

**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: Sanaullah**

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan says PTI Chairman Imran Khan is leveling baseless allegations of election rigging despite being clear victory in yesterday's by-elections in Punjab. The PM-N coalition government ensured free, fair and transparent by-elections in the province. PM-N supports ECP in wake of these allegations which are meant to put ECP under pressure.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Investment**

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



Photo: PID

**Govt to uplift all sectors of economy: Miftah**

Assures pharmaceutical sector of resolving its problems

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue 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.

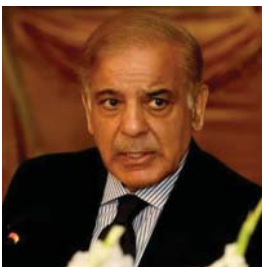
Miftah assured the delegation of resolving the issues faced by the pharmaceutical industry at the earliest and directed the relevant authorities to undertake the required measures for addressing the concerns of industry. Earlier, the minister was briefed about the contribution of pharmaceutical industry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

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

Among others, 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, Ferrozsons 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 meeting. APP

**Peaceful polls**

PM lauds Hamza, Maryam for polls, campaign



Staff Report

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

ISLAMABAD/ LONDON/ LAHORE: PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, PPP Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman 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.

According to the sources, Nawaz, Zardari and Maulana Fazl reviewed the results of the Punjab by-elections and discussed the future strategy of the coalition government in Punjab and the centre.

In Sunday's Punjab by-polls,

the PTI bagged 15 out of the 20 constituencies up for grabs in the province.

The clear victory of PTI in the Punjab by-polls has turned around the number game in the Punjab

Assembly, with Chaudhry Pervaz Elahi now most likely to replace Hamza Shabbaz 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 Shabbaz Sharif lost to the PTI candidates.

PML-N won four seats and the remaining one seat went to an independent candidate, apart from PTI's 15 seats.

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 crossed that landmark.

One independent MPA will likely be part of the new ruling coalition.

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

presented before the party leadership.

A meeting of the PML-N top brass was held which was headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in which Hamza Shabbaz, 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 were 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 report.

Presented before the party leadership.

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**Caretaker setup**

**Elections to end political uncertainty: Tarin**

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Shaoukat 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-election result, he said it has increased political instability 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



(IMF). The agreement will not be affected if a caretaker 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

**Our Correspondent**

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Pakistan to implement the reforms agenda and 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 fulfil the agreement with the lender.

"There is no restriction for IMF to talk to caretaker government however Pakistani laws bar an interim government from signing a deal with the Fund," they

said, adding that the IMF has no objection to relief being announced for underprivileged segments of the society. The Executive Board of the International Monetary 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 source claimed that IMF had no objection to holding negotiations with the caretaker government if it comes in Pakistan.

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 National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on fuel adjustment and improvement in the working of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and other anti-corruption organisations to ensure good govern-

ance. 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 a 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 by-polls.

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

**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 funding case.

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 seats.

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 & 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 holding 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 said.

## Change???

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



Photo: PID

## 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 plea 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 matter.

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 Sindh.

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 Punjab Dr. Yasmin Rashid, General Secretary Tri Hamad Azhar, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, Ejaz Chaudhry and other leaders briefed the Core Committee on the situation in Punjab.

Earlier today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (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 Punjab by-polls severed as a silver lining for PTI. Furthermore, along with the celebrations, the party leadership is also considering the forthcoming situation. In this regard, Pervaiz Elahi and Imran Khan in their telephonic contact

were more involved in discussing the situation 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 yesterday's elections". Member of Provincial Assembly Umar Farooq said that members are ready to resign on Imran Khan's call. Meanwhile, other members congratulated the PTI on its success.

## PTI, PML-Q bar MPs from going abroad

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) have barred their Punjab Assembly lawmakers from going abroad. After the landslide victory in high-stakes 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.

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

## 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-on-month 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 Pakistani 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 breather".

## 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

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 crossed that landmark.

