerging university globally: VC Athar Mahboob



😂 Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has said that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is an emerging university globally where thousands of students are improving their skills in the most important disciplines of modern times

The Vice Chancellor expressed these views during a meeting with Air Marshal Muhammad Mughees Afzal, Chairman Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra.

Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that for the practical training of teachers and students of the Aviation Sciences department established in the university, links are being developed with great institutions like Paki-stan Aeronautical Complex so that the technical skills of the students would be enhanced.

Welcoming the Vice Chancellor, Air Marshal Muhammad Mughees Afzal appreciated the establishment of the Department of Aviation Sciences and Management in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and assured full cooperation from his institution. It is worth mentioning that Islamia University Bahawalpur started the Department of Aviation Sciences and BS Aviation Management and BS Aircraft Maintenance programs have been launched. The launch of degree programs by Islamia University Bahawalpur in the aviation sector is being hailed as an important step by the public and private sectors. This development will give a new direction and development to the

腾 🛛 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that despite all the financial difficulties the Federal government would make no reduction in the development budget of Azad Kashmir.

"We will provide full share of the development budget and will also try not to impose cuts on the region's non-development budget", the federal minister said this during his meeting with the AJK president Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal assured the president that the central government would contincompletion of the ongoing development projects in Azad Kashmir besides supporting new projects.



ue to provide funds to ensure timely invitation, Ahsan Iqbal said that he dire need that the center should pay would soon pay a detailed visit to Azad Kashmir.

Earlier, President Barrister Sultan On the occasion, the AJK president Mehmood Chaudhry while briefing invited the Federal Minister for Plan- Federal Minister for Planning and ning and Development Ahsan Iqbal Development about the AJK's finanto visit Azad Kashmir. Accepting the cial difficulties said that there was a

special attention towards Azad Kashmir so that ongoing development projects could be completed in time and new projects could be initiated so that the process of construction and development in the region continued unabated.

most parts of KP from today

PESHAWAR: Regional Met Office, Peshawar has predicted moderate to heavy rainfall with windstorm/thunderstorm in most of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from tomorrow (Wednesday), said a dispatch of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) here on Tuesday. It informed that moist monsoon

winds from the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are likely to enter the region from 29th June, 2022 and may cause moderate to heavy rainfall during the first week of July, 2022 with occasional gaps.

Under the influence of this weather system moderate to heavy rainfall with windstorm/thunderstorm is very likely in Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Kohistan, Swat, Buner, Shangla, Battagram, Swabi, Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, and Kohat.

Strong surface winds/dust storms are expected over southern districts (Bannu), Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. APP

SECP seeks application from audit firms

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has initiated the process of constituting the panel of audit firms to conduct statutory audits of certain entities registered or licensed with SECP.

The SECP, under its Act and administered legislation, is required to maintain and notify a panel of auditors. Audit firms, having satisfactory rating from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), under its Quality Control Review (QCR) program can apply for placement on the panel. Interested firms may submit applications on the prescribed form, along with an affidavit to the effect that all information provided in the form is accurate, complete and up-to-date.

aviation sector in South Punjab

Efforts for breast cancer awareness have started to yield results: Samina Alvi

KARACHI: First Lady Samina Arif Alvi on Tuesday said she was working on breast cancer awareness for the last three years which had started to yield results.

Addressing a session on breast cancer awareness, she said now hospitals, doctors and healthcare professionals were sharing that the people had started to take the breast cancer seriously and was being reported in large numbers. Samina Arif Alvi said that it was due to the awareness raised during the last three years. The breast cancer was a serious issue as the disease was killing 98% of patients.

'The major reason was unawareness," she held. The first lady said that "differently abled" were also being imparted skills training to incorporate them in the mainstream of the society.

She stressed upon collective efforts for creating awareness regarding breast cancer and its early detection which could help to overcome the mortality rate. Agencies

OICCI, ICBC Pakistan successfully held Webinar on RMB

😂 Staff Reporter

KARACHI: To facilitate local markets understanding and utilization of RMB, and further in the light of some interest in a new circular by PBC (People's Bank of China), effective from March 1, 2022, to allow Chinese Commercial banks in China directly lend RMB to overseas entities, ICBC Pakistan and OICCI (Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry) had jointly held webinar on the subject RMB: Development, Infrastructure and Products. Senior management from OICCI members attended this important event.

M Abdul Aleem, CE/ Secretary General OICCI, appreciated the ICBC engagement with leading investors on this important matter which is going to be useful for investors understanding about the RMB development and prospective, opportunity for infrastructure building and new RMB products in Pakistan. ICBC, the largest commercial bank in the world, is providing financial servic-

es in Pakistan for over 10 years. In the light of new developments, the webinar provided OICCI members an opportunity to learn about new opportunity in financing.

Chen Yuncheng, the CEO of ICBC Karachi Branch, speaking on the event, highlighted the efforts made by ICBC Pakistan to create awareness and understanding of RMB among business community in Pakistan and emphasized the necessity of cross-border RMB business promotion and benefits to use RMB as one of the currencies for trade and investment. Speakers for the session from ICBC Pakistan specifically talked about RMB development and perspective, RMB infrastructure building in Pakistan, and RMB business and products in Pakistan. The participants appreciated that increasing use of RMB products will facilitate trade and investment with Chinese counter parties as it is relatively stable in value, convenient in clearing and low in cost. RMB usage can also decrease the exchange rate risk among investment and trade activities.

NPO, NED University organize poster, debate competition

😂 Staff Reporter

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

Chancellor, NED University, remarked students and faculty have a new avenue to think about, and set forth new goals



appreciated NPO for organizing debate and techniques of improving produccompetition on such an important issue which potentially can steer the socio-economic development in Pakistan. Mr. Musa Hassan, DGM NPO informed the audience that produc-Dr. Sarosh Hashmat Lodi, Vice tivity is linked with every sector of economy, be it industry, agriculture, in the opening ceremony that the education or technology. Improving sustainable productivity is a key to overcome Pakistan's economic challenges to become more productive in their and NPO is putting its best efforts to professional and academic settings. He disseminate the information on tools

tivity in Pakistan. Poster and Debate competitions, productivity walks, seminars and awareness sessions are being conducted all across the country to bring attention to and create awareness among general public, academia and industrial workforce on this issue. He appreciated the NED University for providing a platform to the students to discuss various aspects of importance of productivity for globally competitive Pakistan.

Islamabad 23º – 38º Clear

SERVICES

Namaz T	imings
Fajr	3:16 am
Zohr	
Asr	5:11 pm
Maghrib	
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EMERG	
Rescue (Police)	15

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HOSPITALS

CMH	
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Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-0
Shifa International .	

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-4
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Met Office	9250360-
RDA	555586
ТМА	577088
Cantonment Board	9270151-
Islamabad Metropo	litan
Corporation	

Rawal Town 5773343
Potohar Town 9209224
Corporation 9209224

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 ...0331-5022125 Rawalpindi.

Darul Sehat Hospital sends employees for Hajj

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Darul Sehat Hospital, owned and operated by Darul Shifa International (Pvt) Ltd. sends six of its hospital employ ees for the holy pilgrimage of Hajj this year. The recipients were selected via a lucky draw that included all hospital employees and presided under Darul Sehat Hospital, Chairman, Amir Chishti. In line with its motto to serve humanity and to play its role as responsible corporate citizen, Darul Sehat Hospital is bearing the expense of the pilgrim's visa, air tickets and accommodation during their pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. The pilgrims include a lab assistant manager, computer operators, guard and ICU technicians at the hospital. Darual Sehat Hospital is a 250 bed tertiary care Hospital located in the midst of the densely populated area of Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Karachi. With its well-equipped departments supported by experienced and skilled human resources, the Hospital provides quality healthcare services through its integrated medical units.

Japan provides Grant-Aid to Pakistan for HR **Development Scholarship**

JDS Programme is designed to support social and economic development of the country

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan, Tuesday, announced grant aid worth 313 million Japanese Yen (around 2.4 million USD) for the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

ISHII Kensuke, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs, have signed the Exchange of Notes (E/N) on this program. The Grant Agreement (G/A) for the aforementioned program was also signed between Adil Akbar Khan, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs and KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan Office.

JDS is designed to support social and economic development of the country by providing government officials to obtain Master's or Doctoral degree in Japan in order to strengthen the administrative capacity of officials. The participants of JDS program who are involved in formulation and implementation of policies are expected to learn in partner universities in Japan and acquire knowledge of their specialties as well as the know-hows of



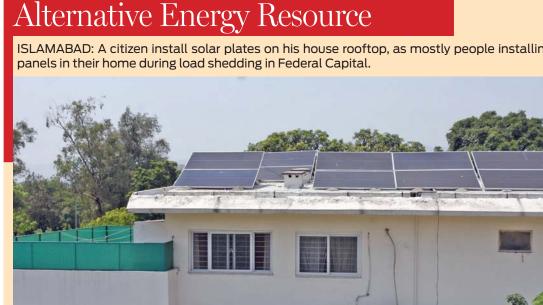
ISLAMABAD: ISHII Kensuke, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to Pakistan and Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary of Ministry of Economic Affairs, have signed the Exchange of Notes (E/N) on this program here on Tuesday.

As JDS in Pakistan started from 2018 cal Cooperation Program will build broadand has four batches in four consecutive years, the first phase concluded this year. This occasion celebrates the signing of the very first batch of the second phase of this program. For this batch, the maximum number of the slots for JDS participants in Pakistan is 17 seats for the Master's degree and one seat for the Doctoral degree.

