فرمانرسول مَنَا لِللَّهِ الْمُنْكِمِ نَهِ فِي ما يا آج كى رات مير بياس (خواب میں) دوفرشتے (جبرائیل دمیکائیل ملیہاالسلام) آئے۔ پھریہ دونوں فرشتے مجھے ساتھ لے کرایک لمبے قد کے بزرگ کے

ياس گئے،وہاتنے لمبے تھے كہان كاسر ميں نہیں دیکھیا تاتھااور یہ ابراہیم <u>تھے۔</u>

(صیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 3354 **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

World should notice HRs' abuses in IIOJK: Ahsan

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says the international community including the US should take notice of the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The present government has taken difficult decisions whilst rising above personal and political interests. He said it is utmost endeavor of the government to ensure economic stability.

Govt cuts PIA fares on int'l routes: Saad

Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique says government has following the reduction in prices of jet fuel. And now, the PIA management after the due calculation has decided to slash fares on international routes too," the minister said in a video message

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Economic situation

PM convenes emergency meeting

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called an emergency meeting on the economic situation of the country, the PM Office said Wednesday. The meeting will be attended by the economic team and top officials related to the economy.

The meeting will evaluate the factors for the recent hike in the value of dollar and the measures to address it. The prime minister's economic team will give a briefing on the country's economic situation and the reasons for devaluation of the rupee against dollar.



Pak passport world's 4th worst

LONDON: The Pakistani passport remained the fourth-worst passport in the world, maintaining its position from last vear and providing access to only 32 locations without a visa, according to the Henley Passport Index for 2022. The Henley Passport Index is a ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a

prior visa. As per the latest rai ings, Pakistan was ranked fourth, higher than the war-torn countries of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, which occupies the bottom spot. Japan remained at top in the rankings, with the country's passport providing its holders access to 193 destinations. Next in line are Singapore and South Korea, whose passports provide access to 192 countries, followed by Germany and Spain, with their passports having a visa-free score of 190.

Food security

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet at Finance Division.



Trade strategy

Govt plans to level imports, exports & remittances: Miftah

Says rupee dip against dollar due to political situation

Solution Our Correspondent

of local currency against the US greenback — which slumped to an all-time on Wednesday. In a phone interview, Miftah said: "In terms of the real economic fundamentals, we are fine but the political uncertainty screwed us up.

"Fundamentally the rupee is fine, there is not much pressure on rupee in the market and we should be okay, and I think that there may be some reversal," he added. The finance minister told Reuters that the rupee downturn is not due to economic fundamentals.

"The panic is primarily due to political turmoil, which will subside

in a few days." Later addressing a and remittances. Because we do import bills surged by 120% last the US dollar, Finance Minister had strengthened against Pound, fore, we want to strike a balance billion in other imports. Miftah Ismail blamed political Euro and Japanese Yen, He said between imports, exports and Finance Minister said uncertainty for the massive plunge the US dollar has witnessed a remittances." The minister said fundamentals have been correct-22-year high appreciation against all currencies, however, admitted that the current political situation in the country was one of the reasons for rupee depreciation. While quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Miftah said that in terms of real effective exchange rate the rupee has depreciated by 3% since December keeping in view inflation.

> The finance minister revealed that the government had taken result-oriented measures to level imports with exports and remittances. "We are trying to bring imports almost equal to exports

press conference, Miftah reiterated not have space in foreign exchange that soon after assuming power,

> Miftah thanks SBP for controlling import bill

the government-initiated measures to reduce imports and it achieved success in June when the non-en-

ergy import bill went down 15%. However, he added, the energy imports increased due to price-hike

in the international market and the

month. He said, there were imports ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistani that the local currency had deprereserves to reduce these and we also of \$7.4 billion last month includrupee continues to plunge against ciated against the dollar whereas it do not have other reserves. Thereing \$3.7 billion in energy and \$3.7

> ed as a result of measures taken by the present government over the last few months. He said there has been reduction in imports during this period. He said this has helped create a balance between imports and exports and remittances. The Finance Minister pointed out that the trade deficit was forty eight billion dollars and Current Account Deficit stood at seventeen billion dollars during the last fiscal year, which, he stressed, the country cannot afford. Miftah Ismail said an agreement has been signed with the IMF, categorically stating that

> the government will implement it.

Political instability leading to economic turmoil: Tarin

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister Shaukat Tarin has said that political instability causing economic turmoil in the country. Tarin while commenting on free fall of rupee against dollar, said that the State Bank of Pakistan has refused to give dollars, currently the currency has been trading at Rs 227 in interbank market. "Despite Miftah Ismail's claims the market not showing trust on him," Shaukat Tarin said. "Devaluation of rupee will result in price hike," he added. The market is jittery and required restoration of confidence so as the situation returns to normal, he said. "The people have to pay the debt they have taken," former finance

"Political instability resulting in economic turmoil, stocks are falling, while the dollar is gaining more strength," Tarin said. "Only solution of the situation is announcement of the election, so as the market feels the confidence that we are moving towards political stability," he said. After Punjab by-election results former minister had urged the government to announce election and bring a strong caretaker setup in the country adding that the election results have increased political instability in the country.

He called for a strong interim government having understanding of the market, "We have to move forward to end the political instability for economic betterment of the country," he said.

Power shortfall exceeds 7,000mw

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Power shortfall in the country is exceeded 7,130 megawatts, power demand in the country is 28,700 megawatts while the production lags at 21,570 megawatts. According to power division sources, the power shortfall in the country exceeded 7,130 megawatts in the country on Wednesday. According to Power Division sources, 6.574 megawatts of using hydro energy while Thar Mill plants are producing over

1,000 megawatts of electricity. A total of 10,500 megawatts is being produced via power plants while 750 megawatts is being produced using wind energy. Solar plants across the country are producing 100 megawatts, Power Division said. Biogas energy is producing 77 megawatts of electricity while 2,569 megawatts of electric power is generated by nuclear energy.

On July 16, the power shortfall in the country



electricity are being produced ing load-shedding durations across rural and urban areas of the country. The demand for power in the country on July 16 was 28,500 megawatts while the production lagged at 24,000 megawatts. At the beginning of the month, the power shortfall had reached 7,787 megawatts as production stagnated at 21,213 MW and demand reached 29,000 MW. The power demand in the country is 27,000 while supply has been increased to 24,000 MW. a relief has been provided in load-shedding across rural and urban feeders.

Pakistan to get IMF's tranche in August

SBP says lender's confidence dropped after no-trust motion

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan will receive the \$1.17 billion tranche from International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the third week of August under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme, the officials of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said on Wednesday. In a statement, the SBP officials claimed that there was no obstacle in receiving the payment from the global lender. "Pakistan is bound to fulfill all conditions of the IMF," the officials said, adding that work on some conditions was already started before the staff-level agreement was reached.

According to SBP officials, political instability was no longer a problem for the global lender. "The IMF is more concerned about the budget deficit and subsidies given by the government," they added. The officials pointed out that the year 2022 was more difficult for Pakistan than coronavirus. "Both the US dollar



had gone back on its agreement with the institution.

Meanwhile, the SBP officials ruled out that the country may default, saying that the country's major problem was energy import bill. "The government will reduce the energy import bill so that dollar reserves do not decease," they added.

SBP said that the country's situation is completely different from Sri Lanka and after the no-confidence motion against the former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the International Monetary Fund's confidence in Pakistan has decreased but there and inflation increased this is no option left other than year," they said, adding that IMF. In this regard, SBP

because the PTI government is constantly monitoring the economic situation and also taking steps to stabilize the rupee, adding that Pakistan will never default because the country's situation is completely different from Sri Lanka. "Unnecessary imports have

been reduced in Pakistan and the government has made all the difficult decisions now there are no difficult situations, the current financial year 2022-23 is a difficult vear for the country's economy," officials added. SBP added that after the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan, the confidence of IMF in Pakistan dropped, but we had no option left other than

Azadi March

PTI forms body for withdrawal of 'false' cases

ISLAMABAD: PTI gener-

al secretary Asad Umar on Wednesday announced that an "Anti Victimisation and Accountabilitv Committee" has been formed in Punjab to get all the cases — filed in connection with the party's 'Azadi March" on May 25 - withdrawn through a legal process. Taking to Twitter, Umar said that the committee "will collect the details of all the fake cases registered against PTI members in Punjab and take legal steps to have them withdrawn." It will also work to identify the officials responsible for "illegal/criminal actions against PTI members in Punjab and initiate legal proceedings against them."

"No one should think that we have forgotten May 25 [because] we haven't nor will let [anyone] forget. A committee is being formed which will get all the fake cases withdrawn legally and take action as per the law against the officials who followed illegal orders to torture people and took illegal action," Umar wrote.

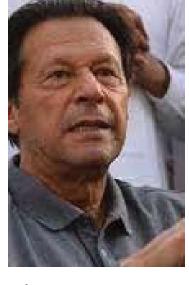
Zardari offering Rs 500m to MPs: Imran

Claims Lahore seeing repetition of Sindh House horse-trading

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday ahead of the high-stakes Punjab Chief Minister election on July 22 accused that Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari is offering Rs500 million to PTI's Punjab Assembly lawmakers to buy their votes, and he should be jailed over this act. Taking to Twitter, the PTI chairman said that currently, we are experiencing the same situation in Lahore as we saw horse trading in Sindh House, adding that the mastermind behind the current wave of horse trading is Asif Zardari and he is offering MPAs Rs500 million to buy their votes.

"Zardari got NRO for his corruption and now buying votes with looted wealth, he should be jailed," the former PM urged. In another statement on Twitter, he penned that "Horse trading is not only an attack on our democracy but also the moral fabric of our society." Imran Khan added that "if the Supreme Court had taken action and banned turncoats for life, such acts could have been stopped." Taking a swipe at the incumbent government, he said that the US government's handlers do not realize how the nation is suffering from the imported government's conspiracy



to change.

As the race for Punjab's chief minister's election heats up, PTI Chairman Imran Khan claimed on Wednesday that horse-trading was happening in Lahore with MPAs being offered Rs500 million to switch their loyalty. "Today, Lahore is seeing a repetition of the Sindh House horse-trading episode that happened in Islamabad, with up to Rs500 million being offered to buy MPAs," tweeted the PTI chairman. He alleged that PPP Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was the "main architect" behind this, adding that the former president has secured an "NRO for his corruption and purchases people with looted wealth".

The former prime minister also demanded the PPP leader be jailed. "This is not only an attack on our democracy but also on the moral fabric of our society. Had Supreme Court taken action and debarred these turncoats for life, it would have acted as a deterrent," claimed the PTI chairman. He also asked the "handlers" of the incumbent government whether they realised the "severe damage being done to the nation".

The PTI chairman further claimed that after his government was "toppled with stolen money from Sindh and NRO 2 achieved, certified criminal Asif Zardari in cahoots with Sharif mafia now seeking to steal Punjab people's mandate by trying to purchase MPAs". Want to ask Honourable Supreme Court are they not cognizant of the damage being wreaked? Isn't destruction of our democracy, Constitution and nation's morality a fit case for Suo Moto action? Are the "Neutrals" not realising how our beloved country is literally being destroyed on all fronts by the Imported government brought in through US regime change conspiracy?" asked the former prime minister.

The Spokesman

Provincial setup

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Pervaiz Elahi and PTI top leaders are discussing strategy for upcoming chief



Ch Shujaat supports Elahi for CM Punjab slot



Bureau Report

LAHORE: President of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Wednesday said that Parvez Elahi is candidate for the position of Chief Minister of Punjab.

PML-Q President, while clearing the air around CM Punjab election, said that the party that has secured majority in the election should form the government. The veteran politician said that politicians should get out of number game and instead focus on problems being faced by the country and the poor masses.

He urged elected lawmakers to work hard for betterment of the country instead of leg pulling of their fellow lawmakers. A day earlier, former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday met PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and took him in confidence over decisions taken in the meeting of ruling alliance.

Asif Zardari met Chaudhary Shujaat at his residence and the meeting continued for over an hour, in which matters pertaining to the political situation in Punjab came under discussion. The family members of the PML-Q chief were also present in the meeting. The PPP co-chairman left Shujaat Hussain's residence making a sign of victory.

S CM Punjab poll

Govt contacting some PML-Q MPAs: Qureshi

Criticises govt over rupee devaluation

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has apprised Pakistan Muslim League Quaid top leader Pervaiz Elahi that some lawmakers of PML-Q were contacted by the coalition government. Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Pervaiz Elahi held an important meeting ahead of the Punjab Chief Minister (CM) elections on July 22. Qureshi apprised Elahi regarding his concerns over the Asif Ali Zardari-Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain meeting. "Some PML-Q lawmakers remained in contact with the coalition government. The leaders should not hold meetings with anyone till July 22. Zardari-Shujaat meeting creates suspicions," said the PTI vice-chairman.

Elahi responded to Qureshi's queries, avoid holding meetings with Pakistan bring a new storm of inflation. However, the open bank market.

People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari during his stay in Lahore. Former Foreign Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-President Shah Mehmood Qureshi has criticised the coalition government over rupee devaluation, saying that the current regime only wants to complete its tenure.

The unity of the lawmakers of the ally parties was necessary to elect Pervaiz Elahi as the Punjab CM: Qureshi

saying that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain minister claimed that the current rulers market. Political unrest wreaked havoc could not be stopped from meeting want to complete their tenure by force, on the currency market for the second anyone. Qureshi said that the unity of the while the country's economy was detelawmakers of the ally parties was neces- riorating. "The government doesn't care greenback spiked sharply by Rs3.01 in sary to elect Pervaiz Elahi as the Punjab about the country's economy. The rupee the interbank market to settle at Rs 225. CM. He insisted that PML-Q should is continuously depreciating, which will The USD was trading at Rs226-227 in

the government has not taken any step in this regard," he added. The PTI leader further said that the incumbent regime's only agenda was to amend the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. He claimed that Punjab has performed far better than Sindh in the last three-anda-half-vear tenure.