## CEC meeting

## Coalition govt will complete its tenure: PPP

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

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples' Party (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

with the allied parties in the current situation. 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 take place on time and the Parliament

will complete its term. His comments 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 electoral reforms.

## PM invites allies to a crucial consultative meeting today: Marriyum

Says people of Punjab always repose confidence in PML-N

## 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 Aurnagzeb said that the people of Punjab had always reposed full confidence in the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz).

The party would continue the journey of

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 Aurnagzeb 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 records of rigging and violated the constitu-



tion on April 3 in an effort to cling to power, she added.

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 Aurnagzeb 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 Aurnagzeb 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.





Islamabad  
27° - 36° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 3:18 am  
Zohr ..... 12:12 pm  
Asr ..... 5:12 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:22 pm  
Isha ..... 9:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

CDA to hand over MBS operations to private company

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board on Monday decided to hand over metro bus service (MBS) (plying between Peshawar Morr to Islamabad International Airport) operations to a private company at comparatively 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 meeting.

# 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 Pakistan's relief efforts in the wake



of devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022.

The Foreign Secretary also stressed the importance of de-freezing of Afghanistan's foreign reserves and facilitation of banking operations to ease the economic hardships of the Afghan people and help

build a sustainable economy. The Foreign Secretary further underlined the importance of the Afghan side to address the international community's expectations regarding inclusivity; respect for the rights of all Afghans, including girls' education; and effective counter-terrorism measures.

In the context of regional connectivity, both sides 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.

## Celebration

RAWALPINDI: Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi Chairman Central Imam Hussain Council, Waqar Ahmed, Kaub 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.

Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry welcomed the

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, Dr. Talat Shabbir, and Editor, Ms. Uroos Khan.

## 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 added.

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 population is likely to double in the next 30 years. He stressed that all partners and stakeholders including



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for 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 Kadriov called for focusing on every person; on ensuring our world can support our needs & those of future generations, on human rights & on leaving no one behind.

## 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 world.

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 connoisseurs.

"We are proud to be the only five-star hotel in the capital serving authentic cuisine" says the General Manager of Marriott Hotel Islam-



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 Thawichai—Thai Chef for Royal Elephant, Chef Perwaiz—Pakistani Chef for Nadia Coffee Shop, Chef Mario—Japanese Chef for Sakura and Chef Nadun—Executive Pasty Chef from Sri Lanka.

## 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 photographs 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



monthly turnover of visitors to two Lok Virsa Museums is around one hundred thousand.

It is pertinent to mention that Lok



Virsa is a specialized institution working 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 documenting 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.





Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with 4 main sections: Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index, Europe: FTSE 100 Index, USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average, and Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average. Each section includes Index Value, Change, Percentage, and Time.

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...



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

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...

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

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 government and Barrick confirmed that Balochistan

and its people should receive their fair share of 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 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 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 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 of Reko Diq represented the largest direct

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 between host countries and world-class mining companies. The Reko Diq agreement exemplifies this philosophy, and also signals to the international community that Pakistan is open for business," he said.

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 could be doubled in five years. With its unique 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 downstream economy.

World is drowning in a serious debt crisis

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

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 political stability.

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, he added.

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 countries.

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.

Muhammad Shakeel 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 4.9 percent, but it was 15 percent in Pakistan due to which it was not possible for our private sector to compete effectively for promoting trade and exports. He said

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 such circumstances, no investor would consider investing in Pakistan or setting up any new industries that would ultimately prove more harmful to the economy.

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 path.

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 pro-



cess, 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 full-time 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."

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 Monday.

During the first six months of 2022, PTCL Group successfully managed to keep the top line growth momentum, which further strengthened its market standing as an integrated telecom services provider in 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

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. Within the broadband business, Flash Fiber, the company's premium FTTH service, showed significant growth of 91.7%. Voice revenue stream has seen a decline due to lower voice traffic and continued conversion of customers to OTT services.