KINOSHITA while speaking at the event said "It is worth stating that Japan and Pakistan are celebrating 70 years of anniversary this year. We hope that JDS fellows as well as those 7,000 JICA trainhow Japan became a country as it is today. ing participants supported under Techni-

er human networks that will benefit both Pakistan and Japan in the long run."

ISHII highlighted that "JDS scholarship is expected to contribute to strengthening the administrative capacities of government of Pakistan by providing the talented government officials with the opportunity to obtain the Master and Doctor of Philosophy degree, so that they can effectively lead the social and economic development of Pakistan. I hope this project would further contribute to strengthening the friendship between the two countries.



Health Corner *Light During Sleep in Older Adults: Disease Risk*

ISLAMABAD: In a sample of older men and women ages 63 to 84, those who were exposed to any amount of light while sleeping at night were significantly more likely to be obese, and have high blood pressure and diabetes compared to adults who were not exposed to any light during the night, reports a new Northwestern Medicine study.

Light exposure was measured with a wrist-worn device and tracked over seven days.

This is a real world (not experimental) study demonstrating the prevalence of any light exposure at night being linked to a higher obesity, high blood pressure (known as hypertension) and diabetes among older adults. It will be published June 22 in the journal SLEEP.

'Whether it be from one's smartphone, leaving a TV on overnight or light pollution in a big city, we live among an abundant number amount of artificial sources of light that are available 24 hours of a day," said study corresponding author Dr. Minjee Kim, assistant professor of neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

and a Northwestern Medicine physician. "Older adults already are at higher risk for diabetes and cardiovascular disease, so we wanted to see if there was a difference in frequencies of these diseases related to light exposure at night."

The Spokesman



Study investigators were surprised to find that less than half of the 552 study participants

consistently had a five-hour period of complete darkness per day. The rest of participants were exposed to some light even during their darkest five-hour periods of the day, which were usually in the middle of their sleep at night.

Because this was a cross-sectional study, investigators don't know if obesity, diabetes and hypertension cause people to sleep with a light on, or if the light contributed to the development of these conditions. Individuals with these conditions may be more likely to use the bathroom in the middle of the night (with the light on) or may have another reason to keep the light on. Someone with foot numbness because of diabetes may want to keep a night light on to reduce the risk of falls.

"It's important for people to avoid or minimize the amount of light exposure during sleep," said senior study co-author Dr. Phyllis Zee, chief of sleep medicine at Feinberg and a Northwestern Medicine physician.

Zee and colleagues are considering an intervention study to test whether a restoration of the natural light-dark cycle improves health outcomes such as cognition

Zee offered tips to reduce light during sleep:

Don't turn lights on. If you need to have a light on (which older adults may want for safety), make it a dim light that is closer to the floor.

Color is important. Amber or a red/orange light is less stimulating for the brain. Don't use white or blue light and keep it far away from the sleeping person.

Blackout shades or eye masks are good if you can't control the outdoor light. Move your bed so the outdoor light isn't shining on your face. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



ISLAMABAD: A citizen install solar plates on his house rooftop, as mostly people installing solar

😂 Staff Reporter ISLAMABAD: Health experts have shown concerns over the deceptively dangerous marketing tactics of tobacco industry to attract the youth. In a press release shared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), the experts warned that a global "talent hunt" competition organ-

> ized by the biggest tobacco company in the world will further spread death and disease. Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) stated that tobacco companies can't be considered same as other multinational corporations as their primary goal is to make



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashi

Pakistani youth is fighting battle for health against tobacco industry

profit from deadly tobacco products. These SPARC, stated that the devastating harm to products cause 8 million deaths around the world and 170,000 deaths in Pakistan each vear

Malik Imran shared that taking advantage of weak tobacco control policies, these companies organize campaigns which are merely publicity stunts meant to bolster their public image, disguise their deadly profit-motive, and recruit young people to help spread death and disease. The vast proportion of damage caused by tobacco occurs in low and middle-income countries like Pakistan who are being targeted in this

societies and families created by tobacco-related death and disease far outweighs any prize money tobacco companies can provide. Due to cheap and easy affordability, around 1,200 Pakistani children between the ages of 6-15 years start smoking every day. He shared that during "Battle for Health' campaign, young people, have been sensitized to not participate in tobacco industry's campaigns. If they do, they are helping the company market tobacco products. Khalil also urged the citizens concerned with public health and Pakistan's economy to use their social media channels to highlight the harms

year's competition. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager caused by tobacco products.

GIZ Pakistan organizes Certificate Award

And showcasing Programme Achievements ceremony under Clean Power Purchasing Development Project

腾 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A certificate award ceremony for Master Trainers in Entrepreneurial Skills trained at the Professional Development Center of National University of Science & Technology (NUST) Islamabad under the Clean Power Purchasing Development project. The project is being implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as part of the DeveloPPP.de Programme of German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ).

Chief Operating Officer TEVTA Punjab, Zaheer Abbas was the chief guest at the occasion who distributed the certificates to the master trainers along with Ms. Iris Cordelia Rotzoll, Head of Programme TVET Sector Support Programme GIZ, Muhammad Ishaq Bhatti, Chairperson Solar Quality Foundation (SQF), Faisal Mahmood, Regional Coordinator (Punjab) and DV Clean in CBT&A to support implementation



Power Purchasing Development Project, of National Vocational Qualification and Haseeb Saadat CEO Allied Solar Private Limited & local partner of Power One for One Germany. Other senior officials and heads of institutes from Punjab TEVTA were also present at the occasion.

The DV Clean Power Purchasing Development Project, Faisal Mahmood presented the programme achievements over the last three years. The project has trained 37 Master Trainers on technical skills related to design, installation, O&M of solar PV plants, 30 Assessors

in Solar PV, and 40 TVET Professionals from TEVTA Punjab and PVTC on Entrepreneurial Skills to promote entrepreneurship in the Solar PV sector. A 10-kW grid-connected pilot solar PV plant was installed with the support of project partner Power One for One at TEVTA Government Technical Training Institute, Gulberg Lahore for education purpose.

Addressing to the participants, the Head of TVET Sector Support Programme GIZ, Ms. Iris Cordelia Rotzoll, stated that all these efforts not only lead to a new beginning and small steps toward sustainable energy generation and management, but also open avenues to promote the trend of green skills in Pakistan. The master trainers, trainers and assessors trained in Solar PV technology will create a pathway for internal and external buy-in among more and more TVET trainers and managers.

Speaking at the ceremony, Zaheer Abbas appreciated the role of German cooperation for promotion of clean energy in Pakistan. He highlighted the fact that promotion of green skills is inevitable to fight the global climate change and save the environment while also conserving the natural resources. He expressed his resolve that master trainers trained under the project will be utilized to support implementation of solar PV training courses in Punjab and increase the quality & access to trained human resource for solar companies.



ISLAMABAD: The Chairman, The Diabetes Centre (TDC), Dr Asjad Hameed, HOD Marketing Shahzad Lodhi and Manager Quality Assurance Manzoor Awan with visiting representative of a Pharma Company at TDC here on Tuesday

Standard Chartered goes live with RiskNucleus® GRC Solution

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: BenchMatrix has successfully facilitated Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan (SCBPL) in the installation and implementation of its RiskNucleus® GRC, with the goal to digitize the Bank's compliance risk management processes.

The implementation of this comprehensive solution will assist Standard Chartered in holistically managing compliance processes and ensure regulatory compliance. The solution is a well-integrated system that allows risk managers to effectively assess and monitor identified risks and controls within the organization. The solution includes modules for management of regulatory change, risk assessment, regulatory correspondence, review observations and overall consolidated risk calculation, while enabling cross modular linkages and comprehensive functionalities.

Commenting at the occasion Mr. Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Pakistan said, "Our unwavering focus on managing risk and continued investment in building controls in an era of digitization and automation has led us to actualize this deployment. We are hopeful that the implementation of this comprehensive yet simplified solution will help the Bank grow its business sustainably, whilst effectively managing compliance processes and regulatory expectations.

On the occasion Taimur Kaleem, CEO of BenchMatrix, Pakistan said, "I would like to congratulate both teams on successful completion of the project. RiskNucleus® GRC will help to reduce the overall cost of compliance, fulfil regulatory requirements and eradicate operational gaps through automation of the Bank's robust compliance framework."

Ovex Technologies readies KYC and IR Processes

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ovex Technologies Pakistan, one of the leading technology services companies in Pakistan with its Head Office in Lahore has developed KYC and IR software for financial institutions. Using emerging blockchain technologies is one of the key requirements of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) for FATF and the Banking Sector in Pakistan. This project was funded by IGNITE (Formerly ICT R&D Fund) and was done in collaboration with one of the leading banks of Pakistan, which provided Technical Know-how for this project.

Such emerging technologies have the potential to change how banking processes are done in the future. Ovex Technologies Pakistan's CEO, Faisal Khan said that we are very excited to have developed this firstof-its-kind software in Pakistan. Currently, two key processes Know Your Customer (KYC/AML) and International Remittance (IR) have been developed. IGNITE funds projects, which have the potential to make a difference in its selected areas of intervention.

The Spokesman

Editorial/Opinio	n
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Wednesday, June 29, 2022

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Looming water crisis

akistan is the country that bears the largest aquifer (groundwater) reservoirs that are also being pulled out at an extreme pace where the water table depletion is spiking up at a dangerous pace. What we need is implementation of national water policy and climate change policy in letter and spirit as well as result oriented interventions to set our direction right.

Pakistan's growing water scarcity and inadequate storage capacity will be pushing Pakistan to touch water scarcity level by 2025. If the water resources remain the same and population continues to rise at the same place, we will be in trouble within next few years. The system efficiency of the country's existing water reservoirs is less than 40% against overall available storage capacity. The country dumps almost 100 million acre feet (MAF) floodwater into the Arabian Ocean annually.

The low water tariff, absence of groundwater regulatory framework and lack of crop zoning left the meager water resources at the disposal of less informed and imprudent agricultural practices of the farmers. After surpassing the slot of water stressed country, Pakistan is feared to touch the water scarcity barrier due to fast melting glaciers, drying rivers, depleting groundwater resource and above all the poor water management and pricing.

Massive wastage in agriculture sector, commercial and domestic use as well as lack of storage capacity coupled with impacts of climate change with abnormal weather pattern would further aggravate the situation in coming years. The expert intelligentsia meticulously monitoring the water situation with its jaw dropping researches have rolled out workable solutions in the limited resources available to cope with this challenge and circumvent a major crisis. The situation is worrisome. The time has come for prudent use of water as well as ensuring 100% water metering in the country. Water metering in urban sector, water pricing policy, groundwater regulatory framework, and crop ecological zones as per the water availability is imperative. On the one hand floods of 2010, 2011 and 2014 incurred a loss of 90MAF to the country on the other hand millions of tones sedimentation depositing to Tarbela Dam every year was diminishing its potential to conserve water resource. Interestingly, the unique terrain of the country unveils matchless opportunities having 18 MAF hill torrent water potential that could be conserved and used for irrigation to household purposes. In the modern world even water intensive crop could be grown with minimal use of water. Lack of knowledge on irrigation practices also causes lots of water wastage. Therefore, we need to improve governance and promote use of technology and better sowing practices. After Ravi, Satluj, Chenab and Jehlum, the cradle of thousands of centuries old Indus River system is also dying and if timely actions are not ensured, impending water scarcity may lead to food insecurity. In this situation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has recommended a holistic approach with the involvement of all stakeholders to counter this challenge. Water governance involves all stakeholders for enhancing management and judicious use of water. Pakistan's water resources may decline to a drastic level in near future amid growing environmental crisis, global warming, population and absence of new reservoirs. Water market has vast potential in Pakistan. But, presently, the rich and landlords use major chunk of water resource on nominal charges. Therefore, there is an urgent need to introduce water pricing to ensure water availability for underprivileged class during years ahead.

Fifteen years of Gaza blockade

Haidar Eid

his month, as the devastating blockade on the Gaza officially Strip entered its 15th year, I re-read David Rose's

explosive report, The Gaza Bombshell, to remind myself (as if it is possible to forget) how the United States and Israel worked together to transform my homeland into what even the most mainstream NGOs describe as "the world's largest open-air prison". The story, as shocking as it may be, is quite simple. In early 2006, the Bush administration in the US kindly "invited" the people of Gaza to head to the polls to elect their representatives in a legislative council election. While Gazan Palestinians thought, as is customary in democratic elections, they should vote for the candidates they believed would best represent their interests, this was not the case - Washington wanted us to vote according to its, and Israel's, interests instead.

So, Palestinians ended up making the "wrong" choice, at least in the eyes of our colonial oppressors. And we have been severely punished for this "mistake" for the past 15 years. when many believed there was

Gaza not only into an open-air prison, but into a concentration camp: in this once beautiful enclave, two million people, almost half of them children under the age of 15, are now desperately trying to survive without a secure supply of water, food, electricity and medicines, in a clear violation of international humanitarian law embodied in the Geneva Conventions. In the last 15 years, while under this medieval siege that turned us into prisoners in our own homeland, we also endured four genocidal wars. More than 4,000 civilians, including many children, perished under Israeli bombardment, for the sole crime of being born in Gaza.

The deadly blockade imposed

on us for electing Hamas turned

As we were being systemically brutalised, maimed, imprisoned and killed, the international community did nothing but watch idly by - perhaps because the majority of us do not have what is needed (blue eves and blonde hair) for them to conclude we are somewhat "civilised" and worthy of human dignity. Of course, life in Gaza was not much better before this blockade. In the year 2000, before the beginning of the Second Intifada,

relative "peace" in Palestine, for before that. example, my dream of starting an academic career at An-Najah University in Nablus in the West Bank was crushed simply because I was a resident of Gaza.

Back then, Israel allowed at least some Palestinians safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank. I applied for a permit, providing the necessary documents from An-Najah. One week later. I was told that my application had been turned down - no reason was given.

I wanted to find out, so I went to the Beit Hanoon (Erez) checkpoint one morning at 6am to try and obtain access to the files Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, has on me. I was told to join a queue and wait to be interviewed by a Shin Bet officer who may or may not tell me why I was not allowed to pass into the West Bank. I waited all day. At 5pm, someone just asked me to leave without offering any information. To this day, I have no idea why my application was denied. And I have not been able to visit the West Bank since. So the siege of Gaza did not start 15 years ago. It did not even start 22 years ago, in 2000, when I tried to get that job in the West Bank. It started almost 30 years ago, with the signing of the Oslo Accords and perhaps even

Israel, and its powerful allies like the US, always saw us Gazans as an inconvenience, a surplus population they need to get rid of one way or another. The siege we have been under for the past 15 years is just the latest chapter in our oppressors' efforts to be rid of us. Former US President Jimmy Carter was not exaggerating when he said: "[Palestinians in the Gaza Strip] are being treated more like animals than human beings $\dots [n]$ ever before in history has a large community like this been savaged by bombs and missiles and then been deprived of the means to repair itself." That rare recognition of our situation by an American leader was of course more than 10 years ago, in 2009. Since then, our situation has become demonstrably worse. And it will continue to

worsen. I know things are going to get worse because Israel is publicly and unashamedly tightening our chains. At the end of last year, it announced the completion of a 65km-long (40 miles) underground barrier around Gaza equipped with hundreds of cameras, radars and other sensors. The project reportedly includes a more than six-metre

(20ft) high "smart fence" and its

maritime barrier has electronic devices to detect infiltration by sea and a remote-controlled weapons system. Constructed using 140,000 tonnes of iron and steel, it apparently took Israel three and a half years to complete this high-tech addition to our prison. Today, as it has always been. Israel is intent on erasing, destroying, and disappearing Gaza and Gazans. Israelis did not see us as humans with agency who deserve dignity and freedom 15 years ago, and they still do not acknowledge our humanity today. We are nothing but an inconvenience to them.

As the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin once openly admitted, we could 'sink into the sea" for all they care. They will keep us imprisoned on this strip, and continue to slowly suffocate us for another 15 or even 150 years if the world does not wake up and say "enough". The blockade on Gaza is a stain on human history. On this shameful anniversary, the international community is obligated to take action and start doing what is necessary to finally open the doors of our prison.

The writer is an associate Professor at Al-Aqsa University in Gaza.





Lisa Jarvis

ong Covid is making it hard for millions to return to normal life, pushing some out of the workforce altogether, sometimes permanently. Yet medical efforts to figure out how best to help these patients are proceeding only slowly. Research has zeroed in on a few probable causes of long Covid, perhaps the most intriguing of which is the idea that the coronavirus sometimes lingers in the body undetected for months after an initial infection. The theories should not be difficult to investigate, and the US National Institutes of Health has \$1.2 billion to spend on the work. But it's not moving fast enough.

The slow-footed response to long Covid is often attributed to the nebulous nature of the problem. Symptoms are so numerous as to seem almost random. One large UK study counted as many as 200 distinct health effects across 10 different organs. Duration varies, too; for some patients, the symptoms last only a month or two, while others seem to never fully recover. Even estimates of how many people suffer vary widely. The US Government Accountability Office pegs the long-Covid population at anywhere from 7.7 million to 23 million. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that one in five Americans has experienced post-infection symptoms

Categorising all these cases based on their underlying biology will take time. And it will remain difficult to distinguish long Covid from other conditions.

But researchers can make progress toward helping patients before they have nailed down a neat and tidy explanation for the condition. Already, scientists have several good hypotheses about how to treat the problem, and ideas for preventing it in the first place. And some of these theo-

ries can be tested, even without inventing new drugs. Consider, for example, the theory that persistent lurking virus poses problems, for example, by prompting the immune system to react. A growing body of research offers support to this theory. In one recent study of blood samples taken from people with long Covid, researchers' detected coronavirus spike proteins over the course of several months in 60% of patients. In some of them, the bits of virus could be measured for as far out as a year. Because humans have enzymes that quickly chew up the spike protein in the bloodstream, finding protein pieces over time points to some kind of viral reservoir, says David R. Walt, the Harvard professor who led the research.

This study has yet to undergo peer review, but Walt, who was the scientific founder of the gene-sequencing company Illumina, says it has generated more initial interest than any paper he's put out in his career. The enthusiasm is helping his team access blood samples that have been collected over longer periods of time, with more comprehensive patient data, for further analysis using a highly sensitive test his lab developed. The early findings are consistent with other work that has found the virus in the gut in people with at least one symptom of long Covid. If persistent virus is causing or at least connected with some lingering Covid symptoms, it would make sense to test whether getting rid of that virus helps to relieve symptoms. Existing antivirals make this possible. The Food and Drug Administration has authorised Pfizer's Paxlovid and Merck's molnupiravir. and several other pills to treat acute infections are in clinical trials. Small studies already suggest that treatment with the drugs could be beneficial.

Larger trials are needed, however, to not only sort out whether the drugs work but also assess how long they should be taken and which patients might receive

the most benefit. Such trials should already be underway. At the moment, antivirals are being widely prescribed to vaccinated and unvaccinated Americans alike as part of the federal government's test-to-treat program. By June, more than 1.3 million courses of Paxlovid had been given out. Yet, perplexingly, there has been no effort to track whether the pills help minimise or prevent long-term symptoms. Even the drug makers seem uninterested in testing the possibility. Steve Deeks, an HIV expert at the University of California, San Francisco, says that when he knocks on the doors of his industry partners to ask for drugs to use in long-Covid studies, he gets pushback.

Companies agree the problem is serious, but wonder how he plans to assess a treatment's effectiveness without having any validated measures of patient improvement. "There's no way to really engage industry," Deeks says. "This is a big problem." The longer it takes to find answers, the worse off patients will be. People desperate for help with their symptoms could fall prey to the kind of pseudoscience that has driven people to try useless, even harmful treatments for basic Covid. More long-Covid patients will experience deteriorating mental health, or even contemplate suicide.

Viral persistence isn't the only theory worth exploring. Some scientists are studying whether Covid can cause blood clotting issues that lead to widespread damage in the body, while others believe the problem is that the immune system stays on high alert long after the infection fades.

But the viral persistence hypothesis is one that researchers have ample tools to investigate. They should be doing all they can to look for answers.

The writer is a columnist who specialises in biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Courtesy Gulf News

Ukraine War & Africa

Aichatou Mindaoudou

p until the fourth quarter of 2020, Africa's economic growth — despite imbalances and many systemic challenges, including poverty and youth unemployment — was the second-fastest growing in the world, after Asia. But the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed growth in sub-Saharan Africa and could reverse years of economic and social progress. Making matters worse, just as the pandemic began to wane, enabling the continent to focus on recovering from its first recession in 25 years, the war in Ukraine started. The conflict triggered by Russia's invasion has complicated the challenges and sources of stress already facing Africa. Some are economic, including debt problems for lower-income countries and excessive dependence on raw material exports. Political instability and terrorism remain a threat in several parts of the continent, notably the Sahel, the Lake Chad region, East Africa and, more recently, the West African coastal region. Africa is also struggling to manage the adverse effects of climate change and food insecurity.

Against this background, the Ukraine war has intensified socioeconomic pressures in Africa. Because many African countries depend heavily on food imports, the new spikes in global prices of agricultural commodities and oil caused by the conflict have left the poor increasingly vulnerable, with the sharp decline in Ukrainian grain exports aggravating food insecurity in many regions. This threatens to exacerbate latent conflicts in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel and may further jeopardize Africa's prospects of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Another consequence of the war in Ukraine is a paradigm shift in how Africans view the rest of the world.

The African public is becoming increasingly aware of the difference between the resources that traditional international cooperation partners are allocating to fight hunger, security threats and COVID-19 in Africa, and what they are mobilizing to support Ukraine. Today more than ever, therefore, African governments are demonstrating a willingness to work with new partners such as China and are doing so with an

even greater concern for their national interests and a desire for more balanced international cooperation.

BROWN

The current geopolitical crisis is an opportunity for Africa to reduce its dependence on food imports from outside the continent. Policymakers are implementing and strengthening regional responses under the aegis of initiatives and organizations such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Economic Community of West African States and the African Development Bank. In addition, several national and regional programs aim to reduce the impact of rising food price inflation and to support local production. African countries are increasingly implementing national development plans and policies through partnerships with the African Development Bank and the UN, among others. Many countries, for example, are focusing on local oil and gas production, renewable energy, local manufacturing capacity and youth employment.

While formidable challenges remain, Africa's people have adopted effective responses to health threats such as COVID-19, Ebola and cholera, as well as to humanitarian crises stemming from natural disasters, violent conflict and famine. Now, it is up to African leaders to improve governance and make bold policy decisions focused on promoting local production and consumption and on strengthening mutually beneficial regional cooperation. Political courage, backed by most of the population, will accelerate the region's recovery from the effects of the war.

More broadly, Africa should seek to manage the impact of climate change by focusing on food security, improved nutrition, social protection, environmental sustainability and resilience to shocks. To that end, the region has made access to sustainable energy for all and the restoration of 1 billion hectares of degraded land by 2030 a top priority. Many Africans are convinced that the war in Ukraine is not their problem to solve. But failure to restore peace and end the disruption to food and energy supplies will likely result in mounting political instability and social tension in the region. That will in turn hurt Africa's chances of charting its own path to a more prosperous and sustainable future.

The writer is a former foreign minister of Niger. Courtesy Arab News

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Wednesday, June 29, 2022

International



G-7 leaders end summit pledging to hurt Russia economically

Leaders agree on a ban on imports of Russian gold

ELMAU: Leaders of the world's biggest developed economies said Tuesday they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Russia's income from oil sales that are financing its invasion of Ukraine and struck a united stance to support Kyiv for "as long as it takes" as the war grinds on

The final statement from the Group of Seven summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia.

It left out key details on how fossil fuel price caps would work in practice, setting up more discussion in the weeks ahead to "explore ... the feasibility" of measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level.

That would hit a key Russian source of income and, in theory, help relieve the energy price spikes and inflation afflicting the global economy as a result of the war.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our unprecedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders said.

The G-7 leaders - representing and we will continue to keep up and



the U.S., Germany, France, Italy, the U.K., Canada and Japan - on Monday pledged to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" after conferring by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Zelenskyy has openly worried that the West has become fatigued by the cost of a war that is contributing to soaring energy costs and price hikes on essential goods around the globe. The G-7 has sought to assuage those concerns.

Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockade on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea. have been snapping up cheap Russian

"We agree that (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin must not win this war, drive higher the economic and political costs for President Putin and his regime," said the summit host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. "For that, it is important to stand together - including in the long haul that we certainly still face."

French President Emmanuel Macron said Russia "cannot and should not win" the war in Ukraine — as its terrible toll was on full view the day after a Russian missile strike hit a shopping mall in the town of Kremenchuk, killing 18 people.

The price cap - pushed by U.S. President Joe Biden — would in theory work by barring service provides such as shippers or insurers from dealing with oil priced above a fixed level. That could work because the service providers are mostly located in the European Union or the U.K. and thus within reach of sanctions. To be effective. however, it would have to involve as many consuming countries as possible, in particular India, where refiners

oil shunned by Western traders. Details

on how the proposal would be imple-

mented were left for continuing talks in coming weeks.

The U.S. has already blocked Russian oil imports, which were small in any case. The European Union has decided to impose a ban on the 90% of Russian oil that comes by sea, but the ban does not take effect until the end of the year, meaning Europe continues to send money to Russia for energy even while condemning the war. Meanwhile, higher global oil prices have softened the blow to Russia's income, even as Western traders shun Russian oil.

Energy themes were front and center at the summit throughout. Europe is scrambling to find new sources of oil and fresh supplies of gas as Russia dials back gas supplies in what leaders say is a political move. Meanwhile high energy prices are a headache for G-7 countries' consumers

Scholz defended the G-7's decision to soften commitments to end public support for fossil fuel investments, saying the war in Ukraine means time-limited support for new natural gas extraction projects may be necessarv.

Troops martyr two Kashmiri youth in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two Kashmiri youth in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, on Tuesday.

The troops martyred the youth in a fake encounter in Keran area of the district. Locals told the media that the troops picked up the youth from their homes and later killed them in a staged encounter.

Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leadership has said that the people of IIOJK are living without basic human rights amid unrelenting cordon and search operations conducted by Indian army and police. The APHC leaders and organizations in their statements in Srinagar said, killings, fake encounters, arrests and house raids have become order of the day especially after revocation of Kashmir's special status by India on August 5, 2019. Senior APHC leader, Nayeem Ahmad Khan in a message from New Delhi's Tihar jail said the RSS backed Indian rulers and agencies are committing massacres of the Muslims in IIOJK under a nefarious plan to change the demographic composition of the territory.

US officials back in Venezuela in a bid to rebuild ties

CARACAS: Senior U.S. government officials have quietly traveled to Caracas in the latest bid to bring home detained Americans and rebuild relations with the South American oil giant as the war in Ukraine drags on, forcing the U.S. to recalibrate other foreign policy objectives.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson described the trip as a welfare visit focused on the safety of several U.S. citizens detained in Caracas, including a group of oil executives from Houston-based Citgo jailed more than four years ago. The delegation includes Roger Carstens, the special presidential envoy on hostage affairs, as well as Ambassador James Story, who heads the U.S. government's Venezuelan Affairs Unit out of neighboring Colombia.

President Nicolás Maduro confirmed the visit during televised remarks, saying the delegation would meet with a trusted ally, National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez, to "give continuity to the bilateral agenda between the government of the United States and the government of Venezuela.

That trip resulted in the release of two American citizens who the U.S. considered unjustly detained and a promise from Maduro to jumpstart talks with his opponents. Months earlier, he had suspended the negotiations, led by Norwegian diplomats in Mexico, after a key ally was extradited to the U.S. on money-laundering charges.

