

Photo: ISPR

situation with particular focus on Border and Internal Security. The COAS lauded successful ongoing counter terrorism operations and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of officers and men to ensure security of borders and safety of masses. The COAS also appreciated the efforts of formations in relief operations to mitigate challenges of people affected due to floods and heavy rainfall in the country.

Economy can't afford new political crisis: Ahsan



Javed Bajwa, an Inter Servic-

es Public Relations (ISPR)

news release said.

📙 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday said Pakistan's current ments against the institutions economic situation could not and the country's judiciary but afford any new political crisis nobody takes notice therefore the genuine demand for formation of a full bench of the Supreme Court to hear the case of Chief Minister Punjab should be accepted. Addressing a press conference here outside the Supreme Court, the minister said the incumbent federal government was taking the economy out of crisis towards stability but "if more political crisis is created, our efforts would go in vain and the country's economy might be in deep trouble". He said the dual standards of justice should be stopped against them adding, "we were

the basis of false cases but the PTI leaders were given free hand". "If any of the PTI leader is jailed, he/she is released within 24 hours, similarly our name has been in the Exit Control List (ECL) for over three years but the names of PTI leaders in the ECL is removed within 48 hours," he added. Ahsan Iqbal said Imran Khan and his party leaders repeatedly gave state-

jailed for months and years on

Sover phone Ch Shujaat, Fazl discuss political scenario

₿ Mazari's ruling

PDM demands, SC rejects full court bench formation

CJP says one who garnered more votes is out, but other is Punjab CM

➢ Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Demo- (PML-N) Maryam Nawaz, Chair- Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata contended that "We have these cratic Movement (PDM) - a ruling man Pakistan People's Party, Bila- Bandial said that the court needs orders in this regard, the matter alliance on Monday demanded the wal Bhutto Zardari, PML-Q's Tariq more legal clarification regarding should be heard in the full court and formation of a full court bench of Bashir Cheema, ANP's Aimal Wali the formation of a full bench to issue I requested that the creation of a full the Supreme Court for a hearing petition regarding the election of Chief Minister Punjab, saying this would defeat all conspiracies against democracy and democratic culture. The PDM leaders said they were not objecting to the powers of the apex court, however, they only wanted all judges should hear the petition and their verdict should be acceptable to all. They opined during the past few years it was observed that a bench comprising specific three honourbale judges has been listen-

Rehman along with Vice President hear more arguments before it what the full court bench has to do." of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz takes a decision in this regard. Federal Law Minister Nazir Tarar

court bench would increase judicial said that he was unsure whether the respect. If the revision is approved, the matter will go back to the previous situation. "We have sent the prime minister home with five judges at that time vou [coalition parties] were celebrating and now you are standing against this," the chief justice said, adding that if this matter crosses the limit, then a full court will be formed. Justice Ahsan reiterated that the decision to form a full court will be taken on merit: meanwhile. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarrar asserted that there is enough clarification in this regard.

🐞 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) Chief Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Mon



held a consultative conversation on call. In their telephonic contact, the two leaders thoroughly discussed the political situation in the country. It is pertinent to mention here that the political chaos has deepen in Punjab due to the constitutional clash between the opponent parties amid the Punjab Chief Minister election.

ing to cases of political nature. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Amir and PDM President, Maulana Fazlur

Khan, MQM's Usama Qadri, leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Khalid Magsi, leader of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Agha Hassan Baloch and independent MNAs Aslam Bhutani and Mohsin Dawar were addressing a joint press conference centered on the current political situation that took a tailspin after Hamza Shahbaz's election as Chief Minister of Punjab.

> But the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) rejected coalition parties' request to form a full court bench related to the recently held Punjab chief minister's re-election case, saying that the court will have to

a verdict on the case. The CJP also decision on the said ruling will be made today.

Announcing the verdict after the break, the Supreme Court of Pakistan rejected the request of government allies and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to form a full court, saying that the existing three-member bench will hear the case. The apex court remarked that "We will hear the case on merit, we have examined the matter, and approve the pleas of Chaudhry Shujaat and PPP to become parties while going forward, we will see

For seven months, he said, former Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar did not act upon the Court's order but no one was there to send him any notice. "With due respect we are asking that why the country's laws apply only to us and not to Imran Khan and his party," he said adding, "we do not want judiciary to become a party with the political disputes of the country".

Therefore, he said, the whole nation is demanding that the full court bench should be formed to hear the case to avoid any new dispute.

Pak-China agree on CPEC's expansion

Zhao Lijian says both sides well grasp CPEC's direction of development

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have agreed on participation of third parties in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and exchanges among media and think thanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with the existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday.

During the third meeting of Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination under the sides agreed to well grasp the general direction of development of the CPEC, he said during his regular briefing held here

He said the two sides agreed to properly cope accumulate positive energy for, inject new impetus into, of CPEC.

The relevant CPEC meeting held via video link and public support and insights



Jianghao and Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood exchanged views and reached common under-

standings on the participation of third parties in CPEC, exchanges among media CPEC held last week, both and think tanks, including promoting cooperation schemes involving third parties in line with existing consensus and extending CPEC projects to Afghani-

stan. The spokesperson said with risks and challenges to that the two sides also agreed to continue to deepen media cooperation and do and provide a strong guar- a good job in telling a CPEC antee for the development stories, and innovate and expand cooperation among

think tanks to provide more



work with Pakistan to follow through on the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner to better benefit the two countries and two peoples, he added. Meanwhile, in a tweet, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that the third meeting of

CPEC JWG on International Cooperation placed emphasis on high-quality development of CPEC. As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened by CPEC, he added.

📚 **Rs5.663**tr Exports increase 40 per cent in *FY2022*

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in rupee term witnessed an increase of 40.11 per cent during the current fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports during July-June (2021-2022) were recorded at Rs. 5,663,089 million as against Rs. 4,041,927 million during the corresponding period of last

year showing an increase of 40.11 per cent, according to provisional data released by PBS. Meanwhile, on yearon-year basis, the exports during the month of June 2022 increased by 39.98 per cent as compared to the exports of same month of last year.

The exports in June 2020 were recorded at Rs.596,433 million as compared to exports of Rs.426,080 million during June, 2021. On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 16.16 when compared to the exports of Rs.513,475 million in May 2022.

😂 Full bench plea Coalition govt announces to boycott SC proceedings

Fazl says they raised a demand for the supremacy of law and justice

Senior correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The coalition government has announced to boycott the court proceedings after the Supreme Court (SC) rejected to form a full bench for hearing the Punjab Assembly deputy speaker ruling case. While addressing a press conference at the Prime Minister's House, the head of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that they raised a demand for the supremacy of law and justice in the country.

Fazlur Rehman said that the coalition government demands a full bench to hear the case instead of a three-member bench. "If a full bench is not formed, then we are rejecting the verdict of the court."

He announced that the leaders of the coalition government will not appear before the three-member bench until a full bench is not formed.

Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman along with other leaders in a press conference said that they suggested the full court bench for the supremacy of justice, the full court was suggested. Unfortunately, the of accepting it.

"If the full court is rejected, we also reject this decision of the judiciary, we will not appear before this bench and we will boycott the case," he added.

'We also want to say that there is a long history in this political system of such decisions by the judges that have created instability and destroyed the continuation of government policies, which has also created the economic crisis. "This government wants no institution to interferes in the work that impacts the administrative functioning. Otherwise, we will advise the prime minister and the parliament to legislate so that the public's trust in courts [could be restored].

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz PML-N) Senior Vice-President Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that if someone points a finger at a judge or bench, then they should be separated from the case. "These decisions are commonly taken by the court wherever the law and constitution are supreme. We demand the full bench due to the sensitivity of the case as it is about the parliament."

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zard-

judiciary rejected our demand instead ari reiterated the demand of the SC full bench. He said that they have demanded the supremacy of the law and dignity of the $\bar{j}udiciary\,but\,it\,was$ rejected. He announced to boycott the SC proceedings.

The PPP chairman and Federal Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto said that this is a unanimous decision of our alliance, adding that court repeatedly interfering in parliamentary affairs. "This case is about the parliament and when you are giving decisions about an institution, we think your entire institution should sit and decide," he said seemingly addressing the chief justice. "Had a full court listened to us then the entire country would've accepted your decision."

PML-N Vice President Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said it was a "test" for the apex court since it was a requirement of justice that a judge or bench recuse themselves from a case in which fingers were raised on them. "This is done in every court in the world where there is rule of law and the constitution," he said.

Abbasi said the three judges of the existing bench had the responsibility to decide whether or not the history would accept their conduct.



Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Assertion

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, addressing a press conference along with President Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, vice President of PML-N Maryam Nawaz Sharif, at Prime Minister Secretariat in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Bench-fixing a crime like match-fixing: Maryam

Criticises specific judges for hearing PML-N's cases

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz ill, who during the World War-II had raised the ma case that was being heard by the Islamabad High (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Monday highlighted the importance of justice dispensation in society without any discrimination for achieving required goals of national development and prosperity. She said that "bench-fixing" is a crime similar to "match-fixing" and suo motu notice should be taken over it as she criticised a "specific" anti-PML-N bench being constituted for one-sided decisions.

Maryam, in a joint press conference alongside the coalition government leaders, including Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, said: "Institutions are being insulted from within, not outside. One wrong decision blows up an entire case. Criticism isn't needed where the right decisions are taken". Maryam said that ever since Hamza became the chief minister, PTI leaders have been repeatedly approaching SC - and this time, they jumped over the walls of the top court.

She quoted the famous saying of Winston Church- media talk as it would affect her appeal in the Pana-

question "whether the country courts are dispensing justice, if yes, no force of the world can defeat us." She said it was unfortunate that during the past few years, there was a series of "startling decisions by the judiciary", adding there could be a 'wrong



decision' but it should not have consistency as the court verdicts left deep impact on society for decades. PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said that she had been advised by 'sympathizers' not to hold the

Court and was in its "final stages". "However, I said that the people's representative has to think beyond themselves and think about the people." "I can write an essay praising the judiciary but one wrong decision will dismiss the entire [argument]," she said. On the other hand, a decision based on justice could withstand criticism, she said.

She said Hamza Shehbaz won the slot of Punjab Chief Minister in the run-off election, but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) approached the Lahore Registry of Supreme Court, over jumping the court walls, that opened late night despite holiday. It was ironic that the Registrar waited for filing of the petition that wasn't even ready by that time, she added. "It never happens in filing of petitions." Maryam Nawaz expressed concern over the existing system of petition filing and constitution of court benches. She recalled that in the Senate chairman's election as many as six votes were rejected; and subsequently Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani was elected as the chairman.

Three judges can't decide nation's fate: Bilawal

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday said only three judges could not decide the destiny of the nation. "When all judges will hear the case, no one will have any objection to the decision," he said. He pointed out that "all institutions needed to work within their own ambit". "The verdict by a three-member bench will give an impression that the institutions are 'not neutral," he said.

He called for the formation of a Supreme Court full bench to hear the case related to the Punjab chief minister's election. Speaking at a joint press conference along with leaders of the coalition govern-

ment, he said the full court bench was significant to avoid any "controversial and partial" verdict on the People's Party and Foreign Minister case. The presser came ahead of the resumption of a hearing by the country's top court on the petition of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) leader Chaudhry Parvez Elahi challenging the Punjab Assembly deputy speaker's ruling.

Bilawal mentioned that his party made a persistent struggle for upholding democracy in the country and rendered immense sacrifices. "We want the country to be run in accordance with the Constitution," he said. He criticized the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for wreaking havoc with the economy and stability of the country in the last four years

Power shortfall nears 6.000mw

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The power shortfall in the country has reached about 6,000 megawatts, power demand in the country is 28,500 megawatts while the production lags at 22,500 megawatts. According to power division sources, the power shortfall is increasing despite heavy monsoon rains in the country and currently has neared 6,000MW.

Due to an increase in the demand for power, loadshedding of 4 to 6 hours is being carried out across the country. Earlier, K-Electric, the sole power utility in Karachi submitted a request to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) seeking another hike of Rs11.39 in tariff under fuel adjustment charges. According to the request, the power utility has requested a massive increase of Rs11.39 for the month of June 2022.

In order to facilitate the customers due to the public holiday announced by the government amid heavy rainfall, K-Electric has extended the deadline for payments of electricity bills. According to a press statement from the power utility, the extension is applicable on bills with due dates falling between 24th July to 25th July, 2022, both days included.

These bills can now be paid latest by the new date of 26th July, 2022, the statement read.

US Dollar jumps against rupee

KARACHI: The US dollar on Monday continued to jump against rupee in interbank as Pakistan continues to witness political instability amid a tussle between PDM and PTI following election of CM Punjab. According to forex dealers, the US dollar saw an increase in value by Rs1.87 and traded at Rs230.24. They claimed that the commercial banks are selling dollars at Rs232 while in open market, the greenback traded between Rs231 and Rs232.

At the end of week on Friday, the rupee's downward slide against US dollar continued on the fourth consecutive day and the greenback saw a hike in value against the rupee by Rs1.56 and traded at Rs228.37. In the open market, the US dollar traded between Rs229 and Rs230. Moreover, the forex dealers further alleged that the banks are buying dollar at Rs229 and selling in the open market at Rs231. Previously, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) attributed the 11-rupee change in the exchange rate in just two days to the "market-determined exchange rate system" under which the current account position, news stories, and domestic uncertainty contribute to the daily currency fluctuations. In an apparent attempt to downplay the depreciation, the SBP said a "better measure" of the rupee's strength is the real effective exchange rate, which takes into account the currencies in which Pakistan trades in inflation-adjusted terms.

PPP for Sindh

S Cabinet's oath

ECC okays

LG polls before Aug 28

腾 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold the second phase of local government (LG) elections in Sindh before August 28. In a statement, Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah asserted that the LG elections were postponed on Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) recommendation, demanding the electoral watchdog to hold polls before August 28.

Talking about the recent torrential rains in Karachi, Nasir Hussain Shah noted that the port city received over 200mm of rain in two days. "Officials of Sindh government and municipal authorities were on road with machinery including pumps to drain out the water," he said, adding that the roads and underpasses are clear and water is being drained from the roads of low-lying areas.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) rescheduled the second phase of the Sindh local government (LG) elections citing "possible rains and bad weather" in the province. According to a statement issued by the electoral watchdog, the second phase of the LG elections in 16 districts of Karachi and Hyderabad will now take place on August 28. The second phase of the local body elections was originally going to be held on July 24 in 16 districts of Karachi and Hyderabad division.

PTI files contempt plea against Governor Punjab

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) filed contempt of court plea against Punjab Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman on Monday. The petition for contempt of court was filed by PTI leader Mian Aslam Iqbal in the Supreme Court. It was stated in the petition that the Governor Punjab has insulted the court by in Punjab due to the constiswearing in the cabinet of Hamza Shahbaz. Therefore, contempt of court action should be taken against tion. Baligh-ur-Rehman.

The petition further Shujaat Hussain's letter requested to take contempt that declared the PML-Q of court action against votes in favor of Pakistan Pakistan Muslim League- Muslim League-Nawaz Nawaz (PML-N) leader (PML-N) Hamza Shahbaz. Hamza Shahbaz and Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Dost Mazari. It is pertinent who is none other than to mention here that the the PML-Q leader Pervaiz importance for the future political chaos has deepen Elahi himself. Where of government in Punjab. concessional rates.



tutional clash between the opponent parties amid the Punjab Chief Minister elec-The dispute started over

While it served as a setback for Hamza's opponent,

Shujaat Hussain's letter harmed PML-Q internally, it also raised serious questions regarding Supreme Court's verdict over the interpretation of Article 63 (A). Furthermore, Pervaiz Elahi has filed a petition against Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's ruling over the election of Punjab CM in the SC. The court's decision on the matter is of paramount

cheaper RLNG for export sector

😂 Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved the provision of cheaper re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG) to the export sector. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail chaired the ECC session today in which different decisions were taken. The ECC approved the provision of RLNG to export-oriented sector at cheaper rate. The government will provide RLNG to the export sector at the price of \$9 MMBtu per unit.

It was approved to provide 9 cent per kilowatt of electricity to the export units from August. It was learnt that the electricity and gas will be given to five export units at the

SBP for cutting interbank trading to contain dollar

😂 🛛 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Amid a severe shortage of US dollars that plunged the rupee to its highest weekly drop since 1998, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has discouraged interbank trading. In order to control the free-fall of rupees against the US dollar, the central bank with its limited power under the International Monetary Fund agreement urged commercial banks to manage import payment requests from their own inflows, such as exporter accruals and remittances. The sources, on the condition of anonymity, further told the publication that the banks were to seek permission from the monetary authority if they still needed to borrow.

It should be noted that the SBP didn't reply to an email seeking comment. The Pakistani rupee fell nearly 8%



in more than two decades — as the country's foreign exchange reserves stand below \$10 billion and are only enough to cover less than two months of imports. However, SBP Acting Governor Murtaza Syed told Bloomberg that Pakistan will comfortably meet its financing needs with an IMF bailout on track.

Citing sources, the publication reported that it was earlier noted that some commercial banks are seek- Lakhani and Co, a Karalast week - its biggest drop ing permission from the SBP chi-based steel importer.

and providing US dollars at a premium, which is raising costs for their clients. Commercial banks provided dollars for energy companies at rates of Rs238 and Rs242 to a dollar on July 20, about 8% higher than the official closing rate for the day.

Moreover, banks that previously released overseas payments in a day are now taking more than a week, said Raheel Ahmed, chief executive officer at VN

PML-N again preparing to attack SC: Fawad

Says people won't let anyone to violate the constitution.

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Monday said that Pakistan Muslim league-Nawaz (PML-N) has once again planned to attack the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Talking to media, Fawad said, "The PML-N is saying to form a full bench. This authority belongs to the Chief Justice, but there is no need to interpret any legal point in this case." Former federal minister said that 22 crore Pakistanis are waiting for their rights. He said that

violate the constitution. He said that people have risen to restore film "London Nahi Jaon Gee" were democracy in the country.

He said the current government by force deprived the majority vote holders of the provincial government and also in centre. He also attacked the Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Sardar Dost Mohammad Mazari that he ran away. PTI leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry has demanded to place names of all government leaders on the ECL. According to details, Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Fawad Chaudhry, while reacting to the press conference of

the people will not let anyone the leaders of the ruling parties, said that all the characters of the present in the press conference.

Regarding Maryam Nawaz, the PTI leader said that despite being on bail, the woman continued to hold a press conference against the judiciary. Fawad Chaudhry questioned how Prime Minister House Auditorium was given to Maryam Nawaz to hold a press conference. On Zardari's visit to Dubai, Fawad Chaudhry said that Bilawal's father escaped knowing that his government was only for a few days, these people are guests for a few days and some



have packed their belongings. He further said that Bilawal's only connection with Zulfiqar Bhutto is that he was born in Benazir's house, PPP has invested Sindh's money in Punjab, look at the situation in Sindh, when it rains, Karachi becomes a dam. The PTI leader said that this government has done the work of bringing the Supreme Court under pressure. He further said that these people are bent on blackmailing the Supreme Court, we demand that the names of the leaders of these parties be included in the ECL, all of them will try to escape from the country.

National

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Govt to weigh all options to make people economically self-sufficient: AJK PM

30,000 people with low-income would be provided interest-free loans worth Rs1b, says Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan

😂 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the PTI government would consider all available options to make people economically self-sufficient by activating different sectors on modern lines.

the PM said "Production sector was the instrumental in reducing poverty and center of focus in the budget and the unemployment in the region. He said basic aim was to raise production so that the state revenue increases and our demands/needs are met at local level". subsidy, he said, would enable farmers He said that it was for the first time in to buy the highest milk producing cows

the history of Azad Kashmir that agri- and cattle breeds. cultural and livestock graduates were being provided assistance in obtaining loans from banks for model farming. The markup of these loans, he said, would be borne by the Azad Kashmir government.

Similarly, he said, 30,000 people with low-income would be provided interest-free loans worth 1 billion rupees. In a statement issued on Monday, These initiatives, he said, would be that the farmers will be given a subsidy of more than seven crore two lakhs. The

He said that free vaccine facilities will be provided in all central district and educational level veterinary hospitals established by the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Development. He said that the government was planning to start poultry production program for widows and disabled people. The Prime Minister said that funds of Rs.1 billion 10 crores have been allocated for the Electricity Department.

"During the next financial year, 1141 HT Poles, 3881 LT Poles will be installed and 26 thousand 500 new connections will be provided to the remain-

ing population of 1 lakh 26 thousand of Azad Kashmir", the PM said. The Prime Minister said that five hundred acres of uncultivated land will be made cultivable in the agricultural sector. He said that Wildlife Breeding Centers/Zoos at Saran Pir Chinasi, Banjosa and Mangala and Patika Wildlife Park would be redeveloped on modern lines. He said that the PTI government would do all that was in the best interests of the people and the state. He said that Technical Education was being promoted to eliminate unemployment. "IT centers and vocational training centers will be established in all districts", he added.

Establishment of High Court bench in Faisalabad demanded

🐞 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Establishing a High Court bench is the right of Faisalabad and the business community and lawyers will fight for this right.

This was said by District Bar Association Faisalabad President Bilal Ashraf Basra while addressing the business

Commerce and Industry today. He said that the ruler is not allowing the High Court bench to be established in Faisalabad for his own interests. He said that this demand is not only for lawyers but it includes every section of this division including the business community.

community at Faisalabad Chamber of provide the facility of "e-court" here through social media. until the full bench is established. So that people can get rid of going around Lahore. Regarding the increasing cases of divorce and divorce, he said that the main reason for this is intolerance, lack of training and social media. However, that for the first time during his tenure, they will soon file a petition to prevent the membership of lawyers who abused He said that our effort will be to content that harms our social fabric the police was cancelled.

Bilal Ashraf Basra also denied the wrong impression about lawyers and said that there are good and bad people in every department. However, they never sided with the oppressor. He said

Rains wreak havoc

KