سے شعبہ نے بیان کیا،ان سے عدی بن للّٰدعنه نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم مثَالِثَةِ آمِ ا سان رضی الله عنه سے فرمایا مشر کین مکه

کی تم بھی ہجو کویا(یہ فرمایا کہ) ان کی ہجو کا جواب دو، جبر ائیل تمهارے ساتھ ہیں۔ (صیحیج بخاری: حدیث نمبر3213)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

PDM to discuss post-by-polls strategy today: Gilani

Leader of the opposition in senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani says leaders of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance will discuss the next political strategy in the backdrop of July 17 Punjab bye polls results today in Lahore. Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) committed to stand by the allies through thick and thin. PPP leadership decided that the party would stay supportive to allies in every difficult time.

PTI leveling baseless rigging allegations:

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Investment

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail held a meeting with representatives of Pakistan Pharmaceutical at Fi-



Peaceful polls

PM lauds Hamza, Maryam for polls, campaign



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed his gratitude to the PML-N leaders and workers for their tireless efforts in the by-elections of Punjab. In a tweet on Monday, he said Vice President of PML-N Maryam Nawaz ran the best election campaign for the party. He said the Punjab government under the leadership of Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz deserves congratulations over peaceful conduct of the elections.

PPP,PML-N, JUI-F chiefs discuss future political strategy

Nawaz, Zardari, Fazl speak over the phone after PML-N's defeat in Punjab by-polls

Nawaz Sharif, PPP Co-chairper- province. son Asif Ali Zardari and Jamichief Maulana Fazlur Rehman the number game in the Punjab spoke over the phone to discuss the country's political situation after PML-N's humiliating defeat in the Punjab by-elections held a day earlier, Geo News reported Monday, citing sources.

The three leaders have reportedly agreed that a detailed plan of action will be adopted in consultation with other allies.

Fazl reviewed the results of the Punjab by-elections and discussed the future strategy of the coalition government in Punjab and

In Sunday's Punjab by-polls,

ISLAMABAD/ LONDON/ the PTI bagged 15 out of the 20

The clear victory of PTI in the from PTI's 15 seats. at Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Punjab by-polls has turned around

> Puniab by-elections report submits to PML-N top brass

Assembly, with Chaudhry Pervez According to the sources, Elahi now most likely to replace Nawaz, Zardari and Maulana Hamza Shahbaz Sharif as the new chief minister of the province in the coming days.

Almost all the politicians who joined the PML-N and voted for Hamza Shahbaz Sharif lost to the PTI candidates.

PML-N won four seats and presented before the party lead-LAHORE: PML-N supremo constituencies up for grabs in the the remaining one seat went to ership. an independent candidate, apart

> and PML-Q had already joint- Sharif in Which Hamza Shahly attained the strength of 173 (163 of PTI and 10 of PML-Q). Now, with 15 additional seats, this strength has reached 188 whereas the figure for the simple majority stands at 186. This means the PTI and PML-Q have crossed that landmark.

One independent MPA will likely be part of the new ruling coali-

- After the landslide victory of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and humiliating defeat of Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) in make-or-break Punjab by-elections, on Monday a review report about by-polls has been report.

A meeting of the PML-N top brass was held which was head-Before the by-polls, the PTI ed by Prime Minister Shehbaz baz, Rana Sanaullah, Khawaja Asif, Maryam Aurangzeb, Azam Nazir Tarar, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Malik Ahmad Khan, Attaullah Tarar, Sardar Owais Leghari, Rana Mashhood and others participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, the party's defeat in the by-elections and the post-by-polls strategies discussed.

Sources privy to the matter said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah submitted a report on the party's defeat in the by-elections while a separate analysis was presented in the party

Govt to uplift all sectors of economy: Miftah

Assures pharmaceutical sector of resolving its problems

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minis-Miftah Ismail on Monday reiterated the government's commitment to resolve the operational issues being faced by various sectors of economy. The minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Industry, acknowledged the contribution of pharmaceutical industry, according to a Finance Ministry press release.

Miftah assured the delegation of resolving the issues faced by the pharmaceutical industry at the earliest and directed the relevant authorities to undertake the required measures for addressing the concerns of industry. Earlier, the minister was briefed about the contribution of pharmaceutical industry in the country's economic development. The matters related meeting. APP

to sales tax on import of raw ter for Finance and Revenue material and refunds of sales tax faced by the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan were also discussed in the meeting.

Among othres, the meeting was attended by Member of the National Assembly Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economy Bilal Kiyani, Coordinator to the PM on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman, GSK Chief Executive Officer Erum Shakir Rahim, Ferozsons CEO Osman Waheed, Abbott Managing Director Anis Ahmed, Sante CEO Tauqeer ul Haq, Pharma Bureau Executive Director Ms Ayesha Tammy Haq, and senior officers from the FBR and the Finance Division attended the

Caretaker setup

Elections to end political uncertainty: Tarin

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Shaukat Tarin has urged the government to announce election and bring a strong caretaker setup in the country.

Commenting over the situation after yesterday's by-elecincreased political instability not be affected if a caretak in the country.

Tarin urged for a strong caretaker government having understanding of the market, 'We have to move forward to end the political instability for economic betterment of the country," he said.

A situation of uncertainty will prevail till the new elections are announced, he said. "They are aware that they will not remain in power till August 2023," he said.

The government has already reached to the technical agreement with the International Monetary Fund



er government comes into power," Tarin further said.

"A caretaker setup comes with the consensus of all stakeholders, we as well as the PDM will cooperate with the finance minister of the interim government," he further said.

They have already taken very harsh decisions, still the rupee is falling down," he said. "I was expecting that the rupee will come down below 200 but the matter has worsened," former finance minister said. "The dollar is gaining strength owing to the political instability," the former minister added.

Caretaker government cannot ink IMF deal

IMF has no objection on talks with caretaker govt

Solution Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) leged segments of the society. has asked Pakistan to implement the reforms agenda the International Moneand sources within the lender said that any delay in its implementation could lead to a delay in the board meeting which will approve the release of a \$1.17 billion loan tranche. According to sources within the IMF, Pakistan should implement prioritized sections of the agreement ahead of the executive board meeting. "Any delay in implementation could result in a delay in the board meeting," they said.

The sources however denied that any country intervened in finalizing a staff-level agreement with the country and said that the Fund wants a clear policy on energy prices from Pakistan.

They lamented that the previous government did not

stani laws bar an interim Bureau (NAB) and other government from signing anti-corruption organisaa deal with the Fund," they

said, adding that the IMF has ance. no objection to relief being announced for underprivi-

The Executive Board of tary Fund (IMF) is expected to meet in the last week of August this year to decide whether to approve or disapprove its deal with Pakistan and about this sources claimed that IMF had no objection to holding negotiations with the caretaker government if it comes in

Sources privy to the matter said Pakistan would have to meet all the pre-conditions to the agreement to win the Board's approval for the loan instalment, adding that Pakistan could not afford to delay implementation on these conditions, including those related to levying taxes on petroleum products, immediate implementation on the decision taken by the Nationfulfil the agreement with the al Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on fuel There is no restriction adjustment and improvefor IMF to talk to caretaker ment in the working of the government however Paki- National Accountability

tions to ensure good govern-

Moreover, the immediate implementation of Nepra's decisions is part of the staff level agreement; Nepra's decision on fuel adjustment must be implemented without delay, violations of agreements and deviations from policy measures in the past, after February 2022. The sources further said that another condition laid down by the Fund was that Pakistan could only give those subsidies, which had been announced in the country's budget.

They were of the view that the country's IMF programme had suffered setback after February 2022 as the PTI government violated its agreements with the international monetary organisation. Delay in implementation of reforms did a lot of harm to the economy they added.

They also disclosed that the IMF had no objection to holding negotiations with the caretaker government in Pakistan, which seemed a quite likely prospect after the ruling PML-N's humiliating defeat in the Punjab

PTI foreign funding case's verdict should be announced: Maryam

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Monday said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should announce quick verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) foreign fund-

On social networking site Twitter, she lambasted the PTI leadership and wrote that there is no need to be too excited after losing 5 out of 20

PML-N Vice President further penned that Imran Khan is attacking the ECP because of the fear of foreign funding case, but not of the rigging in by-polls, which was not even happened.

Addressing Imran Khan, Maryam Nawaz wrote, "Do you know that irrefutable evidence has come out against you in the foreign funding case, which will have to be brought before the public".

Landslide victory

PTI accuses govt of interference

 $Imran\,Khan\,calls\,for\,free\,\,\mathfrak{G}\,fair\,general\,elections$

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Despite a landslide victory against PML-N in the by-election for 20 constituencies of Punjab, PTI Chairman Imran Khan Monday accused the coalition government of using "every tactic to ensure that we (PTI) lose the polls."

Speaking to the public in a televised speech, he said: "All of the government's [machinery] was used against us despite the Supreme Court's order." Casting aspersions on the way the

government managed the Punjab by-polls, Khan said that if the next elections take place "in such a manner, then political instability will exacerbate, not decrease".

The PTI chairman noted that the apex court — in its July 1 order — had ordered the government to not use its machinery for "interference", but the PML-N "violated" the order.

"They interfered in every way; they registered FIRs, used police to harass our people, but at the same time, I salute the police officials who did not pay heed to the government's pressure," he said.

Khan added that he "remembers" the name of each and every police officer who was involved in harassing PTI workers "and behaving like the workers of PML-N". Imran Khan again called for hold-

ing free and fair general elections in

the country to avoid political turmoil. Addressing the nation after winning by-elections in Punjab, while expressing joy over the historic Punjab by-elections, Imran Khan thanked his party supporters and said that "This is a delightful time for the entire nation, now we are heading towards becoming an ideological nation. The nation has rejected the foreign slavery and rejected the conspirators and turncoats." "PTI had defeated the entire state

machinery which was openly used in the by-elections." Imran said.

Taking a dig at the country's system, the former PM said that this is a misfortune of the country that the elites have kept their money abroad and bought precious flats in London, adding that these culprits have ruined the Quaid's



vision and put the country into artificial crisis. Continuing his speech, Imran lashed

out at the Election Commission of Pakistan and said that if the election is to be held in the same way as the by-elections, the crisis in the country will surge.

He further said that the government used entire state machinery against the PTI, adding that police harassed PTI's workers. The Election commission was unable to stop the state machinery despite the apex court's verdict.

"I am disappointed in the chief election commissioner. How could he let all this happen? He is not competent to run [the Election Commission of Pakistan and he should immediately step down from the position" Imran

The Spokesman

Change???

President Dr Arif Alvi meeting with Governor Punjab Baligh ur Rehman at Governor House in Lahore on Monday.



Sindh LG polls

MQM seeks stay order from SC

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has sought restraining order from the Supreme Court against second phase of the local government elections in Sindh.

Barrister Farogh Naseem requested the apex court again for urgent hearing of the petition filed by the MQM-P. The MQM had filed a petition in the Supreme Court after its pea in the Sindh High Court was rejected. The party has sought the top court to issue a restraining order against local government elections in Sindh prior to proper legislation over the

The court has also been requested to fix hearing of the case on July 20 in Islamabad.The Sindh High Court (SHC) had rejected a plea in June from major political parties including the MQM-P to delay the local government elections. The SHC while rejecting the plea to halt elections had directed the ECP to hold the polls in the province as per the schedule. The first phase of the election was held in June, while the second phase is scheduled on July 24.

It is pertinent to mention here that the top political parties had agreed to ask the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to delay local government elections in

The political parties that have agreed to defer local government elections included Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan and the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA).

The consensus among the parties emerged during a meeting of the steering committee on changes in local government act in the province. **₿** Power game

PTI decides to form govt in Punjab

Imran Khan, Elahi hold post by-polls consultative telephonic conversation

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to form government in Punjab after victory in the by-elections. The decision was taken in a meeting of the core committee was held under the chairmanship of former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan. The meeting was attended by the senior leadership of the party. During the meeting, the core committee members advised Imran Khan to be active in Sindh. Sources privy to the meeting said that

the core committee members were treated with sweet rice after winning the election in Punjab. The meeting held a detailed consultation on the matters of formation of government in Punjab, the leadership of Punjab briefed about the by-elections in the province. Former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar, former Governor Umar Sarfaraz Cheema President PTI Puniah Hamad Azhar, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, Ejaz Chaudhry and other leaders briefed the Core Committee on the situation in

Earlier today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf were more involved in discussing the situ-(PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi held a post by-elections consultative telephonic conversation.

July 17's win 'victory' of Imran's narrative: Elahi

PTI has successfully secured 15 seats in the by-elections held in 20 constituencies in Punjab on Sunday. It was a big win for the former ruling party as after being ousted the former Prime Minister has been surfing on his public support and the outcome of Puniab by-polls severed as Imran Khan in their telephonic contact on its success.

ation after Punjab by-polls.

Meanwhile, the Speaker Punjab Assembly also congratulated the PTI Chairman on the victory.

Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Parvez Elahi Monday said that the PTI's win in the by-elections on July 17 was the success of party Chairperson Imran Khan's narrative. Speaking during a meeting of the PTI and PML-Q, Elahi said that the former prime minister conveyed his message to the nation by running campaigns. "People gave their verdict in PTI's favour and rejected those who changed parties," said the speaker.

The PML-Q leader said that the law will take its course against those who opted for illegal actions, adding that "there is no example of how the police were used during vesterday's elections Dr. Yasmin Rashid, General Secretary Tri a silver lining for PTI. Furthermore, along Member of Provincial Assembly Umar with the celebrations, the party leadership Farooq said that members are ready to is also considering the forthcoming situ- resign on Imran Khan's call. Meanwhile, ation. In this regard, Pervaiz Elahi and other members congratulated the PTI

PTI, PML-Q bar MPs from going abroad

₿ Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-League - Quaid (PML-Q) have barred their Punjab Assembly lawmakers from going abroad. After the landslide victory in highstakes Punjab by-elections on Sunday, both the aforementioned parties have instructed their Punjab Assembly lawmakers not to travel abroad.

Both parties have also given instructions to lawmakers to stay in Lahore till July 22 and must join the Punjab Assembly session regarding the Punjab Chief Minister election.

Earlier today, PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi held a post by-elections consultative telephonic conversation on Monday.

PTI has successfully secured 15 seats in the by-elections held in 20 Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim constituencies in Punjab on Sunday. It was a big win for the former ruling party as after being ousted the former Prime Minister has been surfing on his public support and the outcome of Punjab by-polls severed as a silver lining for PTI.

Furthermore, along with the celebrations, the party leadership is also considering the forthcoming situa-

In this regard, Pervaiz Elahi and Imran Khan in their telephonic contact were more involved in discussing the situation after Punjab

Meanwhile, the Speaker Punjab Assembly also congratulated the PTI

Remittances rise to a record-high in FY22

№ Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The overseas Pakistani workers' remittances grew by 6.1 percent in fiscal year (Jul-Jun) 2021-22 to US\$31.2 billion against the inflows of \$29.45 billion in same period of the preceding year.

On year-on-year basis, the remittances increased by 1.7% from \$2.71 billion in June 2021 to \$2.76 billion in same period of the fiscal year 2021-22. On month-onmonth basis, the inflows of remittances increased by 18.4% when compared to the inflows of \$2.3 billion recorded in May, 2022.

According to data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday, remittances' inflows during June 2022 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$666.4 million), United Arab Emirates (\$494.7 million), United Kingdom (\$454.9 million) and the United States of America (\$284.7 million).

During the corresponding month, the overseas Pakistanis living in Bahrain sent \$45.9 million, from Kuwait \$85.3 million, from Qatar \$93.6 million whereas \$98.5 million were dispatched from Oman.

Similarly the inflows from Germany, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, and Ireland were recorded at \$42.5 million, \$40.0 million, \$5.3, \$45.7 million, \$75.6 million, \$30.9 million, \$7.0 million, \$6.0 million and \$11.9 million respectively. Likewise, from Malaysia, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland Australia, Canada, and Japan, the workers dispatched \$12.0 million, \$19.5 million, \$11.1 million, \$3.4 million, \$57.6 million, 58.4 million, and 7.6 million respectively.

Political uncertainty

Rupee hits new low against dollar



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The ruling PML-N's thumping in the Punjab by-elections that has triggered political uncertainty along with import pressure took the Pakistani rupee to a new low against the US dollar in the interbank market Monday. Data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed that the local unit lost Rs4.25, or 1.97%, against the US dollar to close at an all-time low of Rs215.20. It is the highest day-on-day depreciation after March 26, 2020.

On June 22, the rupee had closed at a record low of 211.93 against the greenback and since then the currency has remained volatile. Sunday's by-election results gave clarity but the market is awaiting a strategy going forward. "[The] market is looking for a direction, therefore investors are anticipating what would be the way forward. Will the coalition government announce early elections or not?.

On the other hand, the depreciating rupee would recover soon as all speculations are in favour of the local unit. The funds that Pakistan will receive from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) following the staff-level agreement will give the local currency a "much-needed

Punjab by-polls

Zardari buries PML-N: Rashid

Staff Report

RAWALPINDI: AML chief Sheikh Rasheed said Monday that PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari "buried" PML-N — after the party suffered a humiliating defeat in the Punjab by-elections. "The funeral of PML-N's [politics \[\took place yesterday; Zardari has buried the party, and now, Maulana Fazlur Rehman should offer prayers for them," Rasheed, who is an ally of the PTI, said while addressing a press conference.

Referring to the "landslide victory" of PTI in the hotly-contested by-polls, Rasheed said that it was a "laboratory test" and the nation gave its verdict in favour of PTI Chairman Imran Khan. "It has been proved today that Imran Khan's narrative has reached every home," he said and doubled down on the demand of dissolving the assemblies this week — and holding snap polls.

"Shahbaz Sharif has become the PM of crossed that landmark.

just Capital Development Authority (CDA)," Rasheed said in a jibe at PM Shehbaz.

He also noted that the PTI could have won the fourth seat in Lahore if it had taken a better decision — as the party managed to secure three out of constituencies. The former interior minister - who wanted the establishment to stay away from the by-polls also said that the establishment gained respect due to yesterday's free, fair and transparent by-elections.

PTI grabbed 15 of the total 20 seats in the Punjab by-polls, while PML-N won four seats and the remaining one seat went to an independent candidate. Before the by-polls, the PTI and PML-Q had already jointly attained the strength of 173 (163 of PTI and 10 of PML-Q). Now, with 15 additional seats, this strength has reached 188 whereas the figure for the simple majority stands at 186. This means the PTI and PML-Q have

CEC meeting

Coalition govt will complete its tenure: PPP

Memon says PPP stands with allies, elections will take place on time

(PPP) Central Executive Committee on Monday decided that the government will complete its tenure. A hybrid meeting of the Central Executive Committee was held under the chairmanship of PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The participants discussed the political situation in the country in the meeting held at Bilawal House.

Talking to media after the meeting, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon said that an important meeting of the central executive committee of the PPP was held. He said that it was decided in the meeting that the PPP will stand take place on time and the Parliament toral reforms.

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples' Party with the allied parties in the current situ-will complete its term. His comments ation. He said that the coalition parties will hold a meeting tomorrow in Lahore on the current situation, in which the PPP will also participate.

The provincial minister demanded that Imran Khan should apologize to the ECP, Mr. X, Mr. Y and the nation, adding that the PTI chairman has lost despite winning the by-election. "The inflation that exists in this country today is due to Imran Khan, who made an agreement with the IMF," he said and added the coalition government had to follow the agreement.

Memon said that the elections will

came after the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar depreciated and the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) plunged as its benchmark KSE-100 lost over 700 points amid the political uncertainty in the wake of the preliminary results of the by-polls in Punjab.

Speaking to journalists outside Bilawal House, Memon said that the party discussed the political situation during the central executive committee (CEC) meeting. Memon said that the party has decided to stand with the allies and consult with them in a meeting tomorrow regarding elec-

PM invites allies to a crucial consultative meeting today: Marriyum

Says people of Punjab always repose confidence in PML-N

跨 Staff REporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurnagzeb on Monday said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had invited leaders of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and other government's allied parties to his residence in Lahore on Tuesday noon for an important meeting.

The meeting at the 96-H Model Town would review the overall situation in the country, the minister said in a news statement. During the meeting, the government's coalition partners and PDM leaders would hold consultation on important matters. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the people of Punjab had always reposed full confidence

in the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz).

exemplary service to the people of Punjab in the same spirit and historical tradition, she said in a tweet. She said that the PML-N would be further strengthened in 16 constituencies of Punjab Assembly." This is the first election in history, the transparency of which even the worst political opponents cannot point a finger at", Marriyum Aurangzeb maintained.

She expressed the hope that Imran would apologize for his insulting behavior towards the Election Commission of Pakistan. The minister said that PML-N strongly believed in fair, transparent and impartial elections and following democratic norms, and yesterday's election was its practical demonstration. When Imran Khan was in power at federal level and in the Punjab, he created The party would continue the journey of records of rigging and violated the constitu-



tion on April 3 in an effort to cling to power,

On the contrary, the PML-N did not use its power in the Federation and Punjab to kidnap the staff of the ECP, transgress and violate the constitution. Marriyum Aurangzeb says Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz has established a bright democratic tradition by ensuring free, fair and transparent election in a peaceful manner.

In a series of tweets, she said the party accepts opinion of the people who are real decision makers under the Constitution. Marriyum Aurangzeb said it should be acknowledged that the PML-N is a representative party of the most of people of Punjab. She said the PML-N will continue the journey of representing and serving the people with renewed determination and passion.

Public Service

Rs12.92m relief provided to plaintiffs on orders of Ombudsman Punjab

The complainants have thanked the Ombudsman for protection of their legal rights

№ Our Correspondent

LAHORE: On the order of the Ombudsman Punjab Maj. (R) Azam Suleman Khan, a cumulative relief of Rs.12.92 million has been provided to complainants of different districts in their cases relating to provincial government departments.

The spokesperson of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab said in a statement issued on Monday that the studying children of Ghulam Farid of Lahore have been provided talent scholarships worth Rs.3,33,233 by the Punjab Workers Welfare Fund on the orders of the provincial ombudsman. In another case, he added that a sum of 2.432 million rupees has been released on the ombudsman's orders to construct a boundary wall the Office of the Ombudsman



in Kamoki tehsil.

The spokesman informed that of Govt. Girls High School Dandian Punjab moderated for payment

of Rs.28,08,050 to Allah Wasaya mad Tariq of Nankana Sahib was of Kasur as pension arrears and also intervened in the payment of employment dues of Rs.12,93,770 to Sardar Masih of Faisalabad. Similarly, Sarfraz Khan of Jhang district succeeded in eking out the pending amount of 18,13,000 rupees of his sugarcane crop after the involvement of the ombudsman's office, he mentioned.

The spokesman further stated that Rs.17,03,213 was paid to a Mianwali-based government contractor namely Khaliq Dad Khan. 13,46,751 rupees was released to Abdul Ghafoor Dar of Gujrat as arrears in addition to the issuance of a family pension to him

In another development, five lakh rupees were paid to Ali Ramzan of Sialkot as a death grant and Muham-

given Rs.3,22,222 as arrears of payments for services rendered to the Buildings Department. The spokesman noted that arrears worth Rs.2,16,699 are paid to Muhammad Afzal of Rahim Yar Khan in addition to the restoration of the monthly grant of the provincial welfare fund.

In a separate development, 1,03,275 is released to Syed Khadim Hussain of Gujranwala as rent arrears of his building and an educational stipend of 50,000 from the welfare fund has also been paid to Rajab Ali of Toba Tek Singh on the instructions of the ombudsman's office, concluded the spokesman.

The complainants have thanked the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab for the protection of their

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Boys Scouts Association in collaboration with UNFPA organized a Life Skills Based Education Camp on Monday to commemorate World Youth Skills Day.

SECP notifies amendments to Credit, Suretyship Rules, 2018

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: To promote implementation of sound principles of risk management in credit and suretyship businesses of insurance companies, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified amendments to the Credit and Suretyship (Conduct of Business) Rules, 2018 vide S.R.O. 1010 (I)/2022.

The amendments require insurance companies to develop risk assessment mechanism to evaluate technical and financial strength of the persons on whose behalf the bond/guarantee is being issued. This is intended to assess the principal obligors' experience and expertise to carry on the project work, as well as their financial strength.

Furthermore, in order to optimally utilize the local absorption capacity available within the country, and to curtail the outflow of reinsurance cessions abroad, the collateral requirements has been delinked from reinsurance arrangement. Through these amendments, SECP has also reduced the cash collateral requirement to 10% of the bond value.

High power transmission line

NTDC completes rehabilitation work of six towers in Sindh

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Desptach Company Limited (NTDC) has completed rehabilitation work of six collapsed towers of high power 500 kV Shikarpur-Dadu (Ckt-II) transmission line near Larkana in a record time. The transmission line has been energized successfully and started power supply from South to North. The pylons were damaged due to heavy windstorm and torrential rains in the area on 06 July 2022. However, power supply was provided to the affected areas through alternative source to avoid load shedding during Eid holidays. While dilating upon the details, the NTDC spokesman said that, in line with the directions of Managing Director Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, NTDC team was immediately mobilized to begin rehab work.

Qudsia Ali, Salma Hasan star in SeePrime's short film "XXL"

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: One of Pakistan's fastest growing digital media platforms; SeePrime, released its latest production 'XXL', directed by Danish Behlim on their YouTube channel.

The new short film written by Fatima Faizan follows the story

of a young girl who weighs more than what society deems average for girls her age and the effect it takes on her mental health when her mother begins to force her to lose weight. XXL features big names from the Pakistani media industry with Qudsia Ali in the main role and Salma Hasan and Azfar Ali in supporting roles

Ms. Seemeen Naveed, the executive producer stated "For too long our society has shamed human beings for being the humans they are. There is a lack of tolerance and acceptance and a silent expectedness for females and males to act and look in certain ways. However, these ideals affect one's mental health in extreme ways. This production aims to highlight the abuse that is involved in shaming humans for the way they look and forcing them to fit into society's ideals and the consequences that can follow. As with all of SeePrime's shorts, we hope to provide content that sparks introspection and a positive change in our society."