Speaking about the recently-concluded Punjab by-elections, Shah Mehmood Qureshi blamed PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari for the loss of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). He also criticised the government for offering money to PTI lawmakers, saying that the rulers were doing violation of Supreme Court's (SC) orders.

It is pertinent to mention here that the dollar rate reached an all-time high against the Pakistani rupee and In a statement, the former federal was trading at Rs 225 in the interbank

Horse trading

PML-N rejects PTI's allegations

Tarar says no money has been offered to MPAs

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Home Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Attaullah Tarar has rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) allegations of 'horse-trading' ahead of Punjab chief minister (CM) election. Addressing a press conference here the provincial minister said that the PML-N has not offered any money to Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) ahead of Punjab CM elections.

Ata Tarar said that he rejects all the allegations levelled against him by the PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry, challenging the former information minister to testify his claims on oath on the Holy Quran. Speaking about the PTI leader's claims about the Rahim Yar Khan MPA, Ata Tarar said that Chaudhry Masood Ahmed had resigned in April and lambasted the

opposition party for not being aware of its own members.

The Punjab Home Minister further said that the PTI has once again started crying, adding that more resignations could possibly come forward. "Shah Mehmood Qureshi was also present in the parliamentary party meeting of PML-Q and PTI. Why only 100 members out of 188 participated in the meeting," the provincial minister added. Tarar levied his own allegations of PML-N MPAs being allegedly bribed by Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi.

"A PML-N lawmaker was approached with a bribe of Rs100m while he was performing Haj," he alleged, adding that Moonis was "pleading" with the MPAs in Islamabad to switch loyalties while an elderly female PML-N MPA was also approached in Faisalabad.

Sindh LG-polls

Security plan finalised

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: More than 40,000 security personnel are being deployed in Karachi ahead of the second phase of LG-polls in Sindh. According to the details, Karachi Police Chief Javed Alam Odho said in the press conference that the plan related to Local Government (LG) polls in Sindh has been released and more than 40,000 personnel are being deployed to ensure law and order during the polling.

The Karachi police chief said that personnel from other districts of Sindh have also been called in, along with the police, and Rangers. Odho said that there are more than 4,000 polling stations in Karachi and all of them are sensitive and highly sensitive. Javed Alam said that 24,968 personnel will be posted at the polling stations, and more than 5,000 QRF personnel will also be on alert.

Earlier, a total of 532 Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidates were elected unopposed in the second phase of the local body elections in Sindh. According to data provided by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), at least 532 PPP candidates have been elected unopposed ahead of the LG polls in the remaining 16 districts of Sindh.

Rs225

Dollar reaches all time high

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The downward slide of the Pakistani rupee (PKR) continues as the currency has lost Rs3.01 in the interbank market against US dollar. According to details, the dollar was being traded around Rs225 against the PKR on third day of the week as compared to the previous close of 221.99. A day earlier, dollar also gained whopping Rs6.79 in the interbank amid political uncertainty in the country. In last three trading sessions, the local currency has lost over Rs14 against the greenback. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed with a fall of RS2.93 or -1.30%. There was no respite from the declining rupee trend on Wednesday as the currency dropped to a new all-time low of Rs224.92 against the US dollar in the interbank market due to renewed political volatility. The rupee nosedived by a whopping Rs2.99, or 1.30%, in a single day to hit an all-time low at Rs224.92 surpassing the last historic low of 221.99 recorded a day earlier — the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed. Analysts attribute the fresh depreciation to the political uncertainty arising out of the outcome of the Punjab by-elections and said the currency market came under renewed pressure in

the wake of "political and economic

uncertainties".

NEPRA defends power tariff hike

ISLAMABAD: Defending the increasing electricity tariff, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) chairman Tauseef H. Farooqui on Wednesday said fuel cost has increased by eight times as compared to three years earlier. In his statement, the NEPRA chairman said the cost of imported coal in 2018 was \$50 per ton, which has reached \$400 now. He further said the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar is another factor in increasing fuel tariffs in the country.

The cost of producing electricity has increased by 1600pc, Tauseef said and asked if not the consumers, then who will pay the price? The NEPRA chairman said, all of their assumptions went wrong and the dollar has crossed Rs222 mark. NEPRA has no authority to control fuel prices at the internation-



al level and the greenback. Earlier in the day, the Nation-

Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) hear-

ing the federal government's petition seeking Rs 7.91 per unit hike in basic power tariff. The electric power regulator will decide on the matter after the hearing and forward its decision to the government for notification. The NEPRA hearing presided over by its chairman Tauseef Farooqui will take decision over the government plea for hike in basic tariff of all power distribution companies including the K-electric, the power utility, which supply electricity to Karachi.

Regional peace

Pakistan-Iran discuss border security issues

跨 Bureau Report

QUETTA: A Pak-Iran delegation on Wednesday discussed the issues pertaining to border security and regional peace and stability. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Captain retired Jameel Ahmed chaired the meeting attended by 12-member Iranian delegation and Pakistani officials. They exchanged proposals regarding the plans for border trade through pilot projects of joint border markets at Gabad 250 border. Security issues and promotion of common border markets was discussed at

trade centers will be opened in the border areas.

Besides reviewing relations in all sectors including economy, trade, communications, security, energy, education and people-to-people exchanges, regional issues were also discussed in the meeting held between Pakistan and Iran high ups. They also stressed the need for promotion of economic cooperation besides, the events of last year were also discussed.

They were also in consent that relevant officials will remain in constant contact and through consultation, cooperation and joint assistance, Gubad 250 border and presented length and it was agreed that more obstacles in the way of bilateral rela-

tions will be removed. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Jameel Ahmed said that Pakistan-Iran bilateral trade cooperation will increase trade and business activities in Gwadar.

'Trade with neighboring Iran will increase economic activities in the border areas as well as create employment opportunities for local people," Earlier a 12-member high-level government delegation of the Iran reached Gwadar. Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Captain Retired Jameel Ahmad welcomed the delegation at them with traditional Balochi veil.

PTI MPA Masood gets Rs400m from Zardari: Fawad

Demands arrest of Zardari, Sanaullah ಆ Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Islamabad today in which he alleged that the (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday said that if Shehbaz Sharif-led government will not announce early polls then it will be sent packing. Taking to Twitter, Fawad said that PTI is worried about the economic situation of the country. While he added that the imposed government has lost control over the situation. He further said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) ministers are out of their senses and giving weird statements. He also urged the government to form the election framework and new Election Commis-

He said Asif Ali Zardari, Rana Sanaullah and Attaullah Tarar should be arrested besides carrying out legal actions for the illegal use of money in the elections. Fawad Chaudhry horse trading has been started ahead of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) elections on July 22. Fawad Chaudhry conducted a press conference in followed by other PML-N leaders including the

evil play started in Punjab and the loyalty of the Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs) was being bought for Rs400 million each.

He said that the Punjab people showed their confidence in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to rule them and the political party has 188 votes in the Punjab Assembly. Fawad alleged that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari transported an MPA Masood Majeed to Turkey after paying Rs400 million. He further alleged that Zardari was using the Sindh government's resources for horse trading.

"PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz] Home Minister Attaullah Tarar is also trying to buy the loyalty of our MPAs and offered them Rs250 to Rs300 million." He said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had also hinted at creating hurdles for PTI to form its government in Punjab after having the majority of PA seats,



information minister.

"The political rivals asked our MPAs to go abroad and they also booked hotels for them. Democracy cannot be strengthened in this way. We are moving to the Supreme Court (SC) which is the only institution to ensure trans-

parency." He demanded the immediate arrest of our seats will be increased from 15 to 17 as Tarar besides carrying out legal actions for the

illegal use of money in the elections. Fawad expressed hopes that the PTI's PA seats will be increased from 15 to 17 as the court ordered the recounting of votes in Rawalpindi and Muzaffargarh constituencies. He reiterated that PTI has completed its number game to elect Pervaiz Elahi as the Punjab CM. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former federal information minister Fawad Chaudhary on Wednesday alleged that PTI MPA Masood Majeed took Rs400 million from

While speaking to the media flanked by Zulfi Bukhari, the former Federal Minister of Information claimed, "Our MPA from Rahim Yar Khan Masood Majeed has arrived in Turkey after taking Rs400 mln, as Asif Ali Zardari is behind him." Fawad added, "We hope that

Asif Ali Zardari, Rana Sanaullah and Attaullah PTI has 188 members in the Punjab provincial assembly."

Today we have filed an appeal for contempt in the Supreme Court", said Fawad. He also said the three MPAs have filed affidavits in the Supreme Court. He also claimed that Ata Tarar tells MPAs in the conversation that the government can give Rs20-25 million rupees to each MPA.

Lashing out at the former president Asif Zardari, Fawad said that Zardari and company have degraded morality so much. Fawad further said the state is having no money to open sewers in Karachi, but these people are busy purchasing MPA for Rs400mln. The PTI leader took a jibe at Chief Election Commissioner and said, "We have no trust in the Chief Election Commissioner who has no shame or modesty. The ECP showed impudence in the sale in the Senate, added Fawad.

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Defence Minister lauds defence engagement between Pakistan, Turkiye

Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye meets with Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed satisfaction over common understanding on regional and global emerging situation.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif expressed these views while speaking to Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan here on Wednesday.

"Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy exemplary fraternal relations based on common faith, culture, values, civilization and historical linkages, mutual trust and support", said Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. Minister stressed that Kashmir dispute coupled with water crises has central role in India-Pakistan relations and a just solution is necessary for lasting peace in the region under



He reiterated Pakistan's concern on Indian Army cruelties on inno- cent people of Jammu & Kashmir,

especially after revocation of Articles-370 and 35-A of Indian Constitution in August 2019. Moreover, he also emphasized that Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations have been institutionalized under the forum of High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) under Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence relations under High Level Military Dialogue Meet-

The Minister for Defence also appreciated the fact that defence engagement between Pakistan and Turkiye with focus on building Pakistan's capabilities through defence industrial collaboration and regular exchange of Training, Delegations, Courses and Conducting Joint Exercises. Both sides showed satisfaction on various areas of common interest. including security, counter terrorism and tackling developing situation in

Impact of Rains

QUETTA: Residents of Aghbarg area busy is preparing their clay houses due to damage monsoon rains in Provincial Capital.

MOL Pakistan's free MHU facilitates over 5,000 patients

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Co. B.V. in partnership with the JV Consortium of TAL Block has successfully completed another spree of free medical camps around TAL Block which extend health facilities to more than five thousand residents of underprivileged districts of KP including Karak, Kohat and Hangu.

Under this spree, a large number of camps were organized during last eight months at different localities of TAL Block. A dedicated Mobile Health Unit (MHU) consisted of a team of specialist doctors and expert paramedics, after thorough medical checkups, provided free-of-cost medicines to the residents including male and female elders, adults, young, children, and citizens with special needs, who otherwise didn't have easy access to such facilities.

At the completion of this spree, a simple ceremony was held at the loca-Pakistan was the chief guest. Syed Fahad Iftikhar-AC Banda Daud Shah, Irfan Khattak-DSP Banda Daud Shah and other dignitaries were also present at

The chief guest Thomas Quigley, CEO MOL Pakistan at the ceremony, said, "As operator of Tal Block, MOL Pakistan is entity that prioritizes the health and



local communities residing in our areas of operation. We have a long history of providing free medical camps and free eye camps in KP, and will continue to do so in the future."

Syed Fahad Iftikhar, AC Banda Daud Shah, at the ceremony said, "I am grateful to MOL Pakistan for regularly organizing free medical camps for the local tion where Thomas Quigley, CEO MOL communities in its areas of operations. These kind of initiatives reflects upon the commitment of the company towards the betterment of its communities."

In his message, Ali Murtaza Abbas, MOL Group Regional Vice President for Middle East, Africa & Pakistan, said, "MOL Group is a responsible corporate

committed to the social welfare of our wellbeing of our local communities in Pakistan thanks to our corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. These free medical camps are arranged at the request of our local communities and supplement the work of local administrations and the provincial government."

> It is pertinent to mention here that MOL Pakistan has always looked forward to bringing positive change to the communities through its unique social welfare programs. The conduct of such camps is an example of this program, and many more are in the pipeline to facilitate the community. The local residents presented turban to the chief guest and appreciated the CSR initiatives done for the wellbeing of the

ACCA, MANTAQ sign MOU

Association of Chartered ship and training to policy-Certified Accountants) makers and researchers to and MANTAQ Centre for promote policy reforms and Research have entered an progressive regulations that MOU that focuses on build- drive good public financial ing capacity of lawmakers management, enable effecin legislative drafting and tive implementation of UN's research related to finance.

As part of MANTAQ's legislative drafting and Pakistan's global competiprogramme 'TADVEEN', both the organisations will collabo-

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and increase

Speaking at the MOU signing ceremony held at the ing their mission of building

ISLAMABAD: ACCA (the rate to offer formal mentor- National Assembly building capacity of policymakers to in Islamabad, ACCA's head of Pakistan, Assad Hameed Khan, said. We've built partnerships

throughout our historythey're central to our ability to deliver on our mission of upholding the public trust and adding value to the society. We're very happy to be partnering with MANTAQ and play our part in support-

enable future-focused policy reforms that drive positive economic change.

Tahir Hussain, Secretary National Assembly, commented, 'The legislature translates the aspirations of the nation into law and so projects like TADVEEN are instrumental as they connect qualified finance professionals with legisla-

Ali Chandiyo releases his melodic new number 'Khwaab'

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Ali Chandiyo, an electrifying new addition to the pop and rap music industry of Pakistan, has recently released his enthralling new music video as the third installation of his musical journey. The music video, titled 'Khwaab' has been written and sung by Ali Chandiyo in association with MusicStation Productions, and also features the lovely Anoushey Bilal, rising Pakistani

Khwaab, a lyrical masterpiece, is a melodic Punjabi number based on the idea of beautiful memories of love, held onto by endless dream sequences. Claiming to be 'a song for the ones in love, the lyrics of Khwaab express a state of intense affection that ultimately overtakes the lover's subconscious mind until his beloved becomes a part of his entire being, whether with eyes wide open or in deep slumber.

The song is a romantic ballad for the beloved, combined with exciting desi rap and a colorfully enigmatic music video.

Talking about the new release, Ali Chandiyo stated, "Dreams are the perfect reflection of our innermost thoughts and feelings that are often hidden away from the rest of the world. 'Khwaab' is an expression of the ultimate love for your partner that enables them to consume your

"Music is the perfect love language and I am excited about introducing this new single to our audiences! Also kudos to the teamwork that went behind the music video production and I am deeply thankful to everyone who played a part in it," he added.

The music video of Khwaab has been directed by Imram Sheraz and Faraz Hassan, while its audio production is done by Zaid Khan. It is being distributed nationwide by Silent Roar Productions.

APBF demands stable exchange rate

As rupee continues to drop vs dollar

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has urged the government to control instability of rupee against the US dollar, as the local currency hit record low against the US dollar in the interbank market while the unrest has been creating unstable economic

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, in a statement issued here today said that a steep fall in the value of Pakistani rupee against foreign currencies have been causing an addition of trillions of rupees to the public debt, besides high inflation, as the local currency was being quoted at 223 presently, a massive depreciation of Rs8 or nearly 4% against the greenback.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi feared that political climate of the country has become unpredictable due to political uncertainty, reducing the level of investment and affecting the economic growth of the country, suggesting the government as well as the opposition parties to settle issues through talks, which is the right way to resolve the issues.

Ibrahim Qureshi observed that the economic growth and industrialization are not possible without stability of rupee, as the dollar has been appreciating against the rupee for the last several months because of the higher current account deficit and burgeoning import bills.

APBF Chairman observed that the market-based flexible exchange rate system, resilience in remittances and other factors can help contain the current account deficit in a sustainable range of 2-3 percent of

Syed Maaz Mahmood added that it seemed that authorities have let the rupee depreciating to discourage rising imports and encourage exports in an attempt to narrow down the widening trade deficit which poses a serious threat for the domestic economy. He expressed the fear that the rupee might be moving down in search for its value fit for resuming the IMF \$6 billion loan program which is on hold for the last more than six months, but it would impact negatively on the

country's overall economy.

The APBF President said that for the last couple of months, the dollar has been appreciated by Rs37.15 against the local currency which lifted the cost of imported products and created uncertainty about the exchange rate stability. The dollar was at Rs187 two months back and now again hovering in the range of Rs120-123 in July 2022. Since the beginning of the new financial year the exchange rate looked shaky against the US dollar. The market reacted over the policy-makers' announcement about high current account deficit, while the importers rushed for higher amount.

Punjab Govt ensuring health facilities equally

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Punjab Govt is ensuring health facilities to the people living in villages and remote areas and for the purpose all possible steps are

Deputy Commissioner Attock Muhammad Zulqarnain said this during his surprise visit to Basic Health Unit Ghourghushti and Rural Health Center Rangoo. He checked the attendance of the staff and visited different portions of the health centers. DC also checked the availability of medicines and distribution of medicines record.

He emphasized upon the staff to serve the ailing humanity with professionalism in a better environment. The DC was briefed about different facilities being provided at both the health centers. Deputy Commissioner said that concerned authorities will be approached to overcome shortage of medical and paramedical staff and directed AC Hazro to take necessary action in this context.

Meanwhile, DC Attock presided over a meeting held in connection with 75th Independence Day celebrations. He said that diamond jubilee celebrations will be held with full zeal and zest.

Sindh govt working to bring reforms in police dept: CM

SANGHAR: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that the Sindh government was working to bring more reforms in the provincial police department. He was special guest at the 172nd passing out parade of Shahdadpur Police Training College in which 561 youth including 27 women received Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) training. The chief minister said that police grades were upgraded and the upgradation of CTD special branch grades had also been ensured. Murad said that he felt immense pleasure to attend the parade. He congratulated the young officers on completion of their training and receiving outstanding marks and hoped that the youth would fulfill their assigned responsibilities for ensuring law and order, and protection of life and property of people. The chief minister said that the officers were appointed on merit, and the successful completion of their training marked the beginning of their career. Sindh was the land of saints, who always taught lessons of peace, where people of all ethnicities lived, he said. Murad said that in 1980 unrest started in the province as the situation in Karachi worsened, but the situation had improved with the role of the police and rangers who sacrificed their lives to establish peace in Karachi, which was termed 7th most dangerous city in the world. The recruitment in police and other departments should be done on merit, and the young recruits in police should undergo joint training with the army in order to bring further improvement in police performance, the chief minister said. APP

Carrefour makes going back to school fun for family

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid al Futtaim in Pakistan, has introduced exciting 'Back to School' offers and entertainment throughout July to delight families as they prepare for the start of the new school year in August.

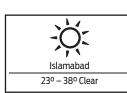
Carrefour has arranged multiple in-store activities to entertain its young customers during their 'Back to School' shopping sprees with musical chairs, singing competitions and goody bags going as a token prize to all activity winners. Children of any age can participate in Carrefour's fun, interactive experiences whilst parents shop to keep spirits high during the remaining days of the summer break.

The campaign will run until July 28 at all ten Carrefour stores across Pakistan, making it more convenient for parents to find all the necessary school supplies under one roof. A wide range of school supplies will be on offer including stationery, school bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and more to extend maximum conveni-



Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, said: "We look forward to welcoming our young customers and their parents with special decorations, games and prizes to make their shopping experience unforgettable. We are excited to bring a wide range of school products for our customers to make going back to school easier and more fun for the whole family."





Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpin	di/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Polico	0270601_20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	

ENŲ	JIKT
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
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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
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CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Boa	rd 9270151-3
Islamabad Metro	politan
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 Tank0331-5022125

Govt provides best possible facilities to passengers: Asad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Communications Asad Mahmood paid detailed visit to Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway and reviewed civic amenities being provided to passengers at rest areas. Asad Mahmood said that it is our responsibility to provide the best possible facilities to the passengers at Service Areas/ Rest Areas of Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway at all times. To this effect necessary steps are also being taken on top priority basis. Federal Minister of Communications Mr. Asad Mahmood also urged the NHA authorities to make the journey on the motorways and national highways safer and easier and also ensure the provision of necessary facilities to the travellers. He said, the rest areas lacking basic facilities will be completed within the next three months. Federal Secretary Communications/ Chairman National Highway Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha and senior officials of Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority were also present on this occasion.

Bulgaria's envoy keen to enhance people to people contact

Ambassador Ms. Irena Gancheva called on to Rana Tanveer, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Ms. Irena Gancheva called on to Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training here Wednesday. Senior officials of the ministry including representative from HEC also attended the meeting.

Rana Tanveer welcomed the Bulgarian delegation and said that the two countries have always had friendly and cordial relations since 1965. He said that Bulgaria has strong ties within Europe and Pakistan should enhance its ties with Bulgaria to further cooperation between the two countries. Rana Tanveer discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and Technical Training. He said that the two countries can benefit from the experience of each other.

Rana Tanveer welcomed exchange of teachers and students to further mutual cooperation especially for Skilled Vocational Training. He said that there is significant potential in cooperation between the two countries. He said that Pakistan can learn from the expertise as Bulgaria has achieved 98% literacy. Minister said that Pakistan is willing to offer scholarships to Bulgarian students in order to enhance mutual collaboration.

Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan governments efforts in modernising the mutual interests.



Ms. Irena Gancheva presented a draft of an MoU to be signed by both Governments for future collaboration in the field of Education. She said that University to University cooperation and Technical Institution to Technical Institution collaboration is the way forward. She said that MoUs should be expedited between Pakistani and Bulgarian Universities to

enhance exchanges Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the future is in Vocational Training of the population of Pakistan. He said that it provides the best opportunity to the people to find jobs. He said that Pakistan and Iran through NAVTTC should exchange teachers and students to learn from the expertise of each other.

Rana Tanveer praised the current

education system of Pakistan. Federal Minister thanked the Ambassador and highlighted the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries since 1975. He said that there is a bonhomie between the two people. He stated that the two countries should enhance and fine tune their mutual relation.

Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan Ms. Irena Gancheva, stressed to further enhance the need for cooperation between the two states in the field of education and culture. Federal Minister said that our relations have always been marked by trust, mutual understanding and close cooperation and Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Bulgaria and is desirous of further enhancing these relations in all fields of

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador in Pakistan Adam Mulawarman Tugio looks on a photo during cultural exhibition title "A Night At Lok Virsa Museum The Confluence Of Civilizations Between Indonesia and Pakistan" at Lok Virsa Museum in Federal Capital.



NUST, PepsiCo partner to enable circular economy for plastics

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and PepsiCo Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at NUST to collaborate on enabling a circular economy for plastics. Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector NUST and Mr. Mohammad Khosa, Senior Director Commercial and Corporate Affairs PepsiCo Pakistan signed the

Under the MoA, NUST and Pepsi-Co will launch joint collaboration



growing challenge of plastic waste in Pakistan. Collaboration programs will include R&D projects, specialized training programs, research events and student competitions on finding pracprograms that will help tackle the tical solutions to the challenges of plas-

tic waste. Additionally, both organizations will also collaborate on important topics of sustainability for e.g., climate change and sustainable agriculture.

PepsiCo envisions a world where packaging never becomes waste. As a company, it recognizes the important role it plays in driving toward a circular economy and reducing plastic waste. As a global food and beverage company, PepsiCo aims to use its reach and influence to help change the way society makes, uses and disposes of plastics. In Pakistan, PepsiCo has launched several meaningful programs to drive a circular economy for plastics.

Novel vaccine offers superior protection against Omicron variants



ISLAMABAD: Yale scientists have developed a novel Omicron-specific mRNA vaccine that offers superior immune protection against two viral subvariants than standard mRNA vaccines.

The new vaccine, called Omnivax, increased

neutralizing antibody response against the BA.1 and BA.2.12.1 Omicron subvariants in pre-immunized mice 19-fold and eightfold, respectively, compared with standard mRNA vaccines. The improved response against the BA.1 subvariant was reported June 6 in the journal Nature Communications. The results of the study involving the BA.2 subvariant were published July 19 in the journal Cell Discovery.

"While standard mRNA vaccines still offer protection against infection from new variants, their effectiveness wanes over time and was compromised due to immune escaping mutations in emerging variants," said Sidi Chen, associate professor of genetics at Yale School of Medicine and senior author of both studies. "We wanted to see if we could develop variant-specific vaccines that offer additional protection against emerging subvariants."

The experimental vaccines, developed in Chen's lab by a team headed by postdoctoral associate Zhenhao Fang, use engineered lipid nanoparticles to deliver mRNA to cells with "instructions" to create spike proteins from mutating variants, which the virus uses to attach to and infect cells. The presence of these foreign viral fragments prompts the immune system to create antibodies against the virus. The rapid mutation of spike proteins on the surface of the virus over time has created a parade of subvariants and enabled them to blunt the protection of earlier generations of mRNA vaccines developed by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech.

The engineered lipid nanoparticle mRNA vaccines can be created quickly, researchers say. For instance, the BA.1 subvariant emerged in mid-November; by mid-December Yale researchers had developed a vaccine against the new strain. However, testing the efficacy of the vaccine in mice and a peer review of the study was not completed until February. By March, the BA.2 subvariant had taken hold as the predominately circulating strain throughout most of the world. The researchers then investigated whether the Omicron variant vaccine maintains its superiority over standard vaccines against BA.2. The new vaccine has also boosted an immune response superior to standard vaccines in mice against this subvariant, researchers reported in the Cell Discovery paper.

"Although translating the new vaccine candidate from bench to bedside requires rigorous testing in human trials, these preclinical studies provide a comprehensive and unbiased evaluation of an Omicron-specific vaccine candidate, which will hopefully fuel the development of next-generation COVID vaccines," Chen said.

In light of the rise of new BA.4 and BA.5 variants, which have become most common among COVID cases, Yale researchers are currently testing a new vaccine candidate against these variants in mice. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Health experts urge govt to impose health levy on tobacco products

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Health experts have urged the government to impose health levy on tobacco products to save precious lives, which are at imminent fatal risk. In a joint press release shared by Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC), the experts recommend the government to take this step, which has been pending since June

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, shared that in June 2019, the federal cabinet decided to implement a healthy levy on tobacco products to protect the health of low-income groups and children by taking tobacco products out of their spending reach. Unfortunately, some key members from government, hailing from tobacco growing areas, repeatedly blocked

Malik Imran added that tobacco industry claims to be an essential entity however tobacco use is the leading cause of death due to noncommunicable diseases such as cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular disease. As many as 31 million adults (age 15+) or about one-fifth of the total adults currently use tobacco, according to Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC).

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager, SPARC, mentioned that children and low-income people are primary target of tobacco industry and unfortunately, our tobacco control policies are making these groups more vulnerable. Quoting the research by SPDC, Khalil said that the average increase of 10.8% in excise tax on cigarette in Finance Bill 2022 is even lower than the 13.3% inflation; cigarettes will become affordable than two years ago. Therefore, it is important to impose healthy levy immediately otherwise the number of smokers in Pakistan will go beyond our control.

Shariq Ahmed, CEO, Chromatic Trust stated that the country is facing a severe economic crisis and the threat of COVID-19 pandemic still remains. Pakistan cannot afford to lose any more precious lives and money fighting the plague of tobacco consumption. The government needs to remain steadfast to overcome any challenges thrown by big tobacco industry. Along with health levy, the next steps are strict implementation of laws regarding graphic health warnings, promotion and advertising bans, and smoke-free places

Huawei's David Wang highlights Innovation, Lighting up the 5.5G Era

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At the Win-Win Huawei Innovation Week, David Wang, Executive Director of the Board and Chairman of the ICT Infrastructure Managing Board of Huawei, delivered a keynote speech titled "Innovation, Lighting up the 5.5G Era". In his speech, Wang spoke about the next evolution of 5G technology, which the company has termed, 5.5G, and the industry's innovation roadmap for the next five to ten years.

"Looking ahead to 2025, the sheer diversity and magnitude of network service requirements will create huge new market potential," said Wang. "We're here to discuss these opportunities with operators and industry partners, and explore the innovations we need to help pave the way for

Huawei proposed $5.5\mathrm{G}$ for the first time at the 11th Global Mobile Broadband Forum in 2020, and F5.5G (or fixed 5.5G) at the Global Analyst Summit this April. Since then, the industry has been simmering with new ideas and best

According to Wang, new developments in digital technology need to support a truly real-time, engaging, and more immersive experience in the digital world, and gradually make a 10 Gbps network experience available everywhere

On the industrial front, digitalization has already entered

the fast lane. AI will be fully integrated into enterprise production processes, and the size of the 5.5G IoT market will grow rapidly. Collaboration between robots and people in complex scenarios will impose greater requirements on next-generation industrial field networks.

Currently, bottlenecks in computing, such as memory walls, unbalanced utilization of data center resources, and low energy efficiency, are hindering the rise of new computing demand. To address these challenges, the industry needs to innovate at the architecture and system levels to boost computing supply.

The first is a 10 Gbps user experience. 5.5G will deliver a 10 Gbps experience through MIMO technology that boasts larger bandwidth, higher spectrum efficiency, and higher-order modulation. With next-generation technologies like FTTR, Wi-Fi 7, 50G PON, and 800G, F5.5G will bring a 10 Gbps experience everywhere.

At the event, Wang proposed Net5.5G for the first time, defining the evolution of IP networks to meet the rising demand for computing power by intelligent applications. "As digitalization takes hold, intelligent applications will see large-scale commercialization and computing resources will be located across multiple clouds," said Wang. "Enterprises need to make use of computing power from multiple clouds at lower costs, with greater agility and flexibility. To this end, we need to keep innovating and build out the IPv6 Enhanced system to help the industry thrive. This is



why we proposed Net5.5G."

Second, the business scope will go beyond connectivity. 5.5G will go beyond connectivity to include sensing, which will result in a wealth of new scenarios and applications. Wireless sensing and fiber sensing technologies will be used in vehicle-road collaboration and environment monitoring. Passive IoT will integrate cellular and passive tag technologies to create 100 billion potential connections. 5.5G core networks will redefine architectures and foundational technologies to enable new service scenarios, such as industry private networks, industrial field networks, and new calling.

Third, diversified computing will enable diversified applications. In the 5.5G era, computing architectures will be redefined to increase computing efficiency by 10-fold through chip engineering and full peer-to-peer intercon-

Fourth, data-centric storage will break through existing limits in storage architecture. Future storage will improve storage performance by 10-fold through data-centric hardware and software architecture and diversified data application acceleration engines.

Fifth, full-stack AI native will make L4 highly autonomous driving networks (ADNs) a reality. ADNs have become a common goal of the industry. Full-stack AI native, from network elements to networks and services, will accelerate breakthroughs in ADN technology. The results of new innovation, such as compression algorithms for hundreds of network indicators and unknown fault identification by AI foundation models, will be widely applied in the 5.5G era.

Lastly, developments in green technology and system-level innovation will increase energy efficiency. The ITU-T has adopted Network Carbon data/energy intensity (NCIe) as the unified energy efficiency metric to guide the industry's green development roadmap. Huawei has developed innovative solutions for green sites, green networks, and green operations to increase network capacity and cut energy consumption per bit. These solutions will empower operators in the 5.5G era.

"As we move towards the 5.5G era, all industry players need to work together to bring standards to maturity and cultivate a thriving industry," said Wang. He proposed three recommendations to conclude his speech.

Editorial/Opinion

Thursday, July 21, 2022

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Int'l Justice Day

or many years, the International Criminal Court (ICC) was pilloried with allegations that it was biased against African states and unfairly targeted African leaders. The charges were severe and rife. They came from journalists, academics and state leaders - some of whom, it should be stressed, were more worried about their own alleged involvement in atrocities than the impartiality of the Court.

Greater equality in the global distribution of accountability for international crimes - war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide - is desperately needed. July 17 is International Justice Day. It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is also a useful moment to reflect on just how "international" international justice

Accountability for mass atrocities is far from evenly distributed. To paraphrase the former US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, Stephen Rapp, when it comes to international crimes, there is only some justice in some places for some people some of the time. It was just last month that the ICC finally issued warrants for non-African nationals, citizens of the Russian-backed territory of South Ossetia; they are charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the 2008 war in Georgia.

The ICC has only investigated a handful of situations and prosecuted even fewer. Part of that is because the Court is limited in its resources and reach. For years, states have nickeled-and-dimed the institution and limited its budget. In response to alleged government crimes being investigated by the ICC, some states, like Burundi and the Philippines, have frustrated the ICC's ability to investigate crimes by withdrawing their membership from the Court. Others, including the United States, have waged sophisticated campaigns to undermine the institution's standing and authority.

In this context, the recent commitment of the Court and many of its member states to investigate and prosecute those responsible for mass atrocities following the Russian invasion of Ukraine is welcome. Numerous capitals have offered not only unprecedented financial support in the form of voluntary donations, but also their own investigators to help the ICC in its probe. Never before in the Court's history has it enjoyed such tangible support. Even Washington has spoken positively of the ICC's role in addressing atrocities in Ukraine.

The focus on the situation in Ukraine and, in particular, perpetrators from Russia may have the effect of undermining the narrative that the ICC is singularly focused on Africa. At the same time, the Court's welcome attention on atrocities committed in Ukraine should not distract it from contributing to justice efforts on the African continent in a manner that respects the efforts of African states to address their own atrocities and is sensitive to local contexts. It can do so by pursuing accountability itself or by working with partners to galvanise states to do the hard work of holding perpetrators to account in their own courts.

Victims and survivors of atrocities in Africa should also benefit from the advances and lessons learned in pursuing accountability in Ukraine. That includes the novel use of digital forensic investigations to catalogue and trace atrocities, the speedy domestic prosecution of international crimes by national authorities, and efforts aimed at avoiding the duplication of investigation efforts.

Way to Global gender equity

that progress toward

closing the gender

gap has improved by

3.8 percentage points

globally since 2006.

Kerry Boyd Anderson

World Economic Forum last week released a report showing that global progress toward gender parity has largely stalled. The WEF report and other analyses suggest that the pandemic threw obstacles in the path toward gender parity, though the effects vary significantly by country. The "Global Gender Gap Report" measures progress toward gender parity in 146 countries. It began with 102 countries in 2006. The 2022 report finds that the world today has closed the overall gender gap by 68.1 percent. At this rate, it will take the world 132 years to reach gender parity. The WEF Global Gender Gap Index includes four subindices. Today, the global gender gap in health and survival has closed by 95.8 percent, educational attainment by 94.4 percent, economic participation and opportunity by 60.3 percent and political empowerment by 22 percent, according to the report.

North America scores the highest among regions, closing its gap by 76.9 percent, with Europe close behind at 76.6 percent. Latin America and the Caribbean rank third, at 72.6 percent. Central Asia (69.1 percent) and East Asia and the Pacific (69 percent) lie in the middle, followed by sub-Saharan Africa at 67.9 percent. The Middle East and North Africa rank further down, closing 63.4 percent of the gender gap. South Asia ranks last, at 197 years to reach parity in the region.

Within regions, progress varies significantly among countries. Iceland ranks first in the world, as the only country to have closed more than 90 percent of its gender gap (90.8 percent). Germany is 10th at 80.1 percent and the US comes 27th at 76.9 percent. The UAE ranks 68th at 71.6 percent, while India holds 135th spot at 62.9 percent. Afghanistan ranks last at 43.5 percent — a decline from last year.

In terms of the countries that have made the most progress toward closing their gender gaps in the last year, Vanuatu ranked first, Kenya second and Saudi Arabia third, with the Kingdom closing its gap by 3.3 percentage points to 63.6. At the other end of the spectrum lie Algeria, Malawi and Benin, which all experienced significant declines in parity. The

WEF index showed slight improvement school following lengthy, pandemic-refrom last year: 68.1 percent of the gap was closed in 2022 versus 67.9 percent in 2021. However, the report notes that the last year's progress does not make up for the losses in 2020 and 2021. Indeed, other reports have demonstrated that the pandemic was a major setback for women around the world. A Deloitte report from earlier this year warned that the pandemic had "reversed key gains over the years in expanding the rights of women worldwide." Earlier in the pandemic, the UN warned that 62.4 percent, suggesting a depressing impacts of COVID-19 threatened to undo decades of progress.

At the height of pandemic restrictions, gap has improved by 3.8 percentage women's employment declined more than men's, as restrictions hit the service sectors that dominate women's employment and closed schools and childcare facilities. Such impacts are particularly difficult for women, who often work in sectors — or in the informal economy — that lack benefits and protections. Women are also society's primary caregivers and the pandemic massively increased demands for care. Furthermore, multi-

ple reports have found that domestic violence increased significantly The WEF report found during the pandemic and a UN report from late 2021 also noted that many women feel less safe outside of their homes than before the pandemic. Additionally, UN agencies have sounded the alarm about the importance of returning girls to

lated school closures.

The pandemic clearly undermined progress toward gender parity and even women's basic rights. However, even without the pandemic, progress tends to be uneven. For example, the WEF report also noted that the years of austerity following the 2008 financial crisis undermined some forms of progress in many countries. Wars, climate change and other crises often have a disproportionately negative impact on women and children. Still, there are some reasons for optimism. The WEF report found that progress toward closing the gender

points globally since 2006. More countries have made significant or marginal improvements in the last year than those that experienced declines. Progress is slow and goes through setbacks, but it is better than regression.

Gender parity and women's rights matter to broader society. When women suffer violence, economic difficulties, health concerns and more, the men and especially the children in their families and communities suffer too. Economies lose potential when women are unable to fully contribute. Excluding women from government decision-making leads to policies that fail to account for the realities of women's and families' experiences. Businesses that lack women in leadership will miss out on the potential skills and ideas of half the population and will be disconnected from the experiences of many potential customers, investors, clients and employees.

In the wake of the pandemic, governments, businesses and social institutions need to work harder to advocate for women and to implement policies that address women's real-world needs. Safety is a critical starting point; without safety inside and outside of the home, women cannot achieve progress in areas as basic as education, health and employment. Governments and other societal leaders need to address the increased risks to women's safety that arose during the pandemic and then continue working toward improving gender parity.

The writer is a political risk consultant. Courtesy Arab News



steogenesis imperfec- dentinogenesis imperfecta and along ta is a common heritable connective tissue disorder. Nearly ninety percent are due to Type I collagen mutations. Type I-IV are autosomal dominant, and Type VI-XIII are autosomal recessive. They are Graded 1to 5 based on severity. Genomic testing is done by collagen analysis from fibroblasts. The mainstay of treatment is bisphosphonate therapy. The prognosis is variable. Osteogenesis imperfecta (OI) (brittle bone disease) is the most common heritable disorder of connective tissue. Major clinical forms of OI represent quantitative and qualitative abnormalities of Type I collagen, the most abundant protein in bone.

A partially reconstructed skull of an Egyptian mummy was consistent with an infant affected by OI. There was also deformed dentition (dentinogenesis imperfecta) and thin bones. The earliest studies on OI were done by Olof Jakob described osteogenesis imperfecta Type I as "Lobstein's disease." In the 1850s, Willem Vrolik also described what is currently known as Vrolik's syndrome. The estimated incidence is approximately 1 per 20,000 live births. Persons with OI caused by collagen mutations have a 50% risk of having an affected child. The proportion of cases caused by a de novo mutation varies by disease

The genetic defects in OI translate into defects in collagen synthesis, structure, processing, in collagen posttranslational modification, collagen folding, and crosslinking. There are also defects in bone mineralization, osteoblast defect with collagen insufficiency. The clinical features can be broadly classified into skeletal and extraskeletal. Skeletal features include excess/atypical fractures, short stature, scoliosis, and basilar skull deformities. Extraskeletal manifestations include hearing loss which is a mixture of conductive and hearing loss and seen in 50% of adults by 50 years and 5% of children with OI. Abnormal dentin leading to the appearance of small deformed teeth which are opalescent due to a higher ratio of transparent enamel to opaque dentin is called ty. Type V They have fractures that can

with malocclusion are the major dental abnormalities. The sclera may be blue or gray in color.

Connective tissue abnormalities leading to joint hyperextensibility may result lead to hypertrophic in dislocation of joints and he head of the radius. Hypercalciuria seen in 36% of patients may result in renal calculi. Cardiovascular involvement leads to aortic root dilatation and mitral valve prolapse. Neurological manifestations include macrocephaly, hydrocephalus, basilar invagination (will present as headache, lower cranial nerve palsies, dysphagia, quadriparesis, ataxia, and nystagmus), and cervical spine kyphosis (can cause compression of cervical spine cord, sensory or motor disturbances of upper or lower extremities progressing to quadriparesis).

Type I The skeletal manifestations include vertebral fractures and are usually not associated with deformities that can lead to scoliosis. Fractures Ekman in 1788. In 1833, Jean Lobstein are mostly prepubertal, associated with extraskeletal defects of the blue sclera, presenile deafness, and aortic regurgi-

Type II It is associated with in utero fractures - rib, long bone, and skeletal fractures. They occur in the neonatal/ perinatal period, and death can occur due to pulmonary hypoplasia, respiratory insufficiency, central nervous system malformations, and hemorrhages. They also have blue sclera and dentinogenesis imperfecta. Type III Manifestations can start in utero or at birth, and can lead to progressive deformity and scoliosis. The sclera is blue at birth but whitens with age and has dentinogenesis imperfecta. They survive the neonatal period but have triangular facies, short stature, severe long bone deformities, and may have respiratory insufficiency from pulmonary hypoplasia, fractures, and frequent hearing loss.

Type IV They can present at birth and can have a progressive deformity. They have grayish or white sclera, and have dentinogenesis imperfecta. They can have significant variability in phenotypes even within families and manifest with short stature, may have long bone bowing, scoliosis, and joint laxi-

Genetic Disorder

calluses and are associated with the progressive deformity. Irregular mesh-like bone appearance and calcification of the interosseous membranes of the forearm can lead to decreased hand mobility and radial

head dislocation. Type VI Manifestations include moderatetosevere deformities. They may have blue sclera. They are healthy at birth with subsequent progressively severe deformities.

Analysis

Undermineralization and "fish scale" pattern on iliac crest biopsies are observed. Type VII Manifestations include moderatetosevere deformities. They may have blue sclera. Rhizomelia of the humerus and femur is seen. This type has only been identified in Native Americans in Northern Quebec. Type VIII They have progressive deformities. They also have rhizomelia and short stature. Type IX Severe deformities and blue sclera are seen. They may have short stature. bowed limbs. Other features include pectus carinatum, pectus excavatum, and moderatetosevere osteoporosis by DEXA. Type X Severe deformities and blue sclera are seen. They also have renal stones. Type XI Severe deformities are seen. They have contractures. Type XII They have recurrent fractures and mild bone deformities and delayed tooth eruption. Type XIII They have recurrent fractures and hyperextensible joints. They also have high bone mass.

Clinical diagnosis of OI is based on the signs and symptoms. Diagnosis is usually straightforward in individuals with bone fragility and positive family history or several extraskeletal manifestations. There are no definitive tests for OI. Biochemical parameters of bone and mineral metabolism are usually normal in OI; serum alkaline phosphatase may be increased in Type VI OI, due to impaired bone mineralization. Hyper-



Markers of bone formation (Cterminal propeptide of Type I procollagen) may be lower, and markers of bone resorption (Ctelopeptide of Type I collagen) can be higher in OI, particularly in

severely affected patients. Collagen synthesis analysis is performed by culturing dermal fibroblasts obtained during skin biopsy. Abnormalities either in quantity or quality of Type I collagen are found in 90% of OI. Prenatal DNA blood testing for gene defects shows an accuracy of 60%-94%, which can be obtained by analyzing uncultured chorionic villus cells obtained by ultrasonography (USG). Prenatal USG is most useful in evaluating OI Types II and III and is capable of detecting limblength abnormalities at 15-18weeks gestation. In its most severe form, the disease may be evident as early as 16weeks gestation. [13] Mild forms of OI may result in

normal findings on USG. The goals of therapy are to reduce fracture rate, prevent long bone deformities, minimize chronic pain, and maximize functional capacity. The main modalities of treatment can be grouped into medications, surgical intervention, physical therapy, and experimental ther-

Bisphosphonate therapy, It is the mainstay of pharmacologic fracture prevention therapy for most forms of OI. Observational studies show that bisphosphonates for children reduced fracture frequency by up to 100%. The long-term effects on structural outcomes such as scoliosis and basilar invagination are unclear. The optimal dose range, dosing interval, duration of treatment, and long-term efficacy and safety profile in the treatment of OI are yet to be established. Fourteen

conducted which compared the following data: 6 oral bisphosphonate to placebo, 3 intravenous(IV) bisphosphonate to placebo, 1 different of oral, 1 different doses of IV, 1 or al versus IV, and 2 different IV (zoledronic vs. pamidronate).

Experimental Therapies Growth hormone, In a single randomized trial, thirty prepubertal children with OI (Types I, III, and IV) were observed for 12 months during ongoing neridronate therapy and then randomized to recombinant growth hormone (GH) plus neridronate or neridronate alone. BMD and growth velocity were found to be significantly higher in the group that received GH compared with control group, but no differences were observed in the fracture risk. Cell replacement therapies, Pilot study of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation was performed in five children with OI; three children had successful engraftment, and in these 3, improvements in growth velocity and reduction in fracture rate were noted following transplantation. More clinical research is needed for exploring this

Gene therapy, It has been performed only in animal models by two techniques. Antisense therapy has been used to suppress or silence a particular mutant allele of Type I collagen gene and not interfere with exprthe ession of the normal allele, and thus, a severe form has been potentially turned into milda form. Gene targeting has been employed using patient's mesenchymal stem cells. A preliminary study using adenoassociated virus vectors successfully disrupted mutated alleallelesvivo in these cells and infusion into a mouse model resulted in bone formation. Recent advances Strontium ranelate and denosumab targeting RANKL pathway are being studied for use in OI. Psychosocial aspects, Support for patients with OI and families can be availed by provision of information, contact with other patients and families, and referrals for formal or informal counseling.

Primary care considerations Primary care of OI children requires special considerations in addition to routine care and immunizations. Hearing assessment (formal audiology) should

randomized controlled trials have been be advised initially at 9 months of age and then at regular intervals. Vision screening should be done every 2-3 years, with referral to an ophthalmologist. Pneumococcal and influenza vaccination needs to be emphasized. Provision of dental referral is to be done as indicated for dentinogenesis imperfecta. Monitoring for complications At 2 years, hearing test for mixed hearing loss, DEXA for BMD, [28] and spirometry to monitor for restrictive defects secondary to rib and vertebral fractures (or sooner if clinically indicated),particularly in patients with moderatetosevere OI has to be done.

> Yearly spirometry and electrocardiogram/echocardiogram every 2 years (to detect aortic root dilation and valvular dysfunction) in Type III OI or other moderate to severe types are to be done. Neurologic examination and cranial assessment should be performed if symptoms or behavioral changes, particularly in patients with Type III OI and in other forms with a similar phenotype (Types VII-IX). At diagnosis and then every 1-2 years, skeletal radiographs (or sooner if clinically indicated) coordinated with orthopedic advice needs to be monitored. Children receiving bisphosphonate treatment should have yearly (or more frequently as clinically indicated) assessment of BMD and radiologic assessment of long bones and spine to determine the effect of treatment on vertebral geometry, long bone fractures, and changes in bone mass.

OI is the most common heritable connective tissue disorder. 90% due to Type I collagen mutations. Types I to V are AD and VIXIII are AR. Genomic testing is useful for collagen analysis from fibroblasts and the prognosis is variable. Financial support and sponsorship, It is obligate for the Governments should take step to hazardous disease and should financially support to the patients those who has OI. These patients are very sensensitives Dr should take care patiently not treating like Butcher. Conflicts of interest. There

The writer is A Graduate from University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

are no conflicts of interest.

Unpopular Sri Lankan PM elected president; risks new turmoil

New president divisive choice for fixing crisis

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan lawmakers elected the unpopular prime minister as their new president Wednesday, a choice that risked reigniting turmoil in the South Asian nation reeling from economic collapse.

The crisis has already forced one Sri Lankan leader out, and a few hundred protesters quickly gathered after the vote to express their outrage that Ranil Wickremesinghe — a six-time prime minister whom they see as part of the problematic political establishment — would stay in power.

Sri Lankans have taken to the street for months to demand their top leaders step down as the country spiraled into economic chaos that left its 22 million people struggling with shortages of essentials, including medicine, fuel and food. After demonstrators stormed the presidential palace and several other government buildings last week, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled and then resigned.

Much of the protesters' ire is focused on Rajapaksa and his family's political dynasty, which ruled Sri Lanka for most of the past two decades. But many also blame Wickremesinghe for protecting



Rajapaksa, and during demonstrations last week, crowds set his personal residence on fire and occupied his office.

Wednesday's vote means Wickremesinghe - who was also Rajapaksa's finance minister and became acting president after the leader fled — will finish the presidential term ending in 2024. He can now also appoint a new prime minister.

"I need not tell you what state our country is in," Wickremesinghe, 73, told fellow lawmakers after his victory was announced. "People are not expecting the old politics from us, they expect us to work together."

He pleaded for the country to move on: "Now that the election is over, we

have to end this division." But protesters flocked to the presidential residence instead, chanting, "Ranil, go home."

"We are very sad, very disappointed with the 225 parliament members who we elected to speak for us, which they have not done," said Visaka Jayawware, a performance artist in the crowd. "We will keep fighting for the people of Sri Lanka. We have to ask for a gener-

Wickremesinghe has wide experience in diplomatic and international affairs he noted Wednesday that he had spent 45 years of his life in Parliament — and has led the talks on a bailout package for the bankrupt country with the International Monetary Fund.

But many voters view him with suspicion since he was appointed prime minister by Rajapaksa in May, in hopes he would restore stability.

The protesters accuse the Rajapaksa and his powerful family of siphoning money from government coffers and of hastening the country's collapse by mismanaging the economy. The family has denied the corruption allegations, but the former president acknowledged that some of his policies contributed to cians' homes in the unrest.

Sri Lanka's meltdown.

"The struggle will continue until our demands are met. (Wickremesinghe) doesn't have a mandate to rule the country," said Nemel Jayaweera, a human resources professional. "We will oppose him." Still, the ruling party's majority in Parliament swept Wickremesinghe to victory in Wednesday's vote, with 134 votes. Populist Dullas Alahapperuma, a longtime ally of Rajapaksa and also a minister in his government, secured 82, while a Marxist candidate netted three.

The vote, shown on national television, was a decorous, solemn affair. While the balloting was secret, as the results were announced, lawmakers thumped their tables in support of their candidates.

After the vote, some supporters celebrated Wickremesinghe's win in the streets. He will be sworn in on Thursday.

Only a few lawmakers had publicly said they would vote for Wickremesinghe given the widespread hostility against him — but dozens loyal to Rajapaksa had been expected to back him because he had assured them he would severely punish protesters who burned politi-

Sunak and Truss face runoff to become UK's next leader

LONDON: Britain's Conservative Party chose former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak and Foreign Secretary Liz Truss as the two finalists in an election to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson. The result came on the day the divisive, unrepentant leader ended his final appearance in Parliament as prime minister with the words "Hasta la vista, baby."

The pair came first and second in a vote of Conservative lawmakers on Wednesday. Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt came in third and was eliminated.

The race pits Sunak, who steered Britain's economy through the pandemic, against Truss, who has led the U.K.'s response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The two contenders will spend the next few weeks campaigning for the votes of about 180,000 Conservative Party members around the country, who will vote by postal or online ballot. The winner of the party leadership vote will be announced Sept. 5 and will automatically become Britain's next prime minister.

Sunak won every round of voting by lawmakers but is less popular with the party's grassroots. Truss is a favorite of the party's right wing.

The bitter campaign has exposed deep divisions in the Conservative Party at the end of Johnson's scandal-tarnished three-year reign. Truss has branded Sunak a "socialist" for raising taxes in response to the economic damage wrought by the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Sunak has hit back, saying that his rivals are peddling economic "fairy tales" to British voters as the country faces high inflation.

All the contenders —- there were 11 to start - sought to distance themselves from Johnson, whose term in office began boldly in 2019 with a vow to "get Brexit done" and a resounding election victory, but is now ending in disgrace. Johnson quit July 7 after months of ethics scandals but remains caretaker leader until the party elects his successor. On Wednesday, he faced derisive opposition politicians and weary Conservatives at his last Prime Minister's Questions session in the House of Commons.

Italy's premier sets conditions to remain in office

ROME: Italian Premier Mario Draghi said spontaneous displays of support for his government were "unprecedented and impossible to ignore" as he weighed Wednesday whether to rescind his resignation offer.

Draghi challenged the partner parties in his governing coalition to come back together after a key party withheld its support, triggering his offer to step down last week. He suggested he would continue to lead if the coalition members recommitted to a pact of unity that created his government a year ago.

"Are you ready? Are you ready to rebuild this pact? Are you ready?" Draghi thundered at the end of a speech to Italy's Senate. "You don't have to give the response to me. You have to give it to all Italians.

In recent days, political leaders, mayors, doctors' associations and ordinary citizens have urged Draghi to stay in office as Italy copes with soaring premier went well beyond that, includgovernment can truly govern."



inflation and energy prices, Russia's war in Ukraine and implementing a plan to use some 200 billion euros in European Union pandemic recovery funds.