Biden arrives in Spain



MADRID: President Joe Biden arrived in Spain on Tuesday to meet with fellow leaders of NATO with plans to beef up the American presence in Europe at a moment of growing concern about the alliance's resolve in the face of the grinding war in Ukraine.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that Biden would detail the plan to increase the number of Navy destroyers based in Rota, Spain, from four to six in talks later on Tuesday with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Sullivan said the move was one of multiple announcements that Biden and NATO allies would make to help bolster the alliance in the region. Sullivan said the Rota move "will help increase the United States and NATO's maritime presence." He said that Biden would announce additional moves on Wednesday. "The president said before the war started that if Putin invaded Ukraine, the United States and NATO would enhance the force posture on the eastern flank, not just for the duration of the crisis, but to address the long term change in the strategic reality that would present," Sullivan added.

Russian missile strike on mall kills 18

Moscow claims blaze at mall caused by strike on arms depot

KREMENCHUK: Exhausted firefighters searched on Tuesday for survivors in the rubble of a Ukrainian shopping mall, where authorities said 36 people were missing after a Russian missile strike that killed at least 18.

The attack, in the central city of Kremenchuk far from any frontline, drew a wave of global condemnation, with France's Emmanuel Macron among leaders who called it a "war crime".

Ukraine said Moscow had killed civilians deliberately. Russia said it had struck a troops shifting to a higher nearby arms depot and falsely claimed that the mall was empty.

At a summit in Germany, an adversary. leaders of the G7 industrial-Russian oil, designed to the wreckage of the shopping most defiant terrorist attacks es for war without exacerbat- had set up a base. ing a global economic crisis.



summit in Spain, at which blaze and searching for survithe Western military allivors, mostly in vain.

ance is expected to announce Oleksandr, dousing his hundreds of thousands of face from a water bottle, said his team had worked all night. "We pulled out state of alert and an overhaul of its strategic framefive bodies. We didn't find anybody alive," he said. work to describe Moscow as

Ukrainian President Volo-Relatives of the missing in dymyr Zelenskiy accused plans for a price cap on a hotel across the street from ing civilians in "one of the air.

weapons, which exploded, causing the blaze that spread to the nearby mall.

Kyiv said there was no military target in the area.

"Russia's goal is for as many Ukrainians as possible to close their eves forever, for the rest to stop resisting and submit to slavery," Andriy Yermak, chief of Ukraine's presidential staff, said on Twitter. "That's the way the terrorist state acts.

Russia described the shopping centre as disused and empty. But that was contradicted by the relatives of the dead and missing, and the dozens of wounded survivors such as Ludmyla Mykhailets, 43, who had been shopping there with her husband when ised democracies announced Kremenchuk were lined up at Russia of deliberately target- the blast threw her into the

"I flew head first and splin

French parliament opens new era

PARIS: France's lower house of parliament on Tuesday opened its first session since President Emmanuel Macron's party lost its majority, and is expected to elect a woman as speaker for the first time.

Legislative elections earlier this month shook up France's political landscape. Macron's centrist alliance Ensemble (Together) still has the most seats but no longer enough to comfortably adopt laws.

The leftist Nupes coalition is the biggest opposition force, and hopes to challenge Macron's plans to cut taxes and raise the retirement age from 62 to 65.

The far-right party of three-time presidential candidate Marine Le Pen won a record number of seats, and is expected to press anti-immigration policies.

All three top parties plan competing measures aimed at boosting working-class households cope with high inflation, fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Among the first issues t

starve Russia of the resourc- centre, where rescue workers in European history". Russia's defence ministry

Weary firefighters sat on a said its missiles had struck an at a hospital where she was Next up will be a NATO kerb after a night battling the arms depot storing Western being treated

ters hit my body. The whole place was collapsing," she said

Assembly is expected to face is a proposal by Macron's party to inscribe the right to abortion in the French constitution.

Arrest of Indian Muslim journalist sparks widespread outrage

NEW DELHI: Police in New Delhi have threats and trolling. The Twitter accounts arrested a Muslim journalist for allegedly hurting religious sentiment in what have also been suspended on governmany slammed as the latest example of shrinking media freedom under Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Mohammed Zubair, a co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News, was arrested Monday evening over a tweet that police said deliberately insulted "the god of a particular religion." Senior police officer K.P.S. Malhotra said the case was brought following a complaint from a Twitter user and Zubair was remanded in custody for one day.

Journalists across India have been targeted increasingly for their work in recent years. Some have been arrested on criminal charges over posts on social media, where they routinely face

of some journalists and news websites ment orders. The incident set off a wave of outrage, with activists, journalists and opposition politicians decrying it as harassment of the media and calling for Zubair's immediate release.

"In a democracy, where every individual possesses the right to exercise the freedom of speech and expression, it is unjustifiable that such stringent laws are being used as tools against journalists." DIGIPUB, a network of Indian digital news organizations, said in a statement.

"Arresting one voice of truth will only give rise to a thousand more," opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

Pratik Sinha, the other co-founder of Alt News, said Zubair was arrested



without any notice from police, which is mandatory in the sections of law under which he was detained.

Founded in 2017 as a nonprofit organization, Alt News is India's most prominent fact-checking news website and has gained a reputation for its reporting on hate speech and debunking misinformation, particularly by Hindu nationalists. Its founders often face online trolling and threats by right-wing groups, some of them linked to Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Several similar cases have been filed against Zubair in the past. Earlier this month, police charged him with calling some Hindu monks "hatemongers," news website The Wire reported. The Hindu monks had made inflammatory statements about Muslims and at least one had called for "genocide" of the minority community. The monks were arrested and later released on bail.

India's rank fell eight places to 150 among 180 countries in this year's Press Freedom Index published by the watchdog group Reporters Without Borders. "Indian journalists who are too critical of the government are subjected to all-out harassment and attack campaigns," it said in its 2022 edition, adding that reporters were regularly exposed to police violence and increasing reprisals from officials.

Ethiopia names negotiators for Tigray peace process

NAIROBI: Ethiopian authorities have named a team of seven negotiators for possible peace talks with Tigray forces.

The announcement comes after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced earlier in June the formation of a committee to handle negotiations with Tigray's ruling party, which the government declared a terrorist group last year.

The ruling Prosperity Party has laid out plans to settle the war in northern Ethiopia peacefully," Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos told state media late Monday.

The government's negotiating team will be led by Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, he said.

Tigray's leaders have not yet commented on the latest announcement by the federal authorities of the East African nation. But the region's top official, Debretsion Gebremichael, said in an open letter to the international community on June 15 that his side is open to peace talks. He also warned that his group's "readiness to go the extra mile for peace must not be misunderstood as a readiness to abandon our principles from weakness or greed."

Hong Kong's successes propelled by motherland's unwavering support

HONG KONG: With the solid of the country. support of the motherland, Hong Kong has defused risks, weathered challenges and maintained past 25 years, demonstrating that the "one country, two systems" principle has stood the test of practice and time.

erland in 1997, Hong Kong has progressed and prospered alongside the rest of the country, with Hong Kong compatriots and people in the mainland standing in solidarity and advancing together.

Recalling the turmoil of 2019, Kenneth Fok Kai-kong, a member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), said that he could not imagine what Hong Kong would be like without the help

A series of vital steps taken by the central authorities have enabled Hong Kong to achieve prosperity and stability over the a major transition from chaos to order, and usher in a new chapter of good governance.

These measures included the enactment of the national Since its return to the moth- security law in Hong Kong, the improvement of Hong Kong's electoral system, and the implementation of the "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle. The enforcement of the nation-

al security law in Hong Kong has brought stability back to society, and the improved electoral system has enabled those who truly care about Hong Kong to contribute to its development, Fok said.

For example, since the implementation of the national security law in Hong Kong, funds raised through initial public offerings in

Hong Kong have exceeded 650 billion Hong Kong dollars (82.81 billion U.S. dollars), an increase of over 30 percent compared with the same period before the law was enforced. The average daily turnover of Hong Kong stocks has jumped almost 60 percent from the 12-month period preceding

the law's enforcement, reaching 150 billion Hong Kong dollars (19.11 billion U.S. dollars). In the past 25 years, Hong Kong has faced many challenges, including the Asian financial

crisis, the SARS epidemic, the international financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Whenever Hong Kong encounters difficulties, the motherland stands ready to offer its utmost support. Deeming the country's support

as Hong Kong's greatest strength in solving various problems, the incoming sixth-term chief exec-

utive of the HKSAR John Lee said that Hong Kong could not have overcome challenges and achieved progress without the backing of the motherland.

A growing number of young people from Hong Kong are turning to the mainland for entrepreneurial prospects, as the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has brought about new opportunities.

Mark Mak Hin-yu is among such young Hong Kong entrepreneurs. He is the co-founder of a Hong Kong-headquartered company that specializes in developing robotic products. They have transferred part of their operations, including hardware assembly and technical testing, to the mainland.

One of the most open regions that boast the strongest econom-



ic vitality in China, the Greater goods, technology, information Bay Area plays a critical role in driving the country's economic development with its distinctive geographical advantages and strengths in innovation and cooperation.

The Chinese enterprises in Hong Kong have taken the lead in participating in joint construction of the Belt and Road, spurring the flow of production factors including talent, capital,

in Hong Kong, improving its industrial structure and boosting its economic prosperity, said Yim Kong, managing director of China Merchants Port Holdings Company Limited.

With the support of the motherland, Hong Kong has consolidated its status as an international financial center over the past 25 years. Among all listed firms in Hong Kong, more than

half are from the mainland, contributing about 80 percent of market capitalization. Hong Kong has become the world's largest offshore renminbi (RMB) business center, handling more than 70 percent of global offshore RMB payments.

Hong Kong has maintained stability and prosperity, HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam said, adding that it has strengthened its status as an international financial, shipping and trade center and seen vigorous development in innovation and technology, as well as in culture and arts.

"The practice of the 'one country, two systems' principle in Hong Kong over the past 25 years has proved successful," she said.

Expressing her gratitude to the central government, a Hong Kong girl made a handwritten thank-you note in Chinese.



Economy/Commerce

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

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

Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index
Current	Prev. Close
41,765.62	41,878.57
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,149.29	41,614.60
Index Value	Change
5,947,786,746	-112.95
Percentage	Time
-0.27%	28 Jun, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index
Index Value	Change
7,323.41	+65.09
Percentage	Time
+0.90%	28 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average
Index Value	Change
Index Value 31,259.07	Change - 179.19
	•
31,259.07	-179.19
31,259.07 Percentage -0.57%	- 179.19 Time 28 Jun, 11:44 am
31,259.07 Percentage -0.57%	179.19 Time 28 Jun, 11:44 am GMT-4
31,259.07 Percentage –0.57% Asia Pacific: Nikk	-179.19 Time 28 Jun, 11:44 am GMT-4 ei Stocks Average
31,259.07 Percentage –0.57% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value	– 179.19 Time 28 Jun, 11:44 am GMT-4 ei Stocks Average Change
31,259.07 Percentage –0.57% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value 27,049.47	

Buying Selling Currency Australian Dollar 144.42 145.67 558.56 Bahrain Dinar 554.06 Canadian Dollar 161.58 162.93 China Yuan 31.13 31.38 29.55 29.9 Danish Krone 216 218 Euro Hong Kong Dollar 26.54 26.89 Indian Rupee 2.66 2.74 1.47 1.51 Japanese Yen 676.45 681.45 Kuwaiti Dinar 47.31 47.76 Malaysian Ringgit NewZealand \$ 131.76 132.96 Norwegians Krone 21.14 21.44 545.21 Omani Riyal 540.71 Qatari Riyal 57.23 57.73 Saudi Riyal 54.7 55.6 149.91 151.21 Singapore Dollar Swedish Korona 20.56 20.86 Swiss Franc 216.8 218.55 Thai Bhat 5.94 6.04 U.A.E Dirham 57.6 56.75 UK Pound Sterling 251.5 255

😂 Turn Around Pakistan Conference President ICCI requests PM, FM to revise high taxes on business community

New budget has increased taxes on business community that would affect the business activities

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the new budget has increased taxes on the business community that would affect the business activities and he appealed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Federal Finance Minister to revise high taxes in order to facilitate the better growth of the economy.

He said this while speaking in the "Turn Around Pakistan Conference" organized by the Ministry of Planning.

Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif Prime Minister of Pakistan was the Chief Guest while Miftah Ismail Federal Finance Minister, Ahsan Iqbal Federal Minister for Planning & Development, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice real estate sector is playing very important ed that the government should revise them to President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, foreign diplomats and others were also present at the occasion.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that the



role in the development of the economy as it save the real estate sector from their negative is supporting directly and indirectly around impact. He said that industries including the 74 allied industries. However, the new budget marble industry should be subjected to a fixed has increased taxes on this sector and request- tax regime that would help in improving the

tax revenue of the country.

ICCI President also highlighted the importance of the establishment of a new industrial estate in the Islamabad region to boost industrialization and appealed that the government should cooperate with ICCI in acquisition of land for this project for its early materialization. He stressed for long-term policies to ensure sustainable economic growth as policy consistency is so important to improve the confidence of the business community and the investors. He said that Hajj expenses have increased significantly due to which the business community of this sector is also facing problems and requested that the government should take measures to make Hajj affordable. He said that the government has an experienced economic team and hoped that it would soon steer the country out of troubled waters.

The Prime Minister and Finance Minister assured that the issues highlighted by the President ICCI would be given due consideration to address them.

Areej Khan takes charge as Chief HR Öfficer at Telenor Pakistan

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan announced that Areej Khan had been appointed the chief human resource officer. Areej has been associated with Telenor Pakistan since the pre-launch phase over 18 years ago.

Areej was heading the Digital Division as Vice President in her most recent role. During her tenure, she helped shape Telenor Pakistan's digital strategy while the company emphasised growth through industry-leading initiatives, including launching the biggest esports platform, GameBird. Before her time in digital, Areej held leadership roles across several functions, including Communications and Sustainability in Corporate Affairs and Digital Marketing in the Commercial Division.

Areej is taking over from Oystein Bakken, who joined at the onset of COVID-19 two and a half years ago. His term comes to a close as he moves on to assume his next role in Telenor Norway, where he will be working with reshap-

ing Telenor in transforming the Nordics in technology. Oystein has been part of Telenor for over 15 years. He took charge of the human capital division (HCD) at the

onset of COVID and successfully navigated many people and engagement-related challenges.

Irfan Wahab Khan, CEO of Telenor Pakistan, remarked, "Areej's appointment is a reflection of Telenor's drive to cultivate and hone its home-grown talent. Her deep understanding of Telenor's culture and people will continue to set us apart in the industry. We look forward to Areej helping us accelerate our people agenda even further. I extend my gratitude to Oystein for his many contributions as CHRO and the enthusiasm with which he drove the organisation forward. I wish him the best of luck in the future."

Khawaja Shariq Mustafa will take the baton from Areej as VP of Digital, bringing his diverse multi-organisational experience in commercial segments, sales, brands and digital marketing to the division.

In her new role at Telenor Pakistan, Areej will drive the people policy and organisational culture, with Employer Branding, Rewards and Talent Acquisition falling under her domain. She will formally assume charge from August 1 2022.

CCP recommends businesses while marketing their products

To "Show What You Sell And Say What You Mean"

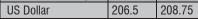
😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson, Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Rahat Kaunain Hassan, has said that deceptive marketing practices have a direct impact on consumers and the competitors of the businesses and therefore while marketing their products, businesses must be truthful. She recommends businesses to, "Show what you sell and say what vou mean," which can make them fully compliant and truthful to the consumers and not allow businesses to take any undue competitive advantage

She said this while addressing an Advocacy Session on Competition Law organ- in the supply chain of essenised by the Rawalpindi tial commodities. Similarly, Chamber of Commerce & its report on the SME Sector Industry (RCCI). President will offer recommendations

creates a better understanding of the law and contributes to developing a competition culture therefore, the CCP will continue to enforce the law in letter and spirit without fear and favour as it has been doing across all sectors of the economy.

The Chairperson said that the CCP is also playing its part in the policy reform by offering recommendations that would enhance economic efficiencies and create a level playing field. As part of its mandate to review the policy frameworks, the CCP's draft pilot study on the "Assessment of Supply Chain from Farm gate to Retail" recommends policy measures for enhancing economic efficiency and eliminating distortions RCCI Chaudhry Nadeem A. for improving the economic efficiencies of SMEs. Moreo-Mahmood Awan, Former ver, consultative sessions have commenced on the CCP's draft "E-Commerce Policy Guidelines" for deliberations with the stakeholders. Earlier, President RCCI acknowledged the good work done by the CCP and emphasised the need to create more awareness of the Competition Law. He offered RCCI's platform for educating the businessmen on the Dos and don'ts of the law. He also welcomed the Chairperson's suggestion of exempting the chambers from fees for filing formal complaints with the CCP.



TCS Logistics appoints Moin A. Malik as its CEO



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: TCS-Pakistan's largest logistics company, appoints Mr. Moin A. Malik as CEO of TCS Logistics Private Limited.

Malik has an illustrious career in the logistics industry with which he has been associated for over three decades. Before joining TCS Logistics he was the CEO of Agility Pakistan, a company he led for over 20 years.

"As we expand and grow, we are reorganizing our logistics business to continue to provide the best services to our customers. As part of this process, I am pleased to welcome Moin A. Malik as the CEO of TCS Logistics Private Limited. I am confident that his extensive experience in the industry, complemented by his knowledge of TCS will help us move expediently towards achieving our objectives", said Saira Awan, President of TCS (Pvt.) Ltd. She further stated that Harris Jamali will continue as CEO of TCS Private Limited. "Having led the transformation of the entire platform over the last few years, I strongly believe that we are at a natural inflexion point of enhancing dedicated focus on each growth vertical. We welcome Moin A. Malik onboard and both TCS and its customers will benefit from his experience as he takes these segments to their true potential", said Harris Jamali, CEO of TCS Private Limited.

Malik's first tenure at TCS started in 1984 and by the time he left in 1997 he had held many senior management positions. Malik is an active member of ACAAP, PIFFA, and Founder Chairman of FOAP (Fleet Operators Association of Pakistan) and is an expert in modern logistics and transportation networks. With experience in express courier, freight-forwarding, 3PL Logistics and Distribution Services, Malik, has frequently liaised with international bodies and the Government to resolve issues related to the logistics industry.

MMBL partners with foodpanda and AdalFi

To offer inclusive financial services to HomeChefs

🐞 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), the largest digital bank in Pakistan, has partnered with foodpanda HomeChefs, the nation's leading platform for home-based restaurants, and AdalFi, a Techlogix subsidiary focused on digital financing, to initiate short-term micro-financing solutions for household chefs. Being a first-of-its-kind initiative, this strategic alliance will offer weekly loans of up to PKR 50,000 for HomeChefs to help resolve supply chain, marketing, and food quality issues, ultimately driving higher revenues and branding benefits for these home-based business ventures.

The HomeChef market in Pakistan is a significantly diverse and growing segment. It has enabled entrepreneurs, especially women, to explore new ways of being financially independent while leveraging their culinary skills. foodpanda provides a viable platform to these talent-



ed individuals, facilitating them to seamlessly reach millions of customers across the nation, while giving them access to its extensive network of riders.

This strategic partnership is an exciting development for Pakistan's economic and financial landscape as it enables an essential monetary support stream to help female entrepreneurs scale their ventures sustainably. With the recent one of the biggest barriers to introduction of MMBL's Dost Tajir, the bank has been prioritizing efforts to promote financial inclusion for the underserved masses through access to these HomeChefs now have the convenient and affordable digital opportunity to grow without

financial solutions to empower them to scale their businesses.

Speaking on the development, Muntaqa Peracha, CEO of foodpanda, stated, "While empowering HomeChefs, especially women who are exploring a new field of entrepreneurship, foodpanda is on a mission to level the playing field for these talented individuals. Through this partnership, we are easing growth in the market, i.e., financing. With the support of leading institutions like Mobilink Microfinance Bank and Adal Fintech, worrying about finances."

Addressing the partnership, Sardar Mohammad Abubakr, Chief Finance and Digital Officer at MMBL added, "Collaborations with like-minded organizations are key to achieving our ambitious financial inclusion goals. At MMBL, we believe in extending support to various segments of society, especially women, who constitute more than half of the nation's population but have significantly low financial inclusion figures to date. We are at the cusp of not just empowering these entrepreneurs financially, but also creating innovative paths for them to be active contributing drivers of the economy.

We at Adal Fintech foresee women entrepreneurs as an emerging contributor to Pakistan's GDP," said Salman Akhtar, CEO-AdalFi, "The AdalFi mission is to equalize access to credit for all Pakistanis using data and AI to power credit decisions. foodpanda HomeChefs is a phenomenal example of our technology in operation"

Rauf, Vice President Tallat Senior Vice President Sagib Rafiq, Senior Vice President Asim Mehmood Malik, executive committee members and representatives of the business community attend-

ed the session. She said that businesses are free to make profits as long as they are not violating the competition principles. Nothing bars businesses under the law from growing; per se dominance is not prohibited, it is the abuse of dominance that triggers competition law enforcement, she maintained. She added that enforcement

UNDP, KP-BOIT officials discuss cross border trade, transit initiatives



😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A UNDP Mission headed by Francisco Santos, Regional Advisor Livelihoods, Economic Recovery & Displacement, UNDP Asia Pacific and Ms. Tanya Rzehak, Programme Manager, UNDP Pakistan called on CEO KP-BOIT, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt to deliberate on Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran Regional Connectivity for Cross Border Stabilization, Human Development, and Economic Cooperation.

The main objective of the mission is to support UNDP country offices in the three countries for scoping of the planned research and programming initiatives by engaging with key stake-

holders (federal and provincial governments, civil society, think-tanks, and communities) to understand their needs, priorities, and aspirations. The visit was in connection this agenda.

The CEO gave a detailed presentation on cross border trade and transit trade initiatives, key socio-economic development and doing business initiatives undertaken by the Government. He also highlighted that first-ever Trade and Commerce Strategy of the province has also been crafted and approved by the provincial cabinet.

The meeting also focused on mutual areas of cooperation with UNDP that can be explored for future endeavours.

Bagallery hosts Pakistan's biggest beauty & fashion exhibition

😂 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Bagallery Glam Fest successfully hosted Pakistan's biggest beauty and fashion exhibition over the course of the weekend, closing on a high note on 25th and 26th June 2022 at Lahore Expo Center. The response lived up to what organizers were expecting and the event truly gave visitors a one-of-akind, seamless shopping experience.

The highlights of the event were; more than 120,000+ visitors, 1.5Mn+ pictures, stories & videos taken and shared, 500+ brands were available for an amazing shopping experience, 10 fashion shows & 6 makeup classes were attended by the audience, and 500+ influencers & celebrities participated. Mina Salman, Co-Founder of Bagallery,



while addressing to the press said that she is delighted to see the turnover of women that came out of their homes to experience the most instagrammable event held in Lahore and she is happy with the progress made by Bagallery over the past few years with the support of the team, partners, and

ustomers

Salman Sattar, CEO of Bagallery expressed his views on the successful event: "This is the second event we have successfully organized this year, it's part of our strategy to ensure sustainable growth as the beauty and fashion leader in Pakistan. Glam Fest Lahore gave us an opportunity to reach out to new customers in Lahore as we expanded our operations this year in the region."

More than 120,000 attendees came together to attend the event and enjoyed multiple activities such as fashion shows, influencer meet-ups, celebrity interactions, makeup classes, skin consultations, hairstyling, food stalls, and much more along with a smooth shopping experience thus, making this two-day event a success.

Sports Wednesday, June 29, 2022

The Spokesman

Pakistan to play Bangladesh in T20I tri-series opener

Pakistan will depart for Christchurch on 4 October

腾 🛛 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan, as part of their ICC Men's T20 World Cup Australia 2022 preparations, will participate in a T20I tri-series in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 7-14 October with Bangladesh as the third side.

Number-three ranked Pakistan will take on number-eight ranked Bangladesh on 7 October and number-six ranked New Zealand on the following day. In the second round of matches, Pakistan will play New Zealand and Bangladesh on 11 and 13 October, respectively with the final scheduled for Friday, 14 October.

In the T20 World Cup, Pakistan will open their campaign against India in Melbourne on 23 October. They will then play the two qualifiers on 27 and 30 October in Perth, before taking on South Africa on 3 November in Sydney and Bangladesh on 6 November in Adelaide.



Pakistan captain Babar Azam: "I am the T20 World Cup in Australia but also pleased that we will be featuring in the give final touches to our preparations. "I tri-series in New Zealand as it will help us to arrive early and not only acclimatise for to a thumb injury and look forward to Hagley Oval, Christchurch (0800 PST).

missed the last series in New Zealand due

playing cricket in Christchurch against two good oppositions."

Pakistan will depart for Christchurch on 4 October after completing their seven-match T20I series against England on 2 October. Prior to the England series, Pakistan will take part in the ACC T20 Asia Cup, which is schedule in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 27 August to 11 September.

T20I tri-series itinerary: 7 Oct -Pakistan v Bangladesh, Hagley Oval, Christchurch (1200 PST) 8 Oct - Pakistan v New Zealand, Hagley Oval, Christchurch (1200 PST) 9 Oct Bangladesh v New Zealand, Hagley Oval, Christchurch (0800 PST) 11 Oct - New Zealand v Pakistan, Hagley Oval, Christchurch (0800 PST) 12 Oct Bangladesh v New Zealand, Hagley Oval, Christchurch (0800 PST) 13 Oct -Bangladesh v Pakistan, Hagley Oval, Christchurch (0800 PST) 14 Oct - Final,

Eco hikers explore new trek

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A group of Eco Hikers from Bagh Alpine Club with the sponsorship of MTBC under the patronage of Abu Zafar Sadiq, President Alpine Club of Pakistan explored new trek in Pir Panjal Range of Azad Kashmir.

About 85 hikers from different parts of the country participated in this exploratory trip. The hike started from Ganga Choti, Suddhan Gali, Bagh and after having crossing through quite difficult going through rocky, steep and at some places quite dangerous trails, the team reached at lush green landscape of meadows.

The team trekked on ridges enjoying beauty of both sides Hattian Balla and Bagh. The panorama was wide and snowcapped peaks behind thick forests, green carpeted terrain, singing springs n birds were the features of



this trek.

The hot tea was also served. The trekkers were mesmer-The participants trekked ized in this environment. down to Khawaja village which took 5 hours. From They camped at Naiza Gali here MTBC's Coaches picked where they enjoyed BarBQ and delicious biryani cooked up the participants n dropped them in MTBC Building in by the cooks of MTBC. The participants enjoyed bone-Bagh where they were served fire while singing n dancing. with delicious food.



in the valley. Abu Zafar Safiq conducted this workshop. Kharakzada Kasrat Rai, International Walker was Guest of Honour. He shared his experiences.

Akram Awan a wellknown hiker who has trekked in mist of valleys in AJK introduced various treks information with the participants. The President, ACP thanked the management of Bagh Alpine Club and MTBC for holding this event in a befitting manner. He assured that Alpine Club shall continue to patron such activities



Eoin Morgan

announces

LONDON: England skipper Eoin Morgan has drawn curtains on a glorious international career which began in 2006.

Morgan, 35, is England's leading runscorer as well as the most successful captain in ODI cricket. Morgan has scored 6957 runs in 225 ODIs for England, with 13 centuries. Overall, Morgan has 7701 runs in ODI cricket, with 14 centuries.

Morgan captained England in 126 matches, winning 76 - a win percentage of 65.25. His most memorable moment remains leading England to their maiden title at the 2019 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup on home soil.

Morgan was also a highly successful T20I cricketer, scoring 2458 runs in 115 matches, with 14 half-centuries and striking at 136.18.

uccessful T20I captain He is the mo

Two-week hockey training camp concludes



🐞 Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The two-week hockey training camp organized by Sports Board Punjab in collaboration with Rana Zaheer Hockey Academy has come to an end on Tuesday. Legendary Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans trained coaches and players on modern hockey during the camp.

Chief Guest Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz distributed certificates among the coaches and players at the closing ceremony held at National Hockey Stadium Pitch-2. Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Rana Zaheer and others were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz said that Sports Board Punjab has done an important job for the development of hockey by organizing a hockey training camp. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz said

that legendary Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans has trained the players about modern hockey during the camp and this training will definitely improve the performance of our coaches and players. "The players have shown very good discipline in the camp."

Addressing the ceremony, Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans said that the players and coaches in the camp have been trained with dedication and enthusiasm and I congratulate them all. "All the players participating in the camp are very talented and shining stars".

Sports Board Punjab team wins Girls Hockey Series



😂 Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab team defeated RAWHA Hockey Academy by 2-1 in the final to win Girls Hockey Series here on Tuesday.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi was the chief guest of the Girls Hockey Series final match.

Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Assistant Director Raees ur Rehman, Shahid Nizami,

Sehrish Ghumman of RAWHA academy were also present on this occasion. It is pertinent to mention here that Girls Hockey Series was played among Sports Board Punjab, Rukhsana Arshad Women Hockey Academy (RAWHA) and Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy teams at National Hockey Stadium.

Bagnaia cruises to Dutch MotoGP win

ASSEN: Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the Dutch MotoGP on Sunday to reignite his title challenge after championship leader Fabio Quartararo crashed out of an incident-packed race. Frenchman Quartararo fell twice, flipping spectacularly over his handlebars in the second incident although he walked away afterwards, shaking his fists in anger at his error.

trouble on his Ducati to record his third he had to give up after this second accifull points score after failing to finish after two difficult races where we were competitive without getting anything from it," the Italian said. In a great day for Italian riders. Marco Bezzecchi on a Ducati for Valentino Rossi's VR46 team was second while Spanish rider Maverick Vinales rounded out the podium in the 11th race of 20 this season.

break with a 21-point lead over Aleix on the 13th lap out of 26 in front of an



Bagnaia, in contrast, stayed out of Even if he quickly got back on his feet, victory of the season and a welcome dent. Quartararo got off to a bad start and was quickly overtaken by Aprilia in the last two races. "I am so happy rider Espargaro. It was while he was trying to recover second place, in an attempt on the inside of a bend, that Quartararo lost control of his Yamaha, ending up in the gravel although he was soon back in the saddle, albeit in last place. But a few laps later, his race was over after an acrobatic tumble.

"I made a rookie's mistake. I attacked Quartararo heads into the summer as if it was the last lap and the last bend," Quartararo said of his first fall, which Espargaro, who was fourth on Sunday. he said had left something feeling "not The Frenchman fell on the fifth then right" with his bike. As soon as the race was over he apologised to Espargaro enthusiastic crowd in the Netherlands. for forcing him off the track in the fifth the gap to Quartararo to 66 points.

lap. That incident cost him a penalty of a 'long lap' at the next race, the British Grand Prix, for being "too ambitious" and "causing contact". This was the first time since 1994 that Yamaha have failed to score a point at Assen. For Bagnaia, taking the chequered flag was a welcome change of fortune after declaring before the start that he was 'terrified of falling once again".

This was the fourth time in six races he had claimed pole, but he had failed to finish in three of his past four outings. He won his last two completed races - at Jerez and Mugello - but like Quartararo on Sunday was visibly angry last weekend after crashing out of the German MotoGP, where his French rival prevailed. Runner-up to Quartararo in the championship last year, he had looked poised to challenge for the title just a few weeks ago, but subsequently slipped to 91 points off the pace before this round of the season at the circuit known as the "Cathedral of Speed". Ahead of the next race at Silverstone on August 7 the 25-year-old from Turin moved up from sixth to fourth, cutting

in international cricket, winning 42 of the 72 matches he has led his side.

Announcing his retirement, Morgan said in a statement, "After careful deliberation and consideration, I am here to announce my retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.

"To call time on what has been without doubt the most enjoyable and rewarding chapter of my career hasn't been an easy decision, but I believe now is the right time to do so, both for me, personally, and for both England white-ball sides I have led to this point.

"I have been lucky enough to play in two World Cup winning teams, but I believe the future for England's white-ball teams is brighter than ever. We have more experience, more strength and more depth than ever before. I look forward to watching on with a huge level of excitement.

"To what lies ahead for me, I will continue to enjoy playing at a domestic level while I can. I'm really looking forward to playing and captaining London Spirit in the second edition of The Hundred this vear."

Robert Key, managing director of England men's national team, paid tribute to Morgan, stating, "On behalf of the ECB and everyone involved in cricket, I'd like to thank Eoin Morgan for his outstanding contribution to the game.

"It will be wrong to think Eoin's legacy was just winning the World Cup in 2019; it is far greater than that.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi watched the final match with keen interest. Prior to the title clash, he was also introduced to all participating women hockey players.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi also announced to give kits to the players of Sports Board Punjab, RAWHA and Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy teams.

He also issued instructions to provide refreshments to the teams that practice four days a week.

Chinese shuttlers off to strong start at Malaysia Öpen

KUALA LUMPUR: Chinese shuttlers were off to a strong start on the first round of the Malaysia Open 2022 here on Tuesday, beating out their opponents decisively in several categories.

The men's doubles saw Chinese duo Liu Yuchen/Ou Xuanyi beat their Malaysian counterparts Chang Yee Jun/Yap Roy King 21-14, 21-18 at the Axiata Arena.

Women's singles shuttler Han Yue rebounded from the first set loss to overcome Denmark's Line Christophersen 12-21, 21-14, 21-8.

In women's singles, Badminton Asia Championships title holder Wang Zhiyi of China beat her compatriot He Bingjiao 23-21, 9-21, 21-11 with a three-round match lasting over an hour.

The women's doubles pair Chen Qingchen/Jia Yifan won Thailand's Benyapa Aimsaard/Nuntakarn Aimsaard 21-17, 21-8, while Du Yue/Li Wenmei breezed past Brazilian counterparts Jaqueline Lima/Samia Lima 21-4, 21-7 in a mere 24 minutes.

In the mixed doubles, China's Wang Yilyu/Huang Dongping defeated Brazilian Fabricio Farias/Jaqueline Lima 21-11, 21-14.

Top drivers hail Safari Rally Kenya

NAIROBI: Top drivers have hailed the 2022 Safari Rally Kenya despite the battering they took in the sixth round of the World Rally Championship (WRC).

The African leg of the 13-round world series saw the best global works' teams take a beating-save from the Toyota Gazoo Racing Yaris 1 squad that completed a top-four shutout led by 21-yearold Finn star Kalle Rovanpera, who won his first Safari Rally on Sunday.

Rovanpera added 25 crucial points to the 2022 WRC leader board to extend his tally to 145, 65 clear of Hyundai Motor Racing's Thierry Neuville (80) of Belgium.

Another Hyundai driver and 2019 WRC champion Estonian Ott Tanak (62) rounds out the top three.

Takamoto Katsuta (62) is tied we have achieved and it's quite with Tanak in fourth after claiming another Safari podium finish in third with Craig Breen (60) two points further back in fifth.

The Safari revved off on June 22 with a shakedown before the ceremonial start on June 23 paved the way to brutal motor racing in the picturesque African savannah that closed on Sunday with Rovanpera winning his fourth WRC event of the season. "This one felt good," the 2022

Safari winner posted on Twitter as the winners' champagne flowed to celebrate his sixth career WRC win and a fourth of the 2022 season.

"The Safari is a rally which is very well-known from a long time ago and it's also always been a really important event for Toyo-

funny that Toyota was the team to make it the previous time. To also be the winning car in a result like this-it's just fantastic," the newly-minted champion later told wrc.com, describing his victory in Africa as his "most special so far."

Rovanpera, whose father Harri finished second in the 2022 WRC Safari Rally Kenya, led Tovota teammates Elfvn Evans. Katsuta, and 2021 Safari winner Sebastien Ogier across the line. As the new king of the Safa-

ri, top drivers took to Twitter to toast the event that once again lived to its billing as the "world's toughest rally." "Nice to be back on the podi-

um and well done to the Toyota Gazoo Racing team for an ta. It feels quite amazing what awesome 1-2-3-4 finish.

"Our approach from the start was to drive well and conserve the car but the lead just slipped away from us after the odd bad stage and time loss with the punctures," Welshman Elfyn Evans, who finished 52.8 seconds in arrears with Japanese driver Takamoto Katsuta, wrote on the microblogging platform after his second finish.

Katsuta achieved his second Safari podium finish in a row after finishing second in 2021 but this time dropped a place to third.

"We promised last year that we (would) do it and finally we stand on (the) podium together," Katsuta posted on social media with a photo of him and the winner Rovanpera holding champagne.

Eight-time WRC champion Ogier had roared back to conten-



"I want to congratulate all (of)

Toyota Gazoo Racing; it's amaz-

tion in his title defense but Saturpuncture it could have been day's mud bath saw him fall off different but it's part of the game. the pace, eventually recovering to round off the Toyota top-four.

"Bad luck was still there this ing to provide such a strong car weekend for us, without that

rally of the season!" the Frenchman remarked.

As the Toyota squad celebrated the first 1-2-3-4 at the Safari since 1993 when another Finn Juha Kankkunen led the Japanese manufacturer's sweep, their rivals were left reeling from a punishing weekend.

"Power stage points were the silver lining to a torrid weekend... But as the saying goes, if you fall off the horse, the best thing to do is (to) get right back on it," Ford M-Sport British driver, Gus Greensmith who finished 15th posted.

Greensmith made headlines in the 2022 Safari Rally when he rolled his Ford Puma 1 over onto its side on the first stage of Saturday morning, the front digging into the ruts on a tight right-hand for three days on the toughest bend and tipping the car over.