Efforts being made to conduct transparent LG election: Commissioner

Azad Baloch

DADU: Regarding the code of conduct issued by the Election Commission in connection with the second phase of the local body elections and keeping the law and order situation under control, a meeting was held at Dadu's Durbar Hal under the chairmanship of Nadeem ur Rehman Memon Commissioner Hyderabad and Pir Muhammad Shah DIG Hyderabad.

In the meeting, Deputy Commissioner and district returning officer Dadu Sayed Murtaza Ali Shah SSP Dadu Irfan Ali Samo ADC 1 Ghulam Yaseen Abbasi returning officers Shahnawaz Meerani, Amjad Mastoi, Zulfiqar Laghari, M Ali Baloch, Vice President of PTI Sindh Karim Ali Jatoi, district president PTI Ashique ounr. Saved Zafar Al Shah, PPP leaders Khalil Shaikh, Khalid Meerani and others participated.

Commissioner Hyderabad Nadeem ur Rehman said that all possible efforts are being made to conduct a transparent and fair elec-

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nazish Zafar, Age 36 years, Reli gion: Muslim, Nationality: Paki stani, Holding CNIC No. 81202-5358765-2, Resident of Mohalla Jamia Masiid Kotli, AK, Do hereby declare an oath the following facts which are true and correct to the best my knowledge.

That in all my documents of e.g. Passport, Identity Card, Birth Certificate, Bank Statement and Family Registration Certificate my name is mentioned as Nazish

That in all my Educational Documents (Secondary School Certificate, Higher Secondary School Certificate, Bachelor Degree, Master Degree) my name is mentioned as Nazish Zaffar. Hereby I affirm and declar

that Nazish Zaffar and Nazish Zafar both are one and same person that is myself.

This affidavit is executed to clarify my name which is required for the student visa. To the best of my knowledge and belief the above facts are true and correct. know that to file a false affidavit is a criminal offence.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mughal son of Haji Ghulam Ahmed share holder of residen tial house No. 762-E Sector-III Khayaban-e-Sir Syed Rawal pindi have appointed General Power Attorney to Mr. Muhammad Naeem son of Ghulam Ahmed vide registered deed No. 142/4 dated 04/02/2016 from Sub Registrar Rawalpindi.

Now, General Power of Attor ney Mr. Muhammad Naeem sor of Ghulam Ahmed wish to transfer alongwith own share to 3rd

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town **Planning Agency** (Gulzar-e-Quaid) Sub Region Rawalpindi Ph: 051-5191753

Celebration

ISLAMABAD: Sajid Ali Qureshi presenting flowers bouquet to senior leader and Central Secretary General PTI Asad Umar and President PTI North Punjab Aamer Mehmood Kiani on PTI's historic victory in Punjab's by-elections.



Photo: The Spokesman

😂 Made In Pakistan

Pakistan Auto show 2022 to kick off by July 29

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The largest exhibition of automobiles in the country-The Pakistan Auto Show 2022 (PAS-22) is being held on the 29th, 30th, and 31st of July, 2022 at the Expo Centre Lahore. It is the most valuable initiative of 'Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), representing over 3000 large, medium & small industries from all over Pakistan. The theme of the PAPS show is; "MADE IN PAKISTAN".

More than 100,000 local visitors are expected to see renowned companies while foreign exhibitors will be seen showcasing their latest parts and technologies, including 150 auto parts manufacturers. Visidrive tracks for the latest advantages for the consum-

cars of MG, Toyota, Suzuki and Proton. Also, Motorway Police Kiosk will be there to facilitate the visitors by engaging them on how to improve their driving and offering Learner's Driving Licenses on the spot.

The diverse categories

of exhibitors will include; Passenger Cars, Trucks, Buses, Tractors, Rickshaws, Motorcycles, Auto parts Manufacturers, Servicproviders, Machinery makers, Tool-makers, Antique cars and Heavy motorbikes along with related service industries like accessories, Tracking & insurance, etc. The general public is invited to visit the show between 10 AM and 7:00 PM, to see the fascinating innovations and cuttingedge technologies from the best institutions and tors will be able to take test- projects, delivering great

ers. Also providing the visitors with food and vintage cars at the exhibition.

The main goal of this exhibition is to show the PAAPAM Auto Village to the USA and European countries also export them with a complete range of Automotive Parts manufactured and supplied to all

The Chairman of Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), Abdur Razzaq Gauhar, stated that: "Implementation of tough policies by the Government also monitoring them will ensure that only Overseas Pakistanis can benefit from used-car import schemes. Foreign companies should be inspired to invest more, transfer technologies, and "Made in Pakistan" for better economic progress

Gas crisis to make Europe a cold hell in winter: PEW

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Monday said gas shortages will make Europe a cold



hell and it will experience a winter of chaos and unrest soon.

Reduction in the gas supply by Russia will hit masses, industrial and agricultural production, imports and exports and employment which will stoke inflation and shrink its GDP substantially, it said.

The countries dependent on Europe for loans, aid, imports, exports, technology and remittances which include Pakistan will also face serious trouble, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President

Experts think that inflation in the EU will jump by three percent while GDP will contract up to four percent, many businesses will go bankrupt, unemployment will rise and stagflation will damage the block.

Easypaisa launches Credit Score Visibility feature

Sour Correspondent

KARACHI: In a move that will reshape the way consumers get access to digital financial services, Easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital payments app has launched an industry first Credit Score Visibility feature for its users. This innovative product will eventually open a plethora of exciting opportunities for customers and educate them on the best financial

management practices. Only customers eligible for Easycash loans will be able to view their Easypaisa Credit Score from within the app. Through this new feature,

consumers can learn about their credit score and the impact of their digital payment behavior, credit profile if visible, their savings and subscriptions.

Commenting on this development, M. Mudassar Aqil, CEO, Easypaisa/ Telenor Microfinance Bank said, "While as a country, we are making great strides in financial inclusion, access to credit remains still an area where lack of documentation of the economy doesn't allow majority of Pakistanis to obtain formal credit from a financial institution. Introduction of credit score on the Easypaisa app is an exciting

every user will be empowered to understand what a credit score is and how they can achieve a higher score resulting in access to credit at more favorable terms. This feature will also incentivize Easypaisa users to transact digitally and help move Pakistan towards a cashless economy."

Understanding the credit score will not just financially empower customers but also help them to be more aware of the benefits of improving their scores. Khurram Waraich, Group Head, Digital Lending & Data Science, Easypaisa, said, "Our commitment to financial first step in our roadmap where inclusion is unparalleled, and

the Easypaisa Credit Score is the latest example of our efforts to increase consumer awareness and transparency while giving them greater control and freedom.

Launched shortly after the in-app 'Savings' feature, Easypaisa's innovative, AI-powered Credit Score rating aims to improve livelihoods through financial literacy. Frequently breaking new grounds in technology with features like these, Easypaisa remains committed to transforming Pakistan into a cashless and financially inclusive society through the power of collaboration and technol-

GE unveils brand names for Three Planned Future **Public Companies**

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: GE, Monday, announced the brand names of the future companies it will create through its planned separation into three industry-leading, global, investment-grade public companies focused on the growth sectors of healthcare, energy, and aviation.

GE HealthCare will be the name of GE's healthcare business. GE's existing energy portfolio of businesses, including Renewable Energy, Power, Digital, and Energy Financial Services, will sit together under the brand name GE Vernova. GE Aerospace will be the name of GE's aviation business. All three planned companies will continue to benefit from GE's heritage and global brand valued at nearly \$20 billion.

Additionally, GE announced today that following the completion of the planned spin-off, shares of GE HealthCare will be listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "GEHC." By listing on Nasdaq, GE Health-Care will benefit from the exchange's profile and track record as a market for innovative, technology-led public companies, particularly in the healthcare sector.

 $H.\ Lawrence\ Culp, Jr., Chairman$ and CEO, GE, and CEO, GE Aerospace said, "Today marks a key milestone in GE's plan to become three blues of the Earth, and "nova," from independent, laser-focused companies. Leveraging GE's multi-billion-dollar global brand gives us a competitive advantage in our end markets, allowing these business- also are reflected in GE Vernova's es to win in the future. Built on a new "evergreen" brand color.

foundation of lean and innovation, these brands will continue our mission of building a world that works and provide our customers with an important reminder of the strengths they value in GE."

GE intends to execute the tax-free spin-off of GE HealthCare in early 2023, creating an independent company driving innovation in precision health to improve patient outcomes and address critical patient and clinical challenges. Building on a more than 100-year history, the GE HealthCare name and Monogram will serve as an enduring badge of safety, quality, trust, and innovation. The new brand color for GE HealthCare is called "compassion purple" to reflect more humanity and warmth and achieve greater distinction. The company will continue to be at the forefront of provider and patient care with more than four million product installations and over two billion patient exams a year.

In early 2024, GE plans to execute the tax-free spin-off of GE Vernova, GE's portfolio of energy businesses, which together with its customers provides one-third of the world's electricity and is focused on accelerating the path to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy. The new name is a combination of "ver," derived from "verde" and "verdant" to signal the greens and the Latin "novus," or "new," reflecting a new and innovative era of lower carbon energy that GE Vernova will help deliver. These attributes





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EMERGENCY

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Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Polico 0270601-20

Women Police

Stations		
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Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

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CMH	5611111
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MH	561116
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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
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Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

CDA to hand over MBS operations to private company

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board on Monday ecided to hand over metr bus service (MBS) (plying between Peshawar Morr to Islamabad International Airport) operations to a private company at compar atively lowest rate of all such services being operated in the country. The board meeting presided over by the CDA Chairman Aamir Ali Ahmed had accorded formal approval in that regard, a news release said. The board also awarded a contract to National Logistic Cell (NLC) for constructing bus stations on the routes of Green, Blue metro bus service.

It also approved the construction of segregated tracks for both the buses to Frontier Works Organization (FWO) under Public **Procurement Regulatory** Authority (PPRA) rules.

Similarly, a summary for consultancy for public transport was also presented in the meet-

China's Special Envoy lauds constructive role played by Pakistan in Afghanistan

Foreign Secretary underscores Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable, prosperous and connected Afghanistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: China's Special Envoy on Afghanistan, Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, called on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood on Monday. The two sides exchanged views on the political and security situation in Afghanistan, humanitarian assistance by Pakistan and China to Afghanistan, and other matters of mutual interest.

The Foreign Secretary underscored Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and connected Afghanistan. He highlighted the provision of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including Paki- ease the economic hardships education; and effective counstan's relief efforts in the wake



The Foreign Secretary further

underlined the importance

for the Afghan side to address

the international community's

sivity; respect for the rights of

of devastating earthquake in build a sustainable economy. eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022.

The Foreign Secretary also stressed the importance of de-freezing of Afghanistan's expectations regarding incluforeign reserves and facilitation of banking operations to all Afghans, including girls' of the Afghan people and help ter-terrorism measures.

exchanged views on extension of CPEC to Afghanistan to promote economic development and prosperity.

The Foreign Secretary underscored that the international community's focus should not be diverted from the dire situation in Afghanistan owing to events taking place elsewhere. While emphasizing continued constructive engagement and practical cooperation with the interim Afghan authorities, the Foreign Secretary highlighted the central role of platforms such as Troika Plus and Six Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan in advancing shared goals.

In the context of region-

al connectivity, both sides

Celebration

RAWALPINDI: Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi Chairman Central Imam Hussain Council, Wagar Ahmed, Kaukab Iqbal and others cutting cake to celebrate Jashn-e-Eid Ghadir here on Monday



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

'Foundation Day Special Edition of PIVOT' magazine launched

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Center (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of the "Foundation Day Special Edition of PIVOT" magazine. The Chief Guest of the occasion was Additional Foreign Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Pakistan, Ambassador. Zahra Baloch while the other distinguished speakers were Former Ambassador to China, Naghmana Hashmi; and Ministerial Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy, Yang Nuo.

While making her speech, Additional Secretary at MOFA, Ms. Mumtaz Zahra congratulated the ISSI and CPSC on the launch of the special edition of the PIVOT. She appreciated the vision, hard work, and efforts that ISSI is putting into bringing the best policy-related publications. She complimented the magazine and its entire team for improving the quality, contents,



and visuals of the magazine. In her view, the idea of broadening the horizon of the magazine to non-traditional security policy is highly encouraging and timely. She also suggested the magazine team to keep an eye on the regional development particularly the security arrangements in the Indian Ocean such as QUAD.

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry welcomed the sa Khan.

guests and introduced the founding vision of the magazine. The Pivot, he stated, is Pakistan and, therefore, we have expanded the horizon of the magazine from China-Pakistan relations to other areas as well. Non-traditional security is also our special focus now. Chaudhry extended a token of appreciation to the Chief Editor, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Dr. Talat Shabbir, and Editor, Ms. Uroo-

World Population Day

Health Minister calls for addressing growing issue of over population

British HC says Pakistan's population is going to double in next 30 years putting a huge burden on its resources

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate the World Population Day, a collaborative event was conducted in Islamabad today. A joint effort of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Pakistan, British High Commission, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (NHSRC), and Population Programme Wing (PPW), the event revolved around the theme "A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all-Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all."

While addressing the event, Christian Turner, British High Commissioner to Pakistan said that Pakistan's population is going to double in the next 30 years putting a huge burden on its resources. "The business-as-usual approach needs to stop. It is important to talk about family planning. The UK is the largest donor on Family Planning in Pakistan and has been supporting the country since 2012. Delivering Accelerated Family Planning in Pakistan (DAFPAK) is a £90 million programme that has so far reached 7 million family planning users mostly from marginalised communities. The UK remains committed to support Pakistan," he

While addressing the World Population Day event via a video testimonial, Dr. Arif Alvi expressed concern over the constant population growth and the meagre resources available in Pakistan. He said that the government needs to exercise all options to sensitize the public about negative implications of population growth not only on human health, especially of mother and child, but also on economic as well as social life of people.

Abdul Qadir Patel, Minister for Health, remarked that Pakistan's partners and stakeholders including no one behind.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Health Abdul Qadir Patel, presenting a shield to British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Christian Turner, after the seminar on World Population Day-2022 at a local hotel in Federal Capital. Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

civil society organizations and NGOs should come together and join hands with the government to address this growing issue.

Dr. Sabina Durrani, DG Population, Population Programme Wing (PPW), commented that parents have the right to freely and responsibly decide the number and spacing of their children to fulfill the fundamental rights of their children and family by maintaining a Balance/ Tawazun between their family size and resources.

"Population is a denominator to every challenge and issue facing Pakistan right now. It is necessary that we dedicate adequate funding for accelerated Family Planning in Pakistan to reap the benefits of demographic dividend" said Dr. Shabnam Sarfraz, Member Social Sector & Devolution, Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. She also remarked that for a progressive and prosperous Pakistan, it is important that we provide equal opportunities for men and women in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Country Representative UNFPA Pakistan, Dr. Bakhtior Kadirov called for focusing on every person; on ensuring our world can support population is likely to double in the our needs & those of future generanext 30 years. He stressed that all tions, on human rights & on leaving

Marriott Hotel's culinary team draws discerning crowds with taste for int'l cuisine

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Marriott Hotel's culinary team draws discerning crowds with taste for international cuisine.

The Islamabad Marriott Hotel, which is known for its quintessential fine dining experience, is proud to welcome a team of International culinary chefs, from around the

These master chefs belong to Greece, China, Italy, Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. The hotel is delighted to introduce specialty chefs whose authentic creations would certainly delight the palate of food connois-

"We are proud to be the only five-star hotel in the capital serving authentic cuisine" says the General Manager of Marriott Hotel Islam- utive Pasty Chef from Sri Lanka.



abad, David Richard.

The team includes Ioannis Kritikos-the new Executive Chef from Greece, Chef Kevin-Chinese Chef for Dynasty, Chef Mirko-Italian Chef for Zigolini, Chef Thaiwichai-Thai Chef for Royal Elephant, Chef Perwaiz-Pakistani Chef for Nadia Coffee Shop, Chef Mario-Japanese Chef for Sakura and Chef Nadun-Exec-

Solution Cultural Diplomacy

Director Lok Virsa says collaboration with Indonesian Embassy to promote cultural ties

Embassy of Indonesia and Lok Virsa Pakistan will organize a joint exhibition from 21st to 24th July

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Indonesia and Lok Virsa Pakistan all set to organize a joint exhibition titled "A Night at Lok Virsa Museum: The Confluence of Civilizations between Pakistan and Indonesia" will be held at Lok Virsa Heritage Museum from 21st to 24th July 2022.

In an exclusive interview, Director (Museum), Lok Virsa Anwaar-ul-Haq along with Indonesian Ambassador Adam M. Tugio apprised that the exhibition aims at highlighting religious-cultural influence and similarities between the two Muslim countries during the journey of civilizations through display of a collection of photo-

graphs and videos. The opening ceremony will take place

on Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 1900 hours at Lok Virsa Heritage Museum which would include a live musical performance and a reception/dinner showcasing resemblance in the cuisines of Indonesia and Pakistan.

This will be a joint effort on the part of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and Lok Virsa Pakistan, he added.

The Director Lok Virsa expressed the hope that this joint venture would go a long way in promoting and strengthening the existing cultural relations between the two countries.

This would also bring the people of two countries closer to each other. He said that it will provide exposure to Museum visitors to explore the richness of cultural heritage in both the Muslim countries enjoying cordial relations. Replying to a question, he informed that Virsa Museums is around one hundred



monthly turnover of visitors to two Lok



Virsa is a specialized institution working It is pertinent to mention that Lok under the Federal Government dealing

with research, collection, documentation, preservation and dissemination of Pakistan's folk heritage. In pursuance of its given mandate, Lok Virsa has established the first ethnological museum in Pakistan known as Heritage Museum which depicts living cultural traditions and lifestyles of the people of Pakistan covering all provinces and regions presented through three-dimensional creative manner. The museum besides document-

ing and preserving the indigenous folk heritage, arts and crafts of Pakistan but also projects cultures of other brotherly and friendly countries that share similarities and influences with the culture of Pakistan. The coming exhibition focusing on the confluence of civilizations between Pakistan and Indonesia is also a step in this direction.

Editorial/Opinion

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

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Kashmir's accession to **Pakistan Day**

oday is 75th Kashmir's accession to Pakistan Day and people of Jammu & Kashmir, living both sides of the line of control and rest of the world will mark this day with patriotic zeal and fervor. The day dawn with a renewal of the pledge to continue the struggle for the achievement of the right to self determination and to translate the idea of accession of entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan under the spirit of the historic resolution passed this day in 1947.

Wide scale programs have been chalked out to observe Kashmir's accession to Pakistan Day throughout Azad Jammu Kashmir, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of the world - where Kashmiris are living, to observe the historic day in order to strengthen and promote the ideology of accession of entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan.

It will be a public holiday on this occasion to facilitate the masses to participate in the special programs, an AJK government spokesperson confirmed to APP here on Monday. July 19 is observed as Kashmir's accession to Pakistan Day by the Kashmiris living either side of the line of control and other parts of the world every year with the renewal of pledge to continue the ongoing indigenous struggle for freedom of occupied Jammu Kashmir from the Indian subjugation.

It would also to translate the idea of accession of entire Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan into reality under the spirit of the historic resolution passed on July 19 in 1947. The people of Jammu Kashmir state launched the struggle under the spirit of the said resolution for the liberation of their motherland from the yoke of dogra rule and later from the unlawful and forcible hold of Indian imperialism. This freedom struggle of Kashmiris is continuing with full vigor since over last 75 years.

However since over last 32 years, the liberation movement has attained momentum after the people of Indian illegally Jammu Kashmir stood up launching their indigenous struggle against the long subjugation over their motherland. Special ceremonies will be hosted in all small and major towns and cities of Azad Jammu Kashmir during the Kashmir's accession to Pakistan week to highlight the importance of the early implementation of the ideology of accession of Jammu Kash-

Meanwhile, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Professor Abdul Ghani Butt, has said that resolution of the Kashmir dispute is essential for lasting peace and prosperity in the region.

Addressing a condolence meeting on the occasion, he lauded his role for the freedom movement and said that it was because of the sacrifices made by the political workers like Ghulam Rasool Mohroo and the people of Kashmir that the Kashmir dispute had become the focus of attention at the international level. The APHC leader said instead of hostilities, the governments of Pakistan and India should strive for peace so that the region could achieve prosperity. He added that both the countries should start a dialogue process to resolve the long-pending dispute over Kashmir.

Biden and Putin: A tale of two visits

Baria Alamuddin

two potentially

game-changing visits - US President Joe Biden's recently concluded trip to Saudi Arabia, followed by Russian leader Vladimir Putin's pilgrimage this week to Tehran.

In an implicit admission of his administration's earlier failure to prioritize the Middle East, Biden declared to Arab leaders: "We will not walk away to leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia or Iran."

A joint US-Saudi statement pledged efforts to deter Iran's interference in "the internal affairs of other countries, its support for terrorism through its armed proxies and its efforts to destabilize the security and stability of the region," while recognizing the need to prevent Tehran "acquiring a nuclear weapon." Specific security measures include a joint US-GCC maritime task force in the Red Sea.

At last week's summit in Jeddah of leaders from the six Gulf states plus Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, which Biden attended, there was an affirmation of their joint commitment to Lebanon's "sovereignty, security and stability." The strong language from

Iraqi democracy and the deal for interconnected Saudi-Iraqi electricity grids are also important parts of the necessary process of weaning Iraq away from Iranian dependency. However, there was a notable absence of commitments for confronting Iranbacked paramilitary forces in these states.

Of course, this visit was about much more than Iran. As the Saudi Ambassador to the US Princess Reema bint Bandar put it, this relationship must move beyond the "oil for security" paradigm. Consequently, America's focus on cooperation on technology, renewable energy, education and economic diversification was welcome, with Biden stressing "how closely interwoven America's interests are with the success of the Middle East." And with trillions of dollars of GCC investments in the US and the West, this is by no means a one-way relation-

In the context of such serious matters, many observers despaired at the shallow stupidity of much of the Western media coverage; respectable outlets focused on fist bumps and photo opportunities, while largely ignoring the fundamental issues of global security under discussion.

In a characteristically defiant move, while Biden was still in the region Tehran unveiled a

that summit about support for new fleet of ships and submarines capable of carrying armed drones. "As we are aware of the aggressive attitude in the US system of domination, it is necessary to increase our defensive capabilities day by day," army chief Abdolrahim Mousavi said, pledging a "regrettable response" if "our enemies make a mistake."

Why are the ayatollahs so

keen to showcase their evolving drone capabilities at this exact moment? With cheap Turkish drones having proved an unexpectedly potent weapon for the Ukrainians, Putin is heading to Tehran to invest in Iranian drones. There have already been secret scoping visits by Russian officials to check out Iranian military hardware. The Revolutionary Guards' tame media outlets trumpet how Iranian weapons can compensate for Russian "weaknesses" on the battlefield. However, a US military official in the Gulf told me that sophisticated American anti-drone and missile capabilities can neutralize such threats, often before they even get off the ground. Iran's increased 2022 defense budget of \$26 billion makes it one of the world's top 15 states in military spending, but that is still about 30 times less than US defense expenditure, and there are immense differences in effectiveness and capacity — making all Tehran's anti-American saber rattling

Nevertheless, a mutually beneficial Tehran-Moscow axis should trigger alarms. As well as enabling Russia to procure cheap arms, it would be a financial windfall for Tehran, which has long sought to flog its domestically produced weaponry to warlords and terrorists throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. Thousands of increasingly sophisticated Iranian missiles have been exported to militias in Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. The planet becomes less secure if we allow Iran to become the armorer of choice for pariah states and insurgents.

When rogue states band together, they risk coalescing into a bloc - an axis of evil, if you like — and it becomes difficult to exert meaningful pressure against them as they trade with each other, exploit each other's parallel financial systems, arm each other, and help each other to evade international law.

To prevent sanctions and anti-proliferation measures being rendered ineffective, Biden's strategies toward states such as Russia, Iran, North Korea and China must not be implemented in isolation. Narrow focus on Europe and NATO will not make the world safe, it will only embolden other pariahs to flex their muscles.

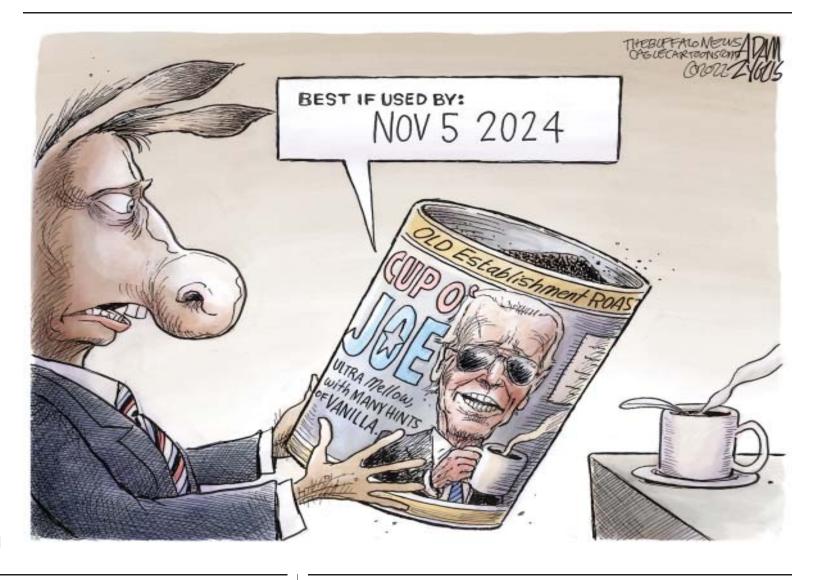
Biden commended Saudi

efforts toward a ceasefire in Yemen, but now it has never been more important for Arab states to reassert their necessary roles in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq if there is to be a curtailment of Iranian interference, which has served only to maintain these nations in a permanent state of turmoil. Arab states must demonstrate that they possess the diplomatic capacity and vision to play this crucial role.