PTCL has achieved consistent performance and enhanced customer experience on the back of the company's seamless fixed broadband, includ-



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 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 to last year. Within the wholesale

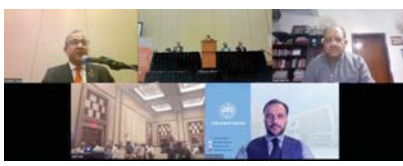
business segment, carrier revenue grew by 9.6% but the overall wholesale segment revenue has declined as a result of closure of certain international IP leased circuits. International revenue, helped by the favorable impact of currency devaluation, has increased by 14.0% over last year.

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.

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. Jillani, BOP's advisor on diaspora Pakistanis and Ambassador-At-Large on investment Mr. Zeeshan Shah.

## 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 Mohammad Nawaz.

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 to 136.

Fernando was Yasir Shah's first wicket



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 scalps 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 Chandimal going strong on 86\*.

## 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 past three weeks flying new lines by paraglider – collapsible foot-launched wings, relying on pockets of warm air to climb above the region's famously spectacular mountains. "It's been pretty intense," Tom says. Speaking from Askole where the team has gone to pick up fresh supplies, he said the expedition has got off to a great start. "On the first flight we flew the whole Baltoro glacier almost all the way to K2 which was incred-



ible. We've been really blessed with the weather. It's been really amazing, big thermals, small fluffy clouds, never too big and no wind in the valley so it's pretty safe to fly."

The team enjoyed ten great flying days. On three occasions they got to K2, on four they made Broad Peak and some they tagged both on the same day. They've also explored close to Muztagh Tower, Gasherbrum and Masherbrum. Days typically begin with an 800m hike

to launch. "It's extremely hot," 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 almost every day. You have to think, that's 100km without any landing options. We were walking on the glacier

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

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 come and we can reach K2 and soar all the way up. It's just a question of luck now. We need a bit of luck to make it happen – but it's possible."

## Asian Bodybuilding Championship

# 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 Shahzad Qureshi defeated India's Naresh Nagdev in the master class 80kg plus category and named the gold medal.

By defeating the Indian rival, the gold medal was



named, Omar Shahzad junior 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 third position, national council Arcelan bag got bronze

medal.

Mudassar Khan got the fifth position in model physics category. Fazal Elahi got the fifth position in master class 80 kg plus category, Muhammad Azeem managed to get 6th position in master class

70 kg plus category.

Earlier, the Pakistani contingent, led by secretary PBF Sohail Anwar, met with the Maldives President, on the occasion, the Maldives President said that friendly relations between Pakistan and Maldives are very deep, but through sports, this path is more stable and sustainable.

Secretary Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation Sohail Anwar has appreciated outstanding performance of national makers in the Asian competition, said that Pakistani bodybuilders have made the country's name proud with their hard work, there is a tremendous talent of bodybuilding in Pakistan, medals in Asian championship are a gift for the nation.

## Cheptegei defends world title

EUGENE: Uganda's Stephen 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 an Ethiopian 1-2 with Mosinet

Geremew taking silver, as he also 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 Mburu claimed silver in 27:27.90,

with another Ugandan, Jacob Kiplimo, taking bronze (27:27.97) in an unusually close finish.

Reigning Olympic champion Selemon Barega of Ethiopia 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 dominance in long distance running and I hope I will manage it," he said. Close on the heels of the Fred Kerley-led US clean-sweep of the men's 100m and Chase Ealey's gold in the women's shot put on Saturday, Andersen made it three titles for the host nation.

In front of a partisan crowd,

Andersen backed up her great seasonal form by totally 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 Janece Kassanavid 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 gruelling multi-discipline event concludes on Monday with the long jump, javelin throw and 800m. There was a welcome return to the global stage for South African Wayde van Niekerk, who won his 400m heat with

## Batra resigns as FIH president



ISLAMABAD: Narinder Dhruv Batra on Monday tendered his resignation from the post of International Hockey Federation (FIH) President.

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 runs T20I 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 Angelad 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."