Draghi offered to resign after senators from the 5-Star Movement, the biggest vote-getter in Italy's 2018 national election, boycotted a confidence vote on a bill to deal with the economic crisis. They opposed a bill that included funding a trash incinerator for Rome, but their beef with the ing the government's military support for Ukraine in its war with Russia.

Draghi, who was drafted to head the government last year, had long insisted he would never head a second government or one without the 5-Stars. He said flatly last week that he wouldn't govern by ultimatum, a reference to 5-Star demands. But it appeared the waves of appeals for him to reconsider, from inside and out of Italy, had an

He told the Senate he was personally moved by the spontaneous shows of support, citing in particular the petitions by Italian mayors and medical personnel, the "heroes of the pandemic."

The mobilization in these days by citizens, associations and regions for the government to continue is unprecedented and impossible to ignore," Draghi said. "This demand for stability requires all of us to decide if it's possible to recreate the conditions in which the

US forces must leave areas of Syria east of Euphrates River: Erdogan

ANKARA: The US needs to withdraw its forces from regions of Syria east of the Euphrates River, as part of the Astana peace process for Syria, the Turkish president said Wednesday.

"America has to leave east of the Euphrates now. This is an outcome that came out of the Astana process," said Recep Tayyip Erdogan, one day after an Astana process summit with the Russian and Iranian presidents, stressing that his Astana partners agree with this judgement.

"Türkiye expects this as well because it is America that feeds the terrorist groups there," Erdogan told reporters en route back to Türkiye, referring to the terror group YPG/PKK, which the US has partnered with on the pretext



of fighting Daesh/ISIS terror-

Reiterating the possibility of another Turkish anti-terrorist operation across its southern border into northsuccessful operations in recent years, Êrdogan said a table as long as Ankara's longstanding concerns have not

"You see that the American (military) staff there train members of the terrorist organization (YPG/PKK)," he continued. "During this ern Syria, following other training, they are waving the flag of the regime there. Why?" He added: "Their job new operation will be on the is to commit a terrorist act including women, children, against the Turkish soldiers there. Here, too, they think if terrorist PKK's Syrian branch.

army by waving the regime's flag there. We won't be fooled."

YPG/PKK terrorists periodically attempt to attack Turkish troops in opposition-held northern Syria, soldiers stationed there to keep peace along the border and protect locals from terrorist domination.

Türkiye has long criticized the US working with the YPG/PKK supposedly against Daesh/ISIS, saying that using one terrorist group to fight another makes no sense. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the European Union, and the US, and is responsible for the deaths of 40,000 people, and infants. The YPG is the

'More than 500 died' from heatwave in Spain: PM

MADRID: Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Wednesday that "more than 500 people" died during a 10-day heatwave in Spain, one of the most intense ever recorded in the country.

Sanchez cited figures released Monday from the Carlos III Health Institute which estimates the number of heat-related deaths based on the number of excess deaths when compared to the average in previous years.

The institute has stressed that these figures are a statistical estimate and not a record of official deaths.

"During this heatwave, more than 500 people died because of such high temperatures, according to the statistics," Sanchez said.

"I ask citizens to exercise extreme caution," he said, noting that the "climate emergency is a reality."

Spain was gripped by a heatwave affecting much of Western Europe which pushed temperatures as high as $45\,\mathrm{degrees}$ Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in some regions last week, sparking dozens of wildfires.

The blazes forced the evacuation of thousands of people and claimed

at least two lives — that of a firefighter and a shepherd who got caught up in the flames in northwest Spain. The July 9-18 heatwave was one of the most intense ever recorded

in Spain, meteorological agency AEMET said Wednesday. "At a minimum, it is the third most intense heatwave in terms of its geographic extension and duration" since modern records began in

1975, AEMET spokeswoman Beatriz Hervella said. Only two other heatwaves lasted longer — one in July 2015 that lasted 26 days and another in August 2003 that went on for 16 days,

Indian court orders release of journalist Mohammad Zubair

NEW DELHI: The Indian Supreme Court ordered release of co-founder of Alt News Mohammed Zubair, today, in all the six FIRs filed against him in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

The Supreme Court bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud said there was absolutely no justification in keeping Zubair in custody when the Delhi court has granted him bail in a FIR registered by

"We are of the view that he should be released on interim bail on all FIRs. It's a set principle of law that power of arrests must be pursued sparingly. In present case no justification to keep him in continued detention and subject him to an endless round of proceedings in various courts," the Supreme Court said.

The court also done away with an earlier condition imposed on Zubair to not make any social media posts/tweets. "We can't say he wont tweet again. It is like telling a lawyer that you should not argue. How can we tell a journalist that he will not write?...'

Serbia, Egypt agree to boost military cooperation

BELGRADE: Serbia and Egypt on Wednesday expressed a desire to develop bilateral military cooperation.

Addressing a joint press conference in Belgrade, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi agreed to further enhance ties between the two countries.

"I think we can cooperate with Egypt militarily because ... we have a lot to offer to each other," said Vucic.

Describing Sisi's visit as historic, he announced the resumption of a direct flight route to Cairo, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and other charter flights to Egyptian resorts.

Sisi, meanwhile, said Egypt believes in the peaceful resolution of conflicts, adding that the crisis in Ukraine should be resolved through

During the visit, the two countries signed 13 cooperation protocols as part of the mutual strategic partnership, including one on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic, official, and social passports.

Vucic and Sisi also approved a joint declaration on the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries.

The declaration envisages political coordination on bilateral and international issues, cooperation in the areas of defense and security, economic cooperation based on free trade agreements, and cooperation in the areas of agriculture and energy with an emphasis on the development and diversification of gas and other energy sources.

After the press conference, the two leaders attended the opening of the Serbia-Egypt Business Forum, while Vucic also presented Sisi with the Order of the Republic of Serbia.

Mali junta expels UN peacekeeping mission spokesman

BAMAKO: Mali's military government on Wednesday ordered the spokesman of the United Nations peacekeeping mission MINUSMA to leave the country within 72 hours over tweets about a diplomatic incident with Ivory Coast that has soured relations with the U.N.

Military leaders that seized power in an August 2020 coup have been at odds with regional neighbours and international partners over election delays, alleged army abuses and cooperation with Russian mercenaries amid a spiralling Islamist insurgency.

The junta temporarily suspended MINUSMA troop rotations last week, days after the arrest of 49 soldiers from Ivory Coast authorities said had arrived in the country without permission.

It ordered MINUSMA Deputy Director of Communications Olivier Salgado to leave Mali within three days from Wednesday for publishing "tendentious and unacceptable" Twitter posts about

He Tweeted "without proof" that authorities had been informed about the Ivorian troops' arrival, the government said in a statement.

Ukraine graft concerns resurface as Russia war goes on

Sergei Lavrov says Russia's focus in Ukraine is no longer "only" east of country

WASHINGTON/MOSCOW: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dismissal of senior officials is casting an inconvenient light on an issue that the Biden administration has largely ignored since the outbreak of war with Russia: Ukraine's history of rampant corruption and shaky governance.

As it presses ahead with providing tens of billions of dollars in military, economic and direct financial support aid to Ukraine and encourages its allies to do the same, the Biden administration is now once again grappling with longstanding worries about Ukraine's suitability as a recipient of massive infusions of Amer-

Those issues, which date back decades and were not an insignificant part of former President Donald Trump's first impeach- ities; we invest in institutions,

to the back burner in the immediate run-up to Russia's invasion and during the first months of the conflict as the U.S. and its partners rallied to Ukraine's defense. U.S. officials are quick to say that

ment, had been largely pushed

Zelenskyy is well within his right to appoint whomever he wants to senior positions, including the prosecutor general, and remove anyone who he sees as collaborating with Russia.

Yet even as Russian troops were massing near the Ukrainian border last fall, the Biden administration was pushing Zelenskyy to do more to act on corruption — a perennial U.S. demand going back to Ukraine's early days of inde-

"In all of our relationships, and including in this relationship, we invest not in personal-

and, of course, President Zelenskyy has spoken to his rationale for making these personnel shifts," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters on Monday. Price declined to comment

further on Zelenskyv's reasoning for the dismissals or address the specifics but said there was no question that Russia has been trying to interfere in Ukraine. "Moscow has long sought to

subvert, to destabilize the Ukrainian government," Price said. "Ever since Ukraine chose the path of democracy and a Western orientation this has been something that Moscow has sought to subvert." Still, in October and then again

in December 2021, as the U.S. and others were warning of the increasing potential for a Russian invasion, the Biden administration was calling out Zelenskyy's government for inaction on corruption that had

"The EU and the US are greatly disappointed by unexplained and unjustifiable delays in the selec-

little or nothing to do with Russia.

tion of the Head of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Office, a crucial body in the fight against high-level corruption," the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said on 'We urge the selection commis-

sion to resume its work without further delays. Failure to move forward in the selection process undermines the work of anti-corruption agencies, established by Ukraine and its international partners," it said. That special prosecutor was finally chosen in late December but was never actually appointed to the position. Although there are indications the appointment will happen soon, the dismissal of the prosecutor general could complicate



the matter.

The administration and high-profile lawmakers have avoided public criticism of Ukraine since Russia invaded in February. The U.S. has ramped up the weapons and intelligence it's providing

to Ukraine despite early concerns about Russia's penetration of the Ukrainian government and exist-

ing concerns about corruption. Russia's military focus in Ukraine is no longer "only" the east of the country, Foreign Minister of Donbas.

Sergei Lavrov has said. In an interview with Russian state media, he implied Moscow's

strategy had changed after the West supplied Ukraine with longer-range weapons. Russia would now have to push

Ukrainian forces further from the front line to ensure its own security, he explained. The US had earlier accused

Russia of preparing to annex parts of Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in

February, claiming falsely that Russian-speakers in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region had suffered a genocide and needed to be liberated. Five months on, Russia has occupied parts of the east and south of the country, but it failed in its original aim of capturing Kyiv and has since claimed its main objective was the liberation

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

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Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
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Open Market Forex Rates

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Open Market	· Olex i	
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	146.9	148.15
Bahrain Dinar	571.28	575.78
Canadian Dollar	166.36	167.71
China Yuan	31.85	32.1
Danish Krone	29.32	29.67
Euro	223	226
Hong Kong Dollar	27.36	27.71
Indian Rupee	2.68	2.76
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.63
Kuwaiti Dinar	697.19	702.19
Malaysian Ringgit	48.24	48.69
NewZealand \$	132.62	133.82
Norwegians Krone	21.36	21.66
Omani Riyal	558.65	563.15
Qatari Riyal	59.01	59.51
Saudi Riyal	58.5	59.5
Singapore Dollar	153.82	155.12
Swedish Korona	20.76	21.06
Swiss Franc	220.01	221.76
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	60	61
UK Pound Sterling	261.5	265
US Dollar	224	227

ENSOGOV discusses adoption of ESG

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: ENSOGOV & British Deputy High Commission Karachi arranged an exclusive gathering of corporate leaders to discuss the adoption of the ESG frameworks and sustainability practices in Pakistan. The event was held at Acton House British Deputy High Commission Karachi. Corporate leadership from the financial sector, banking, textile, FMCG, manufacturing, technology and development sector gathered at the event organised by ENSOGOV, British Deputy High Commission, Karachi, in partnership with ACCA, Nutshell Group, SEED Ventures and Matriarch Ventures under the title "Simplifying the ESG journey for businesses".

The leaders, in general, discussed that the operating context for organisations implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies is changing exceptionally fast. There are pressures from investors, customers, employees and regulators to take substantive action and strengthen reporting and disclosures.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson of Pakistan Stock Exchange, PICG and Former Federal Minister, stressed creating a national-level ESG framework for Pakistan to bring harmony and compa-

Sadia Sajjad, Country Manager UK, Ireland, Denmark and Malta, IFC, Jonathan Freeman, CEO, Sustainability Director, CareTech plc; Managing Director, Earlsbrook Consulting Limited, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder, Nutshell Group & Corporate Pakistan Group, Former Minister of State & Chairman, Board of Investment and Maheen Rahman, CEO InfraZamin Pakistan stressed on the urgency climate action and adoption of ESG framework.

Muhammad Ali Tabba, CEO of Lucky Cement Limited and Yunus Textile Mills Limited, part of YBG business conglomerate, Shazad Dada, CEO and President of UBL, Farrukh H. Khan, MD & CEO, Pakistan Stock Exchange, Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi, CEO, K-Electric, Shaista Ayesha, CEO, SEED Ventures, Assad Hameed, Head of ACCA Pakistan discussed the success and progress of sustainability and ESG frameworks' adoption in Pakistan.

4,500 Chinese tech firms attend China-Pakistan technology investment moot

Hosted by STZA and Pakistan Embassy in Beijing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan, the Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA) of People's Republic of China, jointly organized the first ever China-Pakistan Technology Investment Conference (CPTIC) virtually. More than 4500 representatives of the Chinese technology ecosystem, including science and technology parks, high tech production enterprises, technology companies, investment organizations, research and development centers, Chinese state-owned infrastructure companies, and Chinese agencies of national, provincial, and municipal governments attended the

The conference can probably be termed as one of the biggest ever forum held between Pakistan and China in terms of participation from Chinese companies. STZA aims to create new linkages with the technology sector in China and pave way for the Pakistani and Chinese technology players to cooperate in the field of technology, and attract Chinese investments, knowledge and technology capabilities through ensuring world-class customer experience and ease of doing business for their operations in Pakistan's Special Technology Zones (STZs).

The Honourable Ambassador of Pakistan to the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr Moin ul Haque opened the forum by welcoming the Chinese representatives. Acknowledging the strong diplomatic ties between the two nations, the Honora-



ing groups with the Ministry of Science and the Government, Industry and Academia to Technology, and Ministry of Information and Technology, have been established under the CPEC framework. He recognized China as a global leader in the technology industry and stated that both countries have many avenues to cooperate in the field of technology sector. The Ambassador appreciated the role of Chairman STZA and his able team in enabling the technology ecosystem in Pakistan and create effective linkages with Chinese technology

companies. Amer Hashmi, the Chairman of STZA stated that China is a leading partner in developing the knowledge ecosystem in Pakistan, revealing that STZA had set up a dedicated China desk to help Chinese technology companies and largescale enterprises investing in Pakistan's STZs. The STZs are being developed under the Triple

remove barriers and create ease of doing business for domestic and foreign technology sector companies. He thanked the Ambassador of that ZBRA and STZA under a partnership are Pakistan to the People's Republic of China for facilitating the virtual conference and pledged his resolute support for the Chinese technolo-

The conference was also facilitated by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, which was represented by Mr Cao Zhouhua, the First Secretary of Science and Technology. He said that both sides are exploring multi spectral cooperation in the technology sector including, knowledge sharing, zone development, research, policy development, joint training of professionals, and management of STZs as per international benchmarks.

ble informed the participants that joint work- Helix Model of Innovation, bringing together Hamza Saeed Orakzai, who also heads the and manufacturing.

China desk at STZA, gave a detailed presentation to the representatives including the tax incentives, regulatory support and one window facilitation for the perspective Chinese technology investors. He highlighted several largescale Chinese tech companies that are already in the application process. He further explained that the STZs are planned under the purview of sustainable development goals and hence purposefully designed to be eco-friendly. He said that STZA has already notified STZs in Islamabad, Lahore and Haripur, while more STZs in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir were in the pipeline under the national roll-out plan.

Zhang Xiodong the President of ZBRA stated that due to the technology boom in China, the taxation revenue increased by 2000 times over the last 30 years. He called for the integration of Chinese and Pakistani Universities for joint R&D to enable and support the China -Pakistan Innovation Centre in China and said exploring avenues of cooperation for the development of STZs in Pakistan.

STZA urged Chinese technology sector companies, investors and large-scale enterprises to engage in strategic conversation with STZA to explore future opportunities, stating that Pakistan's demographic advantage stood for a unique investment base for Chinese technology companies and research organizations, and both countries could enormously benefit by working together in R&D, especially in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, cloud and quantum computing, semiconduc-Director of Strategic Planning at STZA, tors, internet of things and smart devices design

ABHI signs partnership with UAEbased API-Widget

B Our Correspondent

KARACHI: ABHI, a Pakistan-based fintech and Unveel.io, a UAE-based API-Widget are combining their expertise to offer the facility of Earned Wage Access to ride-hailing and delivery drivers in Pakistan and UAE for the first time.

As the world economy struggles to get back on the rails, this comes as a ray of hope for workers. Hundreds of thousands of workers who were previously at the mercy of pay cycles over which they had no control are now better placed to manage the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, thanks acknowledged expert in API payroll data.

solutions have placed them at the head of their field.

These two companies ensure that workers will now be able to access their earnings in real-time and be paid for their services on the same day, rather than be paid after a whole month. This will allow them to be in more control of their finances and lead a more productive and stress-

Max Moscicki, Vice President of Unveel. io, said: "Our philosophy is that once you have earned something, you should have access to it right away, and Unveel's realtime data enables that. Anything else is Having to wait for a distant payday is and ABHI, whose Earned Wage Access something that many gig workers cannot healthier, and more productive life."

comfortably do, nor should they have to. Ride-hailing drivers and delivery couriers are some of the hardest working people out there, and we think that they deserve

straightforward access to the fruits of their labor on their own terms. Omair Ansari, CEO, and Co-founder of

ABHI, said: "Employees should no longer have to feel ashamed to ask for the money they rightly deserve. Through our Earned Wage Access product, people can acquire their earnings instantly, which we believe is a basic human right. We are thrilled to partner with Unveel.io and believe that this partnership will open newer avenues to the combined efforts of Unveel.io, an basically not giving you what you deserve. to financially empower working individuals, enabling them to live a happier.

Free-falling rupee threat to national security, says **President FPCCI**

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has maintained that free-falling rupee has reached a point where it has become a threat to the national security as LCs for petroleum imports are being opened at a much higher rate than that of intra-bank rate; and a grave law & order situation might emerge in case of any fuel shortages for transportation and electricity is forewarning all the authorradical decisions are needed to reverse the situation.

Aqeel Karim Dhedhi expressed his shock that despite the fact that many numbers are showing improvement over the last few weeks like international oil prices, declining edible oil prices and better supplies of many other commodities, the government has failed to rein in inflation. He added that imports are expected to be considerably lower this month as compared to the last couple of months; but, still the rupee is in a free fall which is only adding fuel to the uncertainty.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has emphasized that SBP can not continue with the free-floating exchange rate; and, it has to apply regulatory tools to minimize the speculation, uncertainty, hoarding, malpractices and misinformation. He maintained that we do not even have enough foreign

exchange reserves to cover for two months of imports.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has noted with profound concerns that the trade deficit for the fiscal year 2021 - 22 has clocked at a record \$48.66 billion and that translates into more than \$4 billion a month on an average; while it was \$30.96 billion in the previous year, i.e. 2020 - 21 and this shows a huge increase of 57 percent.

FPCCI Chiefhas proposed generation. He added that he that the government should announce the expected ities that we are not far from inflows of dollar through a Sri Lanka-like scenario and all sources to put a halt to the uncertainty, chaos and rumor-mongering in the market, i.e. IMF, World Bank, ADB, IDB; and, other multilateral & bilateral grants, loans and financing facilities.

> Irfan Iqbal Sheikh admonished the fact that despite a bloodbath in the foreign exchange, the government has failed to appoint a governor for the SBP; and, that reflects poorly on government's seriousness to address the situ-

> FPCCI President explained that just to keep their economies afloat, U.S., E.U. and India have kept their interest rates negative; while, on the other hand, Pakistan has raised the interest rate to 15 percent and financing is not available to businesses from commercial banks at less than 17 percent. No business can repay their loans with such high inflationary pressures and such high interest rates,

Political instability breaking back of rupee

By-elections added to worries of investors, 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 Wednesday said the business community was hoping for political stability after staff-level agreement with IMF after hectic negotiations by by-elections has resulted in more instability.

Now the economy is facing renewed threats as the value of the USD has increased by Rs16 to touch the mark of 226 in three days, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the value of the dollar against the rupee

has jumped by Rs42 during the tenure of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said

has deprived the masses of any benefit of reduced oil and commodity prices in the international market. He said that the interna-

tional situation is not good but the rupee is feeling the pinch of the local political situation which includes a power struggle in Punjab and concerns about the future of the federal government.

Political frictions are resulting in uncertainty among the



business community while investors are worried over the possibility of new general elections. Mian Zahid Hussain said that there is no hope for the masses

that exchange rate erosion to get relief in the current difficult environment.

> The officials have claimed that IMF will provide a tranche of 1.2 billion dollars while friendly countries will be lending 4 billion dollars which were reassuring but the irresponsible statements of some politicians following the by-elections have worried the international investors while the lenders can also think twice before a favourable decision.

The nation should be united tricity and energy crisis while

the face the current problems but some elements are trying to destabilise the economy which is like adding fuel to the fire.

The investors are unsure about what will happen tomorrow in Pakistan therefore they are unwilling to invest in this country as the stock market has lost 1600 points while a credit rating agency has downgraded its rating for Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussian said that the masses may face more inflation, unemployment and uncertainty as the politicians have decided to remain divided.

IMF loan is being delayed while the lender has asked the government to increase power tariff by Rs8 per unit, the country is already facing an elec-

Rana Tanveer's Incredible Journey To Financial Prosperity

Tooba Khan

ne's greatest shield against failure is resilience; the ability to get back up stronger than ever, a new challenge, hurdle, or complication. While it sounds easy enough to embody on paper, this is a quality most people struggle with their entire lives. However, this is not true for Rana Tanveer Hussain. Despite having a failed business in the past, he found his way to owning and successfully running a lucrative manufacturing unit in the Sheikhupura District of Punjab after a lifetime of barely making ends meet as a minimum wage worker in the same industry.

Per recent studies, the unemployment rate in the province of Punjab is 6.8%, despite consistent interventions to counter the same on a national level. The last few years have not been easy, owing to the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic

and the unprecedented global inflation. The brunt of these unprecedented circumstances has been quite severe in developing nations such as Pakistan, especially for daily wagers and the middle to lower-income classes. With strict lockdowns imposed worldwide, raw material and manuevery time the universe sends forth facturing operations were brought to a standstill, consequently affecting the income of daily wage workers who relied on the same to feed, clothe and shelter themselves and their loved ones. Homes, health, and lives were lost as a result. Rana Tanveer Hussain, a shoe

factory worker in Sheikhupura, was also affected by these uncertainties and struggled immensely to provide for his elderly parents and younger siblings during this period. Given Rana's experience, he decided to set up a small manufacturing unit for shoes. However, the main challenge he faced was to raise capital to set up the unit and sustain its operations for the first few months before it could generate a sustainable revenue stream. Rana approached MMBL to The staff at MMBL was very coop-



learn more about the diverse financial products and services offered in its portfolio that could help inject capital into the business he wished to set up. After a few meetings with the MMBL field teams, he was able to seamlessly and swiftly secure MMBL's Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) loan of PKR 1.9 Million to set up his manufacturing unit for shoes, which rekindled his earning streams.

"I received my loan very easily and much earlier than I expected.

erative and guided me every step of the way. The loan helped me channel funds into my business and drive it to prosperity. I owe my success to MMBL", said Rana when approached to discuss his entrepreneurial venture.

"I was worried about my family's sustenance as I am the sole breadwinner. What could we do? Where could we go? These were some of the questions that kept popping up. The monetary support from MMBL helped me address the financial struggles I was facing. I am very grateful to God and MMBL.", remarked Rana when asked about his story. Through the Bank's unwavering support and Rana's tireless efforts, he was able to purchase more machinery for his

Through his stellar entrepreneurial spirit and drive to remain financially independent, Rana further enrolled himself in a distant learning program at one of the country's most renowned educational institutions, Allama Iqbal Open University.

Now a graduate and business owner, Rana comfortably provides for his parents and siblings with the earnings from his independent shoe manufacturing unit in Sheikhupura, Puniab.

Stories like Rana's are witnessed daily by the MMBL family. The Bank continues to work diligently to bring premium digital financial services to the underserved and unserved segments of society. MMBL is committed to facilitating the financial independence of many people such as Rana and helping foster an increasingly prosperous Pakistan for all.



World Test Championship

Pakistan script historic win with record chase in Galle

Soar to the No.3 spot with 58.33% points after the victory

Spokesman Report

GALLE: Featuring in only the sixth Test of his career, opener Abdullah Shafique produced an innings for the ages to spearhead Pakistan's record setting 342-run chase as the Babar Azam-led side completed a four wicket victory on the fifth and final day of the first Test of the ICC World Test Championship match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday.

Pakistan comfortably beat the previous highest chase at Galle-Sri Lanka's 268 (2019) against New Zealand to set a new venue record of 344. Pakistan have now chased down four 300 plus scores in their Test history, three of the chases have been against Sri Lanka with the 377 for three at Pallekele in 2015, the highest. Abdullah's heroic knock is now the second highest for Pakistan in a fourth innings chase behind Younis Khan's 171 not out at Pallekele.

Resuming at the overnight score of 222 for three, the pair of Abdullah and Mohammad Rizwan survived some anxious moments in the first hour of play. Both batters were challenged by the wearing pitch, probing bowling and enthusiastic Sri Lankan bowlers and fielders who were ready to appeal whenever the ball hit the pad or was caught by a close-in fielder.

Sri Lanka burned their two remaining reviews in their desperate search of a wicket. Both batters however kept



chipping away at the target with smart rotation of strike and the odd boundary. Pakistan progressed to 276 when Rizwan was eventually dislodged by Jayasuria for a resolute 40 off 74 balls (two fours). Rizwan and Abdullah added 71 vital runs for the fourth-wicket. Debutant Salman Ali Agha perished on the stroke of lunch for 12 with Pakistan placed at 298 for five,

44 runs shy of the target. Abdullah was joined by Hasan Ali post-lunch as Pakistan pursued quick runs, Hasan (5) though fell to Dhananjava de Silva while attempting a big hit, Pakistan were then 39 runs short of the target. Mohammad Nawaz (19 not out) provided solid support to Abdullah who benefited from a dropped chance by Kasun Rajitha at mid-wicket shortly

after crossing the 150-mark. With victory in sight, the Abdullah-Nawaz pair's progress was interrupted by nearly an hour long rain break.

Pakistan were 11 runs away from victory at that stage. When play resumed, Abdullah and Nawaz completed the task with ease with Abdullah hitting the winning boundary through the covers. Abdullah's monumental innings which will go down in Test history as one of the best-ever in the fourth innings, was compiled of 408 balls and included seven fours and one six.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on Wednesday said that Abdullah Shafique can become one of the world's best Test the world." openers after his epic century against Sri

Shafique hit an unbeaten 160 to steer Pakistan home in a record chase of 342 at the picturesque venue as Pakistan won a tense opening Test in the final session on day five.

The 22-year-old batted for just under nine hours and five sessions against a spin attack led by the in-form Prabath Jayasuriya, who took a match tally of nine wickets. "As a youngster, when you prove yourself and perform in tough conditions and difficult tracks, then it's good," Azam told reporters.

"His confidence was high after performing against Australia so he was on a different level. And to perform against quality bowling, your confidence goes up

Shafique, who made 136 not out against Australia in Rawalpindi in March, recorded his second Test ton in just his sixth match since making his debut last

The right-handed batsman blocked, defended, drove and attacked in his 408-ball stay laced with seven fours and one six to win rich praise from the captain.

The way he plays, so clean and with his focus, he will get many, many more such knocks," said Azam, who was involved in a key third-wicket stand of 101 with Shafique to set up the chase. "I hope that he becomes one of the best openers in

The second Test will be played at the same venue from Sunday, 24 July.

Stokes's ODI exit sparks concerns over int'l schedule

LONDON: England World Cup hero Ben Stokes was blunt when explaining his decision to retire from one-day internationals: "We are not cars, you can't just fill us up."

But despite the 2019 World Cup-winner's exit from 50-over cricket, meaningful reform of a fixture schedule that England Test captain Stokes has labelled "unsustainable" is unlikely.

International fixtures underpin a lucrative broadcasting contract the England and Wales Cricket board has with Sky tv worth about 220 million (\$264 million) a year and are the main revenue-providers for most of the sport's leading nations.

Since the start of 2017, England have had nearly 500 scheduled days of cricksecond place on 472.

Making matters worse, a knock-on consequence of the coronavirus pandem- es in the 2022 home season. ic is that several delayed fixtures have



after England's defeat by South Africa at his Durham home ground on Tuesday, a match in which the weary-looking 31-year-old all-rounder took 0-44 and managed just five with the bat. He will still play Tests and Twenty20 inter-

white-ball fixtures in 25 days this month, India — because it will clash with a new money-making fixtures. with the Test team playing seven match-

Stokes, speaking before Tuesday's been shoehorned into this year's calen- match, told the BBC: "You want a product that is of the highest quality. You want Stokes bowed out of the ODI game the best players to be playing as much as

you possibly can, all the time.

"We are not cars, you can't just fill us up and we'll go out there and be ready to be fuelled up again."-'Wake-up call'-England white-ball captain Jos Buttler described his team-mates's retirement from ODIs as a "wake-up call".

There has long been speculation that men's ODIs will eventually be squeezed out by the financial attraction of rival formats.

Yet there are 50-over World Cups scheduled for 2023, 2027 and 2031, as well as two Champions Trophy tournaments, in 2025 and 2029. Bilateral ODI series appear more likely to be at risk.

domestic T20 tournament.

same time but the kind of exit announced

by Stokes is increasingly common. The lucrative Indian Premier League still won 3-0.

and other franchise T20 competitions mean many top cricketers are less reliant on national service for their income.

England greats James Anderson and Stuart Broad, the country's two all-time leading Test wicket-takers, both long ago retired from white-ball cricket to extend their careers in the five-day format, while star batsman Joe Root no longer plays

T20 internationals. India's Virat Kohli has remained an all-format cricketer yet he is without an international hundred since 2019.

"You don't want to dilute the product," said former England Test captain Root in response to close friend Stokes's ODI South Africa have withdrawn from retirement. "You want to see the best of a scheduled series against Australia in the best take on the best as often as possi-The game came midway through a January — thereby risking their qualble." Yet administrators have shown a et, which puts them ahead of India in gruelling England programme of 12 ification for next year's World Cup in reluctance to cut back on the number of

> Last year, for example, England had Cricketers in previous eras used to to assemble a brand new 18-man squad, retire from all international cricket at the nine of whom had never played an ODI before, just days before a series against Pakistan because of a Covid outbreak vet

Martial shines again as United beat Palace

MELBOURNE: New coach after Will Fish was sent off but there is also a lot of work Erik ten Hag warned that for a deliberate foul. there was still a lot more work to do after Manchester the reaction of some fans to that's true. "We played well United beat Crystal Palace Harry Maguire, with sugges-3-1 with Anthony Martial tions that the United skipscoring his third goal in three pre-season games.

In front of 76,500 fans at Melbourne Cricket Ground, ly victory Ten Hag's third French forward Martial struck in the first half while Marcus Rashford and Jadon in Bangkok and a 4-1 win Sancho both collected their second goals of the pre-season tour after the restart. straight defeat for Patrick Joel Ward pulled one back for Palace, but they were who crashed 2-0 to Liveralways chasing a game that pool in Singapore on Friday. saw United reduced to 10 men in the dying minutes improvement we are seeing, returned after missing the

Another sour note was per was the target of boos. But it was a mostly positive evening, the friendsince taking over after their 4-0 thumping of Liverpool over Melbourne Victory. In contrast, it was a second Vieira's young Palace side,

"We are happy with the

to do," said Ten Hag. "We did score some wonderful goals, and I think the belief is increasing," he added while praising his forwards in particular. "They did a lot of running, a lot of work. They have a lot of energy and were rewarded by scoring goals." The Dutchman is beginning to stamp his mark on the Old Trafford side, with his team - who finished a disappointing sixth last season in the Premier League – producing some fluid, one-touch

Goalkeeper David de Gea

Victory game with a niggle. New left-back Tyrell Malacia began ahead of Luke Shaw, while Rashford was back in the starting line-up after scoring as a substitute against Victory, partnering a rejuvenated Martial and Sancho in Cristiano Ronaldo's absence. Christian Eriksen and Lisandro Martinez. Ten Hag's other new signings, are not in Australia. Vieira has a youthful squad in Australia, with a number of senior players not making

United made a confident start, dominating early possession, with Palace goalkeeper Jack Butland making

Serena, Djokovic named in Cincinnati draws

LOS ANGELES: Serena Williams will play in next month's Cincinnati Open WTA tournament as she builds towards a possible US Open appearance, organizers said Tuesday.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, who last week was named in the field for next month's Canadian Open, joins a star-studded field for the hardcourt tournament, Williams, winner of the tournament in 2014 and 2015, entered the tournament using her protected ranking.

The former world number one - who played her first singles match in a year during a first round defeat at Wimbledon last month - is stepping up her comeback ahead of the US Open next month.

Joining her in the field for the August 13-21 tournament in Cincinnati will be world number one Iga Swiatek and former champions including Victoria Azarenka, Madison Keys, Garbine Muguruza and

Seif Ahmed appointed as acting FIH President



ISLAMABAD: President of the African Hockey Federation Seif Ahmed (Egypt) has been appointed as Acting President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) until the next presiden-

A meeting was held on Wednesday after the resignation of ${\rm Dr}$ Narinder Dhruv Batra from the post of FIH President earlier this week, said a press release. In the meeting, the members of the Executive board (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) officially accepted the resignation of Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra and unanimously appointed FIH EB Member and President of the African Hockey Federation Seif Ahmed (Egypt) as Acting President until the next Presidential elections.

The members also confirmed that the upcoming FIH Congress would be held virtually, as planned, on November 4-5, with the Presidential elections taking place on November 5.

Furthermore, the EB has decided to send an FIH delegation to India soon, in order to assess the current situation of Hockey India, especially in view of the next FIH Hockey Men's World Cup which was currently planned to take place in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in January 2023.

Bayern's Davies feared he might not play again

BERLIN: Bayern Munich defender Alphonso Davies feared he might not play again after doctors were unable to give him a timeline for his return when he was sidelined by a heart prob-

The 21-year-old was diagnosed with a minor heart condition in January following a Covid-19 infection in December, and did not play in a competitive game for Bayern until April. He also missed out on Canada's CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers.

That was very scary, especially (because) the doctors are saying that they don't know how long I was supposed to be out," Davies told ESPN on Tuesday. "I think that was the scariest part. At that time I had doubts in my head, whether I'm still going to be able to play football, but everything worked out at the end. I'm happy and I'm grateful to the doctor for taking such good care of me. I'm happy that I can be back on the pitch."

Looking ahead to the coming season, Davies said Bayern will miss striker Robert Lewandowski, who joined LaLiga side Barcelona this week, but added that the signing of Sadio Mane from Liverpool will help fill the void left by the Polish striker. "(Mane) is a good player, he's a big piece to (add to) the team," Davies said.

Norway women's coach axed

OSLO: Norwegian women's football head coach Martin Sjogren has been axed after the team's humiliating European Championship group stage defeat to England, the national federation announced on Tuesday.

England recorded the biggest win in European Championship history with an 8-0 demolition of Norway on July 11. "We're all disappointed with the performances at the European Championship this summer," said federation president Lise Klaveness

The Scandinavians had nourished medal ambitions after the return of top scorer Ada Hegerberg following five years of self-imposed exile in protest at the inequality of treatment given to men's and women's teams by the Norwegian federation.

Swede Sjogren, 45, and his assistant Anders Jacobson took charge in January 2017, but are leaving by mutual consent with one year left on their contracts, the federation said. Klaveness said she did not want to point out individual responsibilities, but that the extension of the two coaches' contracts until the 2023 World Cup had been accompanied by a requirement to produce results.

Under Sjogren, Norway were already eliminated in the group stage at Euro 2017 before failing in the quarter-finals two years later at the World Cup in France.

Mane, Salah eye top African awards

JOHANNESBURG: Another chapter in the personal rivalry between former Liverpool teammates Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah will play out in Rabat on Thursday when the annual African award winners are announced.

Mane was a key figure in the Senegal team that defeated Salah-captained Egypt in the 2021-2022 Africa Cup of Nations final and in a 2022 World Cup play-off. Both the African title decider in Cameroon and the Qatar eliminator in Senegal were won by the Teranga Lions after penalty shootouts. Mane scored in each shootout while the final was decided before Salah could take his kick, and he blazed wide in the play-off.

The Senegalese successes have made Mane favourite to win a second straight Player of the Year award after 2019 - the following two editions were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Should Mane win in the Moroccan capital, he will become the first Bayern Munich star to be voted the top African footballer.

Dos Santos dethrones Warholm in 400m

ended Karsten Warholm's reign as hurdles king at the world championships on Tuesday while Britain's Jake Wightman won his country's first 1500m gold in 39 years on a day of upsets.

Warholm may have been behind one of the most iconic moments in Olympic history when he smashed the 29-yearold world record to win the 400m hurdles at the Tokyo Games in a time of 45.94sec. But the 26-year-old came to Eugene on the back of a hamstring injury which ultimately put paid to his medal attempt here. Instead, Dos Santos ran the third fastest time of all time and a championship record of 46.29sec to win gold ahead of Americans Rai Benjamin and Trevor Bassitt.

"It's pretty awesome to win the

care about the time because this is the first time I win a world title." said Dos Santos. Warholm led coming into the home straight but seized up badly and eventually came in seventh (48.42), breaking a winning streak of 22 races, including 18 finals, dating back to September 2018.

"It was a very tough race," Warholm said. "I had an injury but to me it's always your fight and giving your all and leaving it all on the track. "I felt I did that. I hope looking back I'll feel proud of that even though I prefer to take a medal." Whilst everyone knew Warholm was coming back from injury, serious hopes were pinned on Olympic champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen in the men's 1500m. But Wightman had not read the script, playing the

kicking with 200 metres to run and holding his form through to

Wightman sealed victory in 3min 29.23sec, Ingebrigtsen taking silver in 3:29.47, with Spaniard Mohamed Katir claiming bronze (3:29.90). In a bizarre twist, Wightman's father Geoff is in Eugene doing the in-stadium commentary. Geoff, also his son's coach, was reduced to a cracked voice as he announced to Hayward Field: "That's my son and he's world champion." "For him to be part of my journey to get to this point, and actually part of the actual race itself is so unique," Wightman said of his father. "I talked to him and he's very happy. I'm glad he showed Following on from Norway's

EUGENE: Alison Dos Santos world title on this track. I didn't Norwegian at his own game by Olympic gold medallists in failing to nail a world title was 2019 champion Daniel Stahl, the Swede eventually finishing fourth in the discus. Australian Eleanor Patterson won high jump gold in the fourth final of the night with 2.02m on countback from Ukraine's YaroslavaMahuchikh, Italian Elena Vallortigara taking bronze. "I'm honestly speechless right now," Patterson said afterwards. "I'm already starting to get sore cheeks from smiling." Day five of action at the world champs also saw newlycrowned 100m champion Fred Kerley fail to advance from the semi-finals of the 200m. Kerley set off smoothly from the blocks but was left grimacing as he hit the home straight at Eugene's Hayward Field, eventually finishing sixth in 20.68 seconds. Kerley



insisted he would be fit to race in the relays.

"Bit of cramp, but it's all good," Kerley said. "I'm not in pain, I'll be good." While Kerley was left digesting a disappointing early exit, there were no such worries for defending 200m world cham-

pion Noah Lyles, who romped home in his semi-final with a blistering 19.62sec. The main threat to Lyles' hopes of retaining his 200m world title may well come

emerging rival Erriyon Knighton. The 18-year-old prodigy blazed home to win his semi-final in 19.77sec. In the women's land's Mujinga Kambundji.

in Thursday's final will be her two teammates who helped snatch an unprecedented cleansweep of the 100m podium for Jamaica on Sunday, Shericka Jackson and Elaine Thompson-Herah. Alongside the trio of Jamaicans in the final will be Britain's Dina Asher-Smith, the reigning world 200m from teenage team-mate and champion who was fourth in the 100m, Americans Abby Steiner and Tamara Clark, Niger's Aminatou Seyni and Switzer-

200m, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce

kept her bid for a sprint double

on track as she sailed into the

final. Fresh from winning a

record fifth world 100m title, Fraser-Pryce timed a season's

best of 21.83 seconds in the third

Joining the 35-year-old, a world 200m champion in 2013,

of three semi-finals.