We should not be too hasty to applaud Biden's trip and the Arab summit. Yes, America is back, but this is where the real work starts. It's no secret that the president was reluctant to make this journey in the first place, so Arab states must be assertive in holding the US to its commitments and keeping this administration closely engaged.

This is a region on a knife edge; years of Iranian expansionism have made major regionalized conflict all but inevitable. Biden's visit shows that the Arab world has succeeded for now in regaining American attention. Leaders must now do everything in their power to maintain this attention and keep it laser-focused on addressing these chronic long-term threats to regional stability.

The writer is an award-win $ning journalist\, and\, broadcaster$ in the Middle East and the UK. Courtesy Arab News



Geopolitical situation & diversifying Kazakh energy routes

Zaki Shaikh

he current geopolitical situation exacerbated by the Ukraine war and sanctions imposed on Russia has led the energy-rich Central Asian country of Kazakhstan to find alternate routes to transport its gas and oil to global markets.

Kazakhstan exports 80% of its oil through the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) and hence it needs to diversify its transportation options to emerge as an autonomous and alternate energy hub for the Asian continent.

In a phone conversation with European Council President Charles Michel, Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on July 4 expressed concern about the risks to global energy security and conveyed his country's readiness to help stabilize the situation in the world and European markets. Tokayev also called on the European Union to cooperate in developing alternate transcontinental corridors, including the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR), also known as the Middle

It is a multilateral network linking China and the European Union through the economies of Central Asia, the Caucasus, Türkiye, and Eastern Europe.

"One option is using the Atasu-Alashankou pipeline going towards China. It currentwhich 10 million tons of oil is Russian," he

try have indicated that several other alteralong the border with China.

native routes are being worked out as part of the further diversification of oil exports. One is to upload oil supplies on ships from the Caspian port at Mangistau and Atyrau then transport them to the port of Baku (Azerbaijan). From Azerbaijan, the supplies can go through Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline and also via the Batumi (Georgia) and Neka (Iran) ports.

Chukin argues that there is a possibility to use Kazakhstan railways for transporting oil directly to China rather than using Russian territories. Arrangements can be made for transporting oil by rail to the refineries in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Additionally, Chukin believed there were two more comprehensive solutions.

"We have three ports in the Caspian-Aktau, Kuryk, and Shevchenko-to allow load energy supplies for transportation to Baku. The pipeline to Türkiye is operating at 50% capacity and hence can still take up to 20 million tons. But it will be necessary to expand the storage capacities in Baku as well," he said.

Further, he said that Kazakhstan can also approach the US and seek exceptions to avoid sanctions on the construction of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran pipeline to the Persian Gulf or through Türki-

In the context of finding substitute markets, Kazakh economist Almaz Abildaev believes that there is a strong case to expand supplies in the direction of China and to take a range of measures to upgrade ly transports 12 million tons per year, of and expand Kazakhstan's logistic infrastructure for future needs. He, therefore, expressed the need to extend and improve Sources at Kazakhstan Energy Minis- linkages to Alashnkou pipeline situated

He said that extending the pipelines toward potential future Asian markets is long overdue.

"Oil supplies which are not required by China could still be transported onward to China's eastern coasts to storage terminals which may be leased or jointly built for future transportation to Vietnam, South Korea, and other markets in Asia," he said.

To diversify means to ensure uninterrupted oil supplies to its clients, Kazakh President Tokayev has tasked the authorities at Kazakhstan Railways to develop the country's logistics and transport development network. Such measures are aimed to ensure secure sustained and smooth supplies of oil. These include finding alternates to diversify the transportation options.

Top priority will be given to advancing TITR and upgrading the highways linking major population and production centers in the West including Aktube, Atyrau, Aktubinsk, with the cities in the East such as Almaty, Karaganda, Taldy Kurgan, and Ust Kamengorsk.

According to Bekzhan Sadykov from Kazakhstan Strategic Studies Institute, the transport corridors are expected to create favorable conditions for business in the future and accelerate economic activity for the population living along the length of those routes.

They will help create new jobs and enable farmers, manufacturers, and traders to generate income to spur economic growth, and above all will transport the country's main products to global markets.

The writer is a UK-based analyst and has

worked with universities in three Central

Climate-driven medical risk

Aditi Hazra

en natural disasters force people to pack a bag and flee to safety, important items are often forgotten. Following California's 2007 wildfire season, it was estimated that "at least one family member per household left prescription medication behind during evacuation." Likewise, when Hurricane Harvey threatened to flood my own mother's Texas home in August 2017, she forgot to grab her medication in her rush to escape the storm's path - even though she was normally meticulous when packing for a trip.

With climate change contributing to the increased severity and frequency of such disasters, preventing interruptions in healthcare and meeting displaced people's unmet health needs will become an increasingly urgent task. We already know that extreme weather drives migration and statelessness, displacing 21.5mn people per year – 41 people per minute. Hurricanes, cyclones, floods, and wildfires regularly disrupt access to preventative services (such as routine cancer screening), mental-health services, and treatments for chronic diseases. Owing both to a severe drought and civil war, many Syrian refugees lost access to healthcare and were later found to be suffering from chronic diseases such as cancer, hypertension, and diabetes.

Climate-driven disasters pose both direct and indirect threats to the continuity of healthcare. According to a 2019 study in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, the 10-year survival rate of breast cancer patients whose treatment was directly interrupted by Hurricane Katrina was markedly worse than that of a control group.

While relief efforts necessarily focus on the immediate aftermath of disasters, these direct and indirect health effects tend to persist. Without greater efforts to maintain continuity of care, the annual wildfire season may come to be known as cancer season.

We urgently need more equitable approaches to address the heightened risks of cancer and chronic disease following climate emergencies. Mobile alerts and checklists for chronic-disease care can help save

lives during emergencies and evacuations. In addition to ensuring safe shelter, disaster-preparedness protocols should also include measures to provide common prescription medicines, telehealth, virtual mental-health services, virtual crisis training for health-care providers, and resource-stratified treatment guidelines.

Among the many tragedies of the climate crisis is that those who contributed the least to the problem stand to bear the brunt of the costs. To address this inequity, the Union for International Cancer Control (and its partners) has launched the Access to Oncology Medicines Coalition to improve access to cancer medicines in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

A related issue is the health sector's carbon footprint. Here, surgical care is notable for its contributions to greenhouse-gas emissions. Administering the anaesthetic sevoflurane for one hour is tantamount to driving an internal combustion vehicle 20 miles, and an hour's worth of desflurane is approximate to driving 400 miles. As a result, the Michigan Medicine Department of Anesthesiology has introduced a Green Anesthesia Initiative to explore ways to reduce the field's emissions, such as by promoting greater use of sevoflurane instead of desflurane. Recently, healthcare leaders have pledged to cut greenhouse-gas emissions.

Finally, though we know that people displaced by climate change are subject to a range of health risks, more research and education is needed to improve our understanding of this broad, complex issue. For example, there is more to learn about how scorching heat waves, water scarcity, food insecurity, comorbidities, and the dehydrating effects of cancer treatment might amplify disparities associated with poor cancer outcomes for people displaced by climate emergencies.

Addressing the burgeoning climate-driven health crisis is a moral imperative for the World Health Organisation, governments, health-care professionals, and health advocacy groups. Our ability to lead healthy lives depends on having a healthy planet. As the climate changes, so must our health policies and protocols.

The writer is an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. Courtesy Gulf Times

Asian countries. Courtesy AA

Sri Lanka acting president declares emergency amid protests

Sri Lanka has run short of money to pay for imports of basic necessities

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's acting president on Monday declared a state of emergency giving him broad authority amid growing protests demanding his resignation two days before the country's lawmakers are set to elect a new president.

Ranil Wickremesinghe became acting president on Friday after his predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, fled abroad and resigned after monthslong mass protests over the country's economic collapse.

Wickremesinghe's move to impose a state of emergency comes as protests demanding his resignation have continued in most parts of the country, with some burning his effigy.

Wickremesinghe said in a statement that negotiations for a bailout package with the International Monetary Fund were nearing conclusion while discussions for assistance with foreign countries were also progressing. There has been no comment from IMF to Wickremesinghe's assessment of the bailout talks.

He said that relief was being provid-



shortages of fuel and cooking gas.

However, he said "elements within society" were trying to disrupt peace. He did not specify, but said that disruptions won't be allowed to hinder the country's progress.

protesters who had legitimate concerns would be engaged with by the governed to people and steps taken to resolve ment and solutions found for them. He

also urged political parties to put aside their differences and form "an all-party government which would allow the country to recover from the econom-

There was no immediate response Wickremesinghe said that peaceful from political parties to his latest comments, but they have been working on a unity government.

Lawmakers who met on Saturday

began the process of electing a new leader to serve the rest of the term abandoned by Rajapaksa. Nominations for the election of the new president will be heard on Tuesday, and if there is more than one candidate, the lawmakers will vote on Wednesday.

The emergency decree issued by Wickremesinghe invokes sections of the Public Security Ordinance that allow him to make regulations in the interests of public security and order. He can authorize detentions, take possession of any property and search any premises. He can also change or suspend any law.

Sri Lanka has run short of money to pay for imports of basic necessities such as food, fertilizer, medicine and fuel for its 22 million people. Its rapid economic decline has been all the more shocking because prior to the crisis, the economy had been expanding with a growing, comfortable middle class.

Sri Lanka is seeking help from the IMF and other creditors, but top officials say its finances are so poor that even obtaining a bailout has proven

Zelenskiy sidelines close allies in Kyiv's biggest purge of war

myr Zelenskiy sidelined his ing further investigation, childhood friend as head of Ukraine's security service, and another close ally as top prosecutor, in Kyiv's biggest internal purge of the war, citing their failure to root out Russian spies.

The careers of SBU security service chief Ivan Bakanov and Prosecutor enforcement officials, Zelen-General Iryna Venediktova had personified Zelenskiy's policy of putting young against the foundations of loyalists in charge of fighting corruption since the former TV comic came to power in

But nearly five months after Russia's invasion, the feted on the world stage as president acknowledged that his two allies had failed to root out traitors and the invasion by accusations collaborators in their organ- that he had named friends

removed from their posts.

rather than fired.

More than 60 officials from Bakanov's SBU security agency and the prosecutor's office were working against Ukraine in Russian-occupied territory, and 651 treason and collaboration cases had been opened against law skiy said in a video address.

"Such an array of crimes the national security of the state ... pose very serious questions to the relevant leaders," Zelenskiy said. Zelenskiy, now widely

a decisive war-time leader, had been dogged before and other inexperienced unday the two had been—they were out of their depth—attended—the—funeral—of

early on Monday that they had helped run Zelenskiy's city of Vinnytsia last week. artillery.

television career. He then led the successful campaign that saw Zelenskiy shift from playing the president on a sitcom to being elected in a landslide in real life.

After failing to capture Kyiv early in the invasion, Russian forces used a campaign of devastating bombing to cement and extend their control of the south and east.

In recent weeks the Russians have stepped up long-distance strikes on targets far from the front, killing large numbers of civilians in what Ukraine calls terrorism. Moscow says it is firing at military targets. Zelenskiy said Russia had used more than 3,000 cruise missiles so far.

Dozens of relatives and

had been suspended pend- media business during his The death of the girl, who had Down's Syndrome and was filmed cheerfully pushing a pram the morning she was killed next to it, has had particular resonance across Ukraine.

Kyiv hopes the war is at a turning point, with Moscow having exhausted its offensive capabilities to seize a few small cities in the east, while Ukraine has now fielded long-range Western weapons that can strike behind Russian lines.

Kyiv cites a string of successful strikes carried out on 30 Russian logistics and ammunition hubs, which it says are crippling Russia's artillery-dominated forces that need to transport thousands of shells to the front

Russia said on Monday Zelenskiy said late on outsiders to jobs in which local residents on Sunday Defence Minister Sergei Shoign had ordered the Bakanov, a friend of 4-year-old Liza Dmytrieva, military to concentrate on The deputy head of Zelens- Zelenskiy's since their child- one of 24 people killed in a destroying Ukraine's Westkiy's administration clarified hood in southern Ukraine, Russian missile strike in the ern-supplied rockets and

to cope with food and energy

During the conversation, Szijjarto said China

has never been "a rival of

Europe, but a partner that

brings cooperation oppor-

tunities," according to the

He informed Wang of the

Hungary due to the spillover

to dedicate itself to promot-

fairness and mutual benefit,"

of the Ukraine crisis."

Chinese Foreign Ministry.

security."

Kashmiris to observe Accession to Pakistan Day today

SRINAGAR: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world will observe the Accession to Pakistan Day, today with a renewed pledge to continue the struggle for freedom from Indian occupation and complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan.

On 19th July in 1947, genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Aabi Guzar area of

The historic resolution called for the Accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan in view of its existing religious, geographical, cultural and economic proximity to Pakistan and aspirations of millions of Kashmiri Muslims.

The development had come almost a month before the creation of two sovereign states of Paki stan and India under the Partition Plan of the British Indian colony on August 14 and 15 respectively, the

As per the understanding behind the Partition Plan, the Princely States were free to accede to either of the two newly established countries. The decision of 19th July 1947 was a testimony to the fact that the people of Kashmir had linked their future with Pakistan. They took the decision of joining Pakistan to protect their political religious, social, cultural and economic rights, as they were well aware of their fate under Hindus who had deep seated animosity for Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, an analytical report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, revealed that over 500,000 Kashmiris have laid down their lives for Jammu and Kashmir's freedom from Indian illegal occupation and its Accession to Pakistan during the last over seven decades. It said the worst kind of Indian brutalities have failed to wipe out the Kashmiris' love

"Hungary will continue The report said Indian troops in ing EU-China cooperation their continued acts of state terrorthat features mutual respect, ism have martyred over 96,000 Kashmiris including 7245 in custody

Srinagar.

same vear.

for Pakistan.

since January 1989.

Bulgaria's president asks third party to form govt

SOFIA: Bulgarian President Rumen Radev on Monday handed a mandate to the third-largest political party in parliament to form a government after two previous attempts have failed.

Although the chances of the Socialist Party's success are dim, its floor leader, Georgi Svilenski, said his party would invite the three other groups in the former coalition to give it a new try.

Svilenski told Radev that he would make every effort to see the mandate fulfilled, because the public needed calm and certainty.

The move comes after the two main groups in parliament — the reformist We Continue the Change party and the center right GERB party — failed to end the European Union and NATO member's latest political crisis amid soaring tensions with Russia.

The ouster of the pro-Western Cabinet of Kiril Petkov, who took office last December pledging zero tolerance for corruption, helped pave the way toward a new election, which analysts expected to bring a stronger presence of nationalist and pro-Russia groups in parliament.

Violence erupts in India's Tamil Nadu state

 $CHENNAI: Violence\ erupted\ after\ police\ opened\ fire\ on\ students\ and$ youth during a protest against the suicide of a girl student in Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The violence broke out in Kallakuruchi area of the Salem district in Tamil Nadu after the Class XII student jumped off her hostel building of a private school. In a suicide note recovered from her room, she had mentioned the name of two teachers who had mentally tortured her to be the reason behind her suicide.

The policemen fired on protesters after a group of students and youths barged into the private school after breaking open the gates.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has directed the Director General of Police and the state Home Secretary to reach Kallakurichi and to give a report on the violent protests after visiting the area.

There was tension in Chinna Salem near Kallakurichi after local people, protesting the suicide of a Class XII girl student of a private residential school, clashed with the police.

Student organisations, mostly Dalit student organisations and the Left also held protests.

The Class 12 victim's family has refused to take custody of the body and has asked the school management to take action.

Liu stresses innovation-driven development of Xinjiang

BEIJING: Chinese Vice Premier Liu He on Monday called for efforts to boost industrial vitalization and innovation-driven development in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks in a written speech at the "Silk Road Academician Forum: Promote Innovation and High Quality Development," which commenced on the same day in Urumqi, Xinjiang.

As a core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt, Xinjiang is transforming from a hinterland into a frontier of opening-up and ushering in a period of strategic opportunities for high-quality development, said Liu.

Efforts should be made to introduce more talent and intellectual resources into Xinjiang and push the region's high-quality development to a new level, Liu said, expecting Xinjiang to play a greater role in serving national strategies.

Italian PM visits Algeria

 $\label{eq:ALGIERS: Italian Prime\ Minister\ Mario\ Draghi\ arrived\ in\ Algeria\ on$ Monday for a one-day visit, during which he is expected to finalize deals to increase Algeria's natural gas supply to Italy to ease Italy's dependence on Russian gas supply.

After his arrival, Draghi held talks with Algerian President Abdel-

madjid Tebboune over several issues of common interest, official APS news agency reported on Monday.

Delegations from the two countries will hold a meeting in Algiers on Monday, during which several cooperation agreements would be signed, according to the report.

Algeria will raise its gas shipments to Italy by 4 billion cubic meters per year, APS news agency reported Friday, without providing a timeline for the increased delivery round.

The Algerian energy giant Sonatrach will ensure the delivery of the additional natural gas shipment to its Italian partners including Eni, APS said. Algeria has already delivered 13.9 billion cubic meters of gas to Italy so far in 2022. In 2021, the North African country exported 21.2 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Italy.

North Korea says it is nearing end of COVID crisis

SEOUL: North Korea is on the path to "finally defuse" a crisis stemming from its first acknowledged outbreak of COVID-19, the state news agency said on Monday, while Asian neighbours battle a fresh wave of infections driven by Omicron subvariants.

The North says 99.98% of its 4.77 million fever patients since late April have fully recovered, but due to an apparent lack of testing, it has not released any figures of those that proved positive.

The anti-epidemic campaign is improved to finally defuse the crisis completely," KCNA said. It added that the North had reported 310 more people with fever symptoms.

The World Health Organization has cast doubts on North Korea's claims, saying last month it believed the situation was getting worse, not better, amid an absence of independent data. The North's declaration could be a prelude to restoring trade long hampered by the pandemic, one analyst said.

"Under the current trend, North Korea could announce in less than a month that its COVID crisis is over and that could be a prelude to resuming cross-border trade," said Cheong Seong-chang, director of the Sejong Institute's North Korea studies centre in South Korea.

All sides must learn from 'hard lessons' of Ukraine war: China ISTANBUL: All parties has put forward an initiative

must "seriously learn from the hard lessons of the Ukraine crisis," according to China's top diplomat. "Apart from serious-

ly impacting Europe, the Ukraine crisis has produced a negative spillover effect spreading around the world," Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a Sunday night phone call with his Hungarian Ministry statement. counterpart Peter Szijjarto. "For the sake of long-term

effective and sustainable ture to achieve lasting peace Ukraine. and security," he said, accord-



"China is not a party to the interests, all parties should Ukraine crisis," referring to explore building a balanced, criticism aimed at Beijing Ministers' Meeting in Indofor its refusal to directly European security architec- condemn Russia's war on

"We have not stood by, nor

We have always unswerving-Wang also reiterated that ly and perseveringly promoted peace talks," he said.

On the G20 Foreign

current situation in Europe, "especially the economic and financial challenges faced by

nesia earlier this month, Wang said all his counterparts at the summit "were deeply concerned about this ing to a Chinese Foreign will we add fuel to the fire. (Ukraine crisis), and China Szijjarto said.

Climate aid, war fallout feature at Berlin climate talks

"What it is described as crisis, for us it is catastrophe," he told delegates. "There are small islands that are disappearing."

Big polluters, however, have long resisted the idea that they should pay for the destruction their greenhouse gas emissions are causing around the world.

Meanwhile, scientists say the extreme heat slamming large parts of the northern hemisphere in recent weeks could become the new normal in summer if global warming continues.

"As this meeting is taking place, parts of Europe are baking, indeed they're burning. And sadly, it's an experience that is all too familiar to many millions across the globe," said Alok Sharma, the British official who led last year's climate talks in Glasgow. He told



delegates: "My plea to you all is, please, let's speed up our work."

Minister Sameh Shoukry, said it's essential to ensure that "the current state of affairs is not taken invited. as a pretext to backtrack or renege on previous commitments, espe-

The question of energy sources endangered by Russia's war in Ukraine looms over the Berlin meeting — in which China was participating, but Russia wasn't

Environmental activists warn that recent efforts by countries

gas could undermine countries' already fragile climate actions. Germany's climate envoy,

sources of fossil fuels such as

Jennifer Morgan, acknowledged that "the Russian war of aggression is forcing us to take shortterm decisions we don't like, including the increased use of coal for a very limited period of time." "But we are not only sticking

rock-solidly to our climate goals — we are accelerating the energy transition and will phase out the use of fossil energy even faster," she told The Associated Press, citing a newly approved plan to ramp up solar and wind power generation

Some appeared skeptical. South African Environment Minister Barbara Creecy said that "we cannot have backtracking" on coal by rich nations.

tries met Monday in Berlin to discuss how to stay focused on fighting the increasing impacts progress on key issues such as of climate change while the world reels from the economic fallout of the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The U.N. secretary general admonished countries to take action instead of playing a "blame game."

European nations vowed to fulfill their climate targets even as the war in Ukraine prompts some to seek new fossil fuel sources and turn at least temporarily to coal to make up for shortfalls in Russian energy deliveries, something viewed with suspicion by developing countries.

Organizers have billed the two-day gathering in Berlin as an opportunity to rebuild trust between rich and poor nations

BERLIN: Officials from 40 counal head of November's U.N. climate summit in Egypt, after technical talks last month achieved little climate aid for developing nations. U.N. Secretary General Anto-

nio Guterres warned that the global warming limit of 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord was slipping further out of reach even as more people are being hit by extreme floods, droughts, storms and wildfires

"No nation is immune," he said. "Yet we continue to feed our fossil fuel addiction."

Guterres, appearing by video, criticized countries for continuing "to play the blame game instead of taking responsibility for our collective future," and urged rich nations to keep the promises they have made to the poor.

Developing countries are still waiting for rich nations to provide \$100 billion in climate aid each year, a target they were meant to reach by 2020.

"At the minimum, stop paying lip service to the \$100 billion a year pledge," Guterres said. "Give clarity through deadlines and timelines and get concrete on its delivery."

The issue of "loss and damage plays a prominent role in the Berlin meeting, where ministers will break into small groups for discussions in hopes of building trust ahead of the U.N. climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh. Egypt, in November. Antiguan Environment Minis-

ter Molwyn Joseph, speaking for

small-island developing nations

that are among those most at

risk, underlined the urgency of

His successor for the upcoming climate talks, Egyptian Foreign

cially those related to supporting such as Germany to tap new

index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
41,367.11	42,074.91		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
42,074.91	41,275.08		
Index Value	Change		
3,189,567,134	-707.80		
Percentage	Time		
-1.68%	18 Jul, 2022		
	5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
7,223.24	+64.23		
Percentage	Time		
+0.90%	18 Jul, 4:45 pm		
	GMT+1		
	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
31,453.23	+164.97		
Percentage	Time		
+0.53%	18 Jul, 12:40 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change		
26,788.47	+145.08		
Percentage	Time		

Open Market Forex Rates

+0.54%

15 Jul, 3:15 pm

GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	141.65	142.9
Bahrain Dinar	556.89	561.39
Canadian Dollar	160.7	162.05
China Yuan	30.99	31.24
Danish Krone	28.37	28.72
Euro	207	209.5
Hong Kong Dollar	26.67	27.02
Indian Rupee	2.62	2.7
Japanese Yen	1.5	1.55
Kuwaiti Dinar	678.08	683.08
Malaysian Ringgit	47.16	47.61
NewZealand \$	129.07	130.27
Norwegians Krone	20.45	20.75
Omani Riyal	544.58	549.08
Qatari Riyal	57.57	58.07
Saudi Riyal	55.5	56.3
Singapore Dollar	149.61	150.91
Swedish Korona	19.82	20.12
Swiss Franc	213.18	214.93
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	57	58
UK Pound Sterling	246	249
US Dollar	210.5	213

To increase remittances

BOP at APPNA conducts roadshow *Investment* Opportunities in Pakistan'



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: As part of its commitment to increase home remittance flows to Pakistan, and to increase the use of Roshan Digital Account (RDA) launched by State Bank of Pakistan, The Bank of Punjab is conducting a series of Roadshows in various cities in the US. These roadshows are being held with the cooperation of the Pakistani embassy in USA, and different consulate offices across the country, and are part of the marketing efforts under the guidance of SBP.

The purpose of these Roadshows is to encourage Pakistani diaspora to increase use of formal banking channels for sending remittances to Pakistan, USA is home to a large and important Pakistani community, contributing significantly to both home remittances as well as flows under RDA. and these Roadshows shall play an important role to raise awareness regarding ease and benefits of sending remittances through formal channels, and value proposition of RDA.

The first stop of the Roadshow was in Atlantic City, New Jersey, at the 45th Annual APPNA Convention (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America), where thousands of Pakistani-origin American doctors and physicians were in attendance. The 3-day convention featured an exhibition booth by The Bank of Punjab, live registrations for RDA, interactive information sessions, and giveaways.

On 16th July, The Bank of Punjab conducted an exclusive one-hour interactive session on "Investment Opportunities in Pakistan". The key speakers at this session included the Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Masood Khan, Acting Governor SBP Dr. Murtaza Syed, Mr. Nofel Daud, Chief of Staff & Strategy at BOP, Mr. Jalil A. Jilani, BOP's advisor on diaspora Pakistanis and Ambassador- At-Large on investment Mr. Zeeshan Shah.

Reko Diq alliance of Pakistan, Barrick set to create long-term value

Mark Bristow says during negotiations federal govt and Barrick confirmed that Balochistan and its people should receive their fair share of benefits

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Barrick President and Chief Executive Mark Bristow said after their meeting here Monday that they shared a clear vision of the national strategic importance of the Reko Diq copper-gold project and were committed to developing it as a world-class mine that would create value for the country and its people through multiple generations.

Reko Diq is one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits. An agreement in principle reached between the government of Pakistan, the provincial government of Balochistan and Barrick earlier this year provides for the reconstitution and restart of the project, which has been on hold since 2011. It will be operated by Barrick and owned 50% by Barrick, 25% by the Balochistan Provincial Government and 25% by Pakistani state-

The definitive agreements underlying the framework agreement are currently being finalized by teams from Barrick and Pakistan. Once this has been completed and the necessary



ISLAMABAD: Mark Bristow, President and Chief Executive Barrick briefing Pakistani media on the company's plans for the development of Reko Dig Copper-Gold project, here on Monday. Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

legalization steps have been taken. Barrick will update the original feasibility study, a process expected to take two years. Construction of the first phase will follow that, with first production of copper and gold expected in 2027/2028.

"During the negotiations the federal govern-

the benefits as part of the Pakistan ownership group," Bristow said.

The Barrick President and Chief Executive said "At Barrick we know that our long-term" between host countries and world-class mining success depends on sharing the benefits we create equitably with our host governments and communities. At Reko Diq, Balochistan's shareholding will be fully funded by the project for business," he said. and the Federal Government, allowing the province to reap the dividends, royalties and other benefits of its 25% ownership without having to contribute financially to the project's construction or operation. It's equally important that Balochistan and its people should see these benefits from day one. Even before construction starts, when the legalization $\,$ could be doubled in five years. With its unique process has been completed we will implement a range of social development programs, supported by an upfront commitment to the improvement of healthcare, education, food security and the provision of potable water in a region where the groundwater has a high saline content."

Finance Minister Ismail said the development and Barrick confirmed that Balochistan ment of Reko Diq represented the largest direct downstream economy.

and its people should receive their fair share of foreign investment in Balochistan and one of the largest in Pakistan.

> "Like Barrick, we believe that the future of mining lies in mutually beneficial partnerships companies. The Reko Diq agreement exemplifies this philosophy, and also signals to the international community that Pakistan is open

> Subject to the updated feasibility study, Reko Diq is envisaged as a conventional open pit and milling operation, producing a high-quality copper-gold concentrate. It will be constructed in two phases, starting with a plant that will be able to process approximately 40 million tonnes of ore per annum which combination of large scale, low strip and good grade, Reko Diq will be a multi-generational mine with a life of at least 40 years. During peak construction the project is expected to employ 7,500 people and once in production it will create 4,000 long-term jobs. Barrick's policy of prioritizing local employment and suppliers will have a positive impact on the

World is drowning in a serious debt crisis

Pakistan should ensure political stability to avoid problems, says Mian Zahid Hussain

55 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the world is drowning in a serious debt crisis.

More than 100 developing countries are facing financial difficulties, and dozens of them may go bankrupt, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in order

to save its economy in the current alarming situation, Pakistan should ensure polit-Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that Pakistan can pay attention to agriculture which will result in import substitution of \$17 billion.

He said that the failed state-run corporations are wasting Rs600 billion annually, power losses and theft is almost Rs600 billion which should be controlled and alternate energy should be promoted.

He said that many countries in Asia, Afri-



ca and South America are facing runaway inflation and trying to cope with high prices of energy and food.

These countries have borrowed a lot and damaged their forex reserves while Sri Lanka has failed to tackle the situation resulting in bankruptcy. Many other countries can face bankruptcy after Sri Lanka,

Mian Zahid Hussain said that coronavi-

rus has damaged the global economy which was followed by costly loans to continue popular policies.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a shortage of oil, gas, food, fertilizer and hundreds of other things which have damaged the economy of weak coun-

A few months back, the World Bank said that seventy months are facing a serious crisis including some developed economies while in March UN said that 107 countries which are home to 1.7 billion people are distressed. Presently 69 countries are facing a serious economic crisis, their economy and currency is nose-diving and they can face insolvency soon.

International institutions and rich nations should consider waiving loans and rollover debts and push developing countries to expand the tax net and discourage corruption.

 $The \, developing \, world \, should \, also \, ensure$ monitoring of debt to stop wastage and leakages while Pakistani leadership should ensure political stability.

ICCI calls for withdrawal of hike in **SBP** interest rate

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to urge the SBP to withdraw hike in its benchmark interest rate, which has been increased to 15 percent, in order to save the economy from further troubles as this historic hike would badly affect the growth of business activities and cause further slump in the economy.

Shakeel Muhammad Munir said that the benchmark interest rate in Malaysia was only 2.25 percent, Indonesia 3.5 percent, China 3.7 percent, Bangladesh 4.75 percent and India our private sector to compete new industries that would trade and exports. He said ful to the economy.

that such a massive hike in policy interest rate would prove disastrous for industries and the SME sector as these sectors needed cheap loans for growth and expansion. He strongly demanded that the government should intervene and get the SBP's decision withdrawn with immediate effect to save the private sector from more problems.

ICCI President said that the business community has shown great concerns over the SBP's move to increase the interest rate to 15 percent at a time when power, gas, and petroleum prices have already reached new highs. He said that the interest rate in Pakistan is many times higher than in the region, and in 4.9 percent, but it was 15 such circumstances, no invespercent in Pakistan due to tor would consider investing which it was not possible for in Pakistan or setting up any effectively for promoting ultimately prove more harm-

QNET promotes entrepreneurial opportunities on World Youth Skills Day

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: QNET, a prominent e-commerce based direct selling company, is celebrating World Youth Skills Day by empowering young people through upskilling workshops that focus on entrepreneurial proficiency. The company offers comprehensive training programs for those looking to become QNET independent representatives to enable them to choose a sustainable source of income outside the less flexible, traditional career nath.

World Youth Skills Day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. The day is meant to celebrate the strategic importance of young people being able to lift themselves up by teaching them the skills they need to pursue opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Speaking about the importance of World Youth Skills Day, Malou Caluza, CEO of QNET, said, "Today is a day we focus on empowering the current generation of young people to pursue a future that is stable, happy, and fulfilling. Compared to previous generations, millennials do not expect to hold a stable job over their lifetime. They look for what feels worthwhile and can complement their values and lifestyle choices."

"At QNET, we want to enable millennials to leverage their technological prow-



ess, strong connection to the community, and powerful sense of social responsibility to generate a sustainable source of income outside of less flexible, traditional career paths with direct selling," she added.

Direct selling is a practice where distributors sell goods directly to consumers outside of traditional stores, as opposed to retailers that purchase products to mark up and sell to the end customer. According to research conducted by QNET in collaboration with Marmara University in Turkey and the Moscow State University in Russia, millennials find the direct selling business model appealing because it provides them with control over their own operation and flexibility in their work life. Explaining what draws millennials to the direct selling business model, Ms. Caluza, said, "This diminishing interest in career stability in favour of personal development and work flexibility has led to the boom of many independent start-ups within the gig economy. It is

not surprising that the direct selling industry has seen a major influx of millennials over the last few years who look to this business as the perfect side hustle that complements their lifestyle. Direct selling can act as a supplementary source of income for those who are pursuing their passion, or even a fulltime career for the entrepreneurial-minded, depending on what the person is looking for."

Surveys have shown that millennials view entrepreneurship as a job and a lifestyle that enables them to turn their passion, which can include art, personal health, or fashion into an income-generating business. They also value a healthy work-life balance and seek flexible schedules that allow time to explore various interests such as travel or volunteering which is a big reason why the flexibility and supplemental income that the role of distributor for direct selling companies provides is so appealing to them.

Speaking about her experience working as a distributor for QNET, Nidaa Ryweck, a Platinum Star distributor for QNET said, "Before I began my journey in direct selling, I was juggling a regular job and my studies at university to make ends meet. My busy schedule left me little room to grow on a personal and professional level. But things changed when I joined the direct selling industry - I get all the benefits of running my own business without any of the headaches."

TECNO Camon 19 Neo now available in Pakistan



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: TECNO Mobile officially unveiled the latest Camera device, Camon 19 Neo in Pakistan. The phone comes with an impressive camera and design and is available for sale nationwide.

TECNO "Cam-On" series always brings forward the best camera features at a competitive price. The new Camon 19 Neo supports a 32MP Softlight Selfie Camera, 48MP Bright Night Portrait, and a Geometric Edge cutting Design to cater

to the need of the young stylish users.

The much-awaited series is being highly praised by the marketers and users in Pakistan. The phone not only has great features, but its introductory price of PKR 34,999 is attracting the attention of consumers well.

Kelvin Zeng, CEO of TECNO Mobile Pakistan, expressed his thought on this launch, "We are receiving great feedback from the tech community and the market leaders on Camon 19 series.

Keeping growth momentum

PTCL Group posts 5.7% revenue growth in Half Year 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, has announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2022, at its Board of Directors' meeting held in Islamabad on

managed to keep the top line growth momentum, which further strength- 91.7%. Voice revenue stream has seen ened its market standing as an inte-Pakistan. Growth in revenue is mainly driven by strong performance in the consumer segment led by fixed broadband, mobile data, and business solutions, along with microfinance ny's seamless fixed broadband, includ-

services that supported the Group in achieving 5.7% growth in revenue over the comparative period despite the challenges of increase in Advance Income Tax (AIT) and reduction in Mobile Termination Rates (MTR).

During the half year, the company's fixed broadband business grew by 10.7% YoY, whereas IPTV segment also showed 8.6% growth YoY. With-During the first six months of in the broadband business, Flash 2022, PTCL Group successfully Fiber, the company's premium FTTH service, showed significant growth of a decline due to lower voice traffic and grated telecom services provider in continued conversion of customers to OTT services.

PTCL has achieved consistent performance and enhanced customer experience on the back of the compa-



ing the fastest internet service in Pakistan through the Flash Fiber brand. PTCL has expanded its FTTH services in 28 cities, and the subscriber base has doubled on a YoY basis as the company continued to tap into the demand for growing internet and to last year. Within the wholesale data services.

While continuing momentum with overall YoY revenue growth of 5.1%, the business solutions segment sustained its market leadership in IP bandwidth, cloud, data center, and other ICT services. PTCL's corporate business grew by 15.0% as compared

business segment, carrier revenue grew by 9.6% but the overall wholesale segment revenue has declined as a result of closure of certain international IP leased circuits. International revenue, helped by the favorable impact of currency devaluation, has increased by 14.0% over last year.

PTCL strives to provide innovative, dependable, and agile solutions to its partners through robust telecommunication infrastructure and a diverse portfolio of services with enhanced customer experience.

Ufone's customer experience remains one of the best within the industry, backed by higher data speeds and industry first innovative products such as 'UPower' that has received tremendous response from the customers.

World Test Championship

Sri Lanka extend lead despite Nawaz's brilliant five-wicket haul

The highest total chased at Galle is Sri Lanka's 268

Spokesman Report

GALLE: Dinesh Chandimal (86*) helped Sri Lanka push their lead to 333 at the end of day three despite a brilliant five-wicket haul from Moham-

Sri Lanka lost Kasun Rajitha early on Day 3, with Mohammad Nawaz getting his second wicket of the innings. However, Pakistan were not able to press home the advantage as the Sri Lanka batters stabilised their innings. Both Oshada Fernando and Kusal Mendis paired well to drive Sri Lanka forward.

Fernando was the more aggressive of the two, hitting some beautiful shots. He was well-supported by Kusal, who was solid in his defence. Despite a couple of close lbw calls, Fernando survived to bring up a patient fifty. However, the 91-run stand was broken on the second ball after the lunch break but not before the duo had extended Sri Lanka's lead

Fernando was Yasir Shah's first wick-



et of the innings and he continued to impress as the Sri Lanka innings progressed further. He was complemented by Mohammad Nawaz, who was bowling maturely and soon dismissed

the experienced Angelo Mathews. Kusal Mendis' gritty innings of 76 was stopped by Yasir, a superb leg-spin delivery that brushed Kusal's off-stump.

Yasir took his third wicket of the

innings with another beauty, stopping Dhananjaya de Silva's 20-ball 20 knock. Even as Dinesh Chandimal held one end, Nawaz and Yasir tightened the screws on the rest of the line-up. As many as five wickets fell in the second session with Sri Lanka going to tea at 257/7. And soon after the break, Nawaz completed his maiden five-wicket haul in Tests with the scalp of Ramesh Mendis.

With eight wickets down and a lead of around 250, Sri Lanka needed someone to push them towards a more challenging total. And Dinesh Chandimal took up the job without ceremony. He had already formed useful partnerships with the lower middle-order and continued that as he got to his half-century.

He shared a 41-run ninth-wicket stand with Maheesh Theekshana (11 runs from 57 balls) and another unbeaten 21-run last-wicket partnership with Prabath Jayasuriya (4*) to take Sri Lanka's lead to 333. Bad light forced early stumps in Galle with Sri Lanka on 329/9 and Chan-

Paraglider pilots await perfect weather conditions to soar above K2

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The goal to fly a paraglider above K2 is still on - all the team need is a bit of luck. So says Belgian adventurer Tom de Dorlodot who is in the heart of the Karakoram exploring the Baltoro from the air with fellow flyers Horacio Llorens and Ramón Morillas.

The trio have spent the new lines by paraglider collapsible foot-launched wings, relying on pockets the region's famously spectacular mountains. "It's been pretty intense," Tom great flying days. On three says. Speaking from Askole where the team has gone to four they made Broad Peak pick up fresh supplies, he and some they tagged both said the expedition has got on the same day. They've also



past three weeks flying ible. We've been really bless- to launch. "It's extremely hot," ed with the weather. It's been really amazing, big thermals, small fluffy clouds, never too of warm air to climb above big and no wind in the valley so it's pretty safe to fly.'

The team enjoyed ten occasions they got to K2, on Baltoro glacier almost all the Masherbrum, Days typicalway to K2 which was incred- ly begin with an 800m hike were walking on the glacier it happen - but it's possible."

Asian Bodybuilding Championship

says Tom.

"You're dressed to fly at 8,000m and you're carrying so much gear." From there the team launch by inflating their wing above their heads and running down a steep slope. Once in the air, it's extremely committing. "It's always a big challenge," adds Tom. "We have to fly 100km come and we can reach K2 off to a great start. "On the explored close to Muztagh almost every day. You have and soar all the way up. It's first flight we flew the whole Tower, Gasherbrum and to think, that's 100km without any landing options. We

the other day and it's just a nightmare of big stones and

One day Ramon landed at the base camp of Broad Peak. It took him two days to hike back. The team has been re-charging in Askole and picking up fresh food supplies after living off rice and chapattis for five days. Due to regional floods that have damaged roads and bridges, supplies haven't been getting through.

The plan is now to make one last attempt on K2 and then fly all the way back to Skardu to avoid the difficult journey overland. Ramon has left for Spain so it's just Tom and Horacio now. "There's still not so much wind forecast but we're hoping it will just a question of luck now. We need a bit of luck to make

70 kg plus category,

Earlier, the Pakistani

contingent, led by secretary

PBF Sohail Anwar, met with

the Maldives President, on the

occasion, the Maldives Pres-

ident said that friendly rela-

tions between Pakistan and

Maldives are very deep, but

through sports, this path is

more stable and sustainable.

building Federation Sohail

Anwar has appreciated

outstanding performance of

national makers in the Asian

competition, said that Paki-

stani bodybuilders have made

the country's name proud

with their hard work, there is

a tremendous talent of body-

building in Pakistan, medals

in Asian championship are a

gift for the nation.

Secretary Pakistan Body-

Ben Stokes announces ODI retirement

LONDON: Ben Stokes, the England all-rounder, on Monday announced his

Stokes, 31, said the first ODI between England and South Africa in Durham on Tuesday would be his last in the format, adding that it was "an incredibly tough

After making his ODI debut against Ireland in 2011, Stokes has scored 2919 runs, including three centuries, and taken

The highlight remains his match-winning effort in the final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, when his unbeaten 84* helped send the match to the Super Over,

Stokes was recently appointed as the captain of the England Men's Test side after Joe Root stepped down, a call which played

Under his leadership, England completed a 3-0 clean sweep at home against New Zealand and then won the fifth rescheduled

Stokes had also taken a break from international cricket in July last year to prioritise his mental well-being. He returned to international cricket during the 2021-22 Ashes

Stokes said in a statement: "I will play my last game for England in ODI cricket on Tuesday in Durham. I have decided to retire from this format. This has been an incredibly tough decision to make. I have loved every minute of playing with my mates for England. We have had an incredible jour-

me now," he said.

is expected of us, but I also feel that I am taking the place of another player who can

a cricketer and make incredible memories

"I will give everything I have to Test cricket, and now, with this decision, I feel I can also give my total commitment to the T20 format. "I would like to wish Jos Buttler, Matthew Mott, the players and the support staff every success going forward. We have made great strides in white-ball cricket over the past seven years, and the future looks

dimal going strong on 86*.

decision to retire from ODI cricket.

74 wickets in the format.

which England clinched.

a massive role in his decision.

Test against India.

in Australia.

ney on the way.

"As hard as a decision as this was to come to, it's not as hard dealing with the fact I can't give my teammates 100% of myself in this format anymore. The England shirt deserves nothing less from anyone who wears it." Stokes has only featured in nine ODIs since England's World Cup triumph against New Zealand at Lord's in 2019, with workload management gaining priority. "Three formats are just unsustainable for

"Not only do I feel that my body is letting me down because of the schedule and what give Jos and the rest of the team their all.

"It's time for someone else to progress as like I have over the past 11 years.

Batra resigns as FIH president



ISLAMABAD: Narinder Dhruv Batra on Monday tendered his resignation from the post of International Hockey Federation

Batra has informed the Members of the Executive board (EB)

of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) of his resignation. As stipulated in the FIH Statutes (Article 7.4 a), "the Executive Board shall appoint an acting President to hold office until the FIH Congress appoints a person to fill the vacancy". Therefore, a meeting of the EB would be organised as soon as possible, said a press release. In accordance with the same article, the next Presidential elections would take place during the upcoming FIH Congress which was planned to be held virtually on November 4 and 5 this year. Any details about the Presidential elections process would be confirmed at a later stage.

Four nations vie to host Asian Cup

KUALA LUMPUR: Australia, South Korea, Qatar and Indonesia are bidding to stage the 2023 Asian Cup after China withdrew citing the Covid pandemic, with a decision to be announced in October, officials said Monday.

China had pulled out in May as the host of the 24-team competition as it pursued a zero-Covid policy - a strategy that makes staging sports events a major challenge. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) unveiled the new contenders to host the tournament after the deadline for submissions closed on Friday.

Australia are aiming to host the competition for a second time, after staging it in 2015. South Korea have also staged the Asian Cup once before, in 1960. Qatar - the 2022 World Cup hosts have staged the Asian Cup twice, in 1988 and 2011.

The tournament has never been held in Indonesia. AFC will announce the new host on October 17. The Asian Cup is staged every four years. Qatar won the last edition in 2019.

Denesh Ramdin announces retirement from int'l cricket

PORT OF SPAIN: Wicketkeeper-batter and former West Indies Test skipper Denesh Ramdin has decided to retire from international cricket.

He will continue to play in franchise cricket. Ramdin represented West Indies in 74 Test matches, 139 ODIs and 71 T20Is. He scored 2898 runs in the longest format, with four centuries. He accumulated 2200 runs in ODIs with two centuries and scored a further $636\,\mathrm{runs}\,\mathrm{T}20\mathrm{I}\,\mathrm{cricket}$. Ramdin made his international debut for West Indies against Sri Lanka in 2005. He last represented his country in a T20I series against India in 2019.

Announcing his retirement, Ramdin wrote on a post on Instagram, "It is with great pleasure that I announce my retirement from international cricket. I fulfilled my childhood dreams by playing cricket for Trinidad and Tobago and the West Indies.

"My career afforded me the opportunity to see the world, make friends from different cultures and still be able to appreciate where I came from."

Confirming his intention to continue playing franchise cricket. Ramdin added, "Even though I am announcing my retirement from international cricket, I am not retiring from professional cricket. I will still be playing franchise cricket around the world."

Sweden, Netherlands reach Euro quarters

SHEFFIELD: Sweden thrashed Portugal 5-0 to reach the quarter-finals of Euro 2022 on Sunday as holders the Netherlands needed a flurry of late goals to beat Switzerland 4-1 to ensure their place in the last eight.

Silver medallists at last year's Olympics, Sweden are the highest ranked team in the tournament, but failed to hit top gear in drawing with the Dutch and squeezing past the Swiss 2-1 in their opening two games. Peter Gerhardsson's women clicked into gear in Leigh to claim top spot in Group C and were 3-0 up by half-time. Manchester City's Filippa Angeldal struck twice before Carole Costa headed into her own net in first half stoppage time. Kosovare Asllani's penalty made it 4-0 before Arsenal striker Stina Blackstenius finally got on the scoresheet after having two earlier efforts ruled out. Sweden will face whoever finishes second in Group D with Belgium, Iceland and Italy all in with a chance to finishing behind France in Monday's matches.

"We were really satisfied that we did enough to win the group. That was something we hoped for when we started," said Gerhardsson. The Netherlands lie in wait for the French in the last eight as they had enough to get through despite missing star striker Vivianne Miedema for the second consecutive game due to a positive case of coronavirus. "We're playing a big opponent and so are they. I don't think they want to play us," said Netherlands boss Mark Parsons, whose side lost 3-1 to France in February. "The result wasn't what we wanted (last time), but we said that the next time we played them, we were confident that we would be better. We saw opportunity."

Pakistani bodybuilders win three medals

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: In the fourth Asian Bodybuilding Championship, Pakistan's bodybuilders have achieved great achievements.

According to details, the national anthem rose in the ongoing championship in Maldives's island Mafia, the Pakistani bodybuilders won 3 medals in the championship, the national bodybuilders named the sixth position in the overall different levels, national bodybuilder named, Omar Shahzad junior medal. Shahzad Qureshi defeated India's Naresh Nagdev in the master class 80kg plus category and named the gold



bodybuilding was able to take silver medal in 70kg plus category, Suresh Bala Kumar of India got the first position, Chen Kheng Ghaba got the

Mudassar Khan got the fifth position in model physics category. Fazal Elahi got the fifth position in master class 80 kg plus category, Muham-By defeating the Indi- third position, national coun- mad Azeem managed to get an rival, the gold medal was cil Arcelan bag got bronze 6th position in master class

Cheptegei defends world title with another Ugandan, Jacob Kiplimo, taking bronze (27:27.97)

> in an unsually close finish. Reigning Olympic champion Selemon Barega of Ethiopia sweep of the men's 100m and Chase Ealey's gold in the women's shot put on Saturday, Andersen

In front of a partisan crowd,

Andersen backed up her great seasonal form by totaly dominating the field in the hammer. Andersen, who went fourth in the all-time list of throwers in April, managed a best of 78.96 metres for victory. Canada's Camryn Rogers claimed silver with 75.52m, with the USA's Janee Kassanavoid taking bronze (74.86). Belgium's Olympic champion Nafi Thiam was in control of the heptathlon after three events. The Belgian clocked 13.21sec in the 100m hurdles, managed a best of 1.95sec in the high jump and 15.03m in the shot put.

That left her with 3,127 points, with Anouk Vetter of the Netherlands in second on 3,003. Reigning world champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson sat in seventh on 2,781pts, with just the



200m to come later Sunday. The ease. Van Niekerk set the 400m gruelling multi-discipline event world record when winning gold concludes on Monday with the at the 2016 Rio Olympics, but a long jump, javelin throw and serious knee inury saw him have 800m. There was a welcome a three-year hiatus from the track, return to the global stage for and then competing only spar-South African Wayde van Niekingly after his return to action in erk, who won his 400m heat with 2020.

performances at 100m, 200m, 300m and 400m respectively. "I need to open up my legs a little bit to get my muscles going and see what I need to work on before I get to the semi-final. "I feel much, much better but obviously my mentality is to get into the finals and see what happens." Also advancing to Tuesday's semi-finals are top ranked Kirani James of Grenada, the 2012 Olympic champion who claimed silver in Rio and bronze in Tokyo, and the strong US trio of Michael Norman, Michael Cherry and Champion Allison as well as Botswana's heat pace setter Bayapo Ndori (44.87sec).

"There's a lot of love," said the

South African, the first sprint-

er in history to have run sub-10,

sub-20, sub-31 and sub-44

EUGENE: Uganda's Stephen Geremew taking silver, as he also Cheptegei produced a devastating display of controlled distance running to retain his world

10,000m crown on Friday, while Brooke Andersen bagged a third gold for the US in the women's hammer throw. The third day of action at the

World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, saw Ethiopia's Tamirat Tola make a decisive kick 8km from the finish line to win gold in the men's marathon. Tola, who won Olympic 10,000m bronze at the 2016 Rio Games and marathon silver at the 2017 London worlds, clocked a championship record of 2hr 5min 37sec, smashing the previous best of 2:06.54 set by Kenyan Abel Kirui in Berlin in 2009. There was

did in the 2019 worlds in Doha, in 2:06.45. Belgium's Bashir Abdi took

bronze a further 4sec adrift. "It's a dream come true," Tola said. "I learned from my mistake in 2017 and I made sure it did not happen again. "I feel very happy with the championship record. And the double is amazing for us." Cheptegei, like Tola, was in total control of his race, leading for long periods and holding off all-comers as a large pack went through the bell for the final lap.

The Ugandan world record holder sprinted clear and was never in danger as he finished in 27min 27.43sec, leaving the chasers to battle it out for the minor medals. Kenya's Stanley Waithaka an Ethiopian 1-2 with Mosinet Mburu claimed silver in 27:27.90,

finished fifth, beaten to fourth by American Grant Fisher. Cheptegei said the race had been "very emotional", coming back to the United States where he started his international career at the World Junior Championships in 2014. "Now, I want to continue my dominancy in long distance running and I hope I will manage it," he said. Close on the heels of the Fred Kerley-led US clean-

made it three titles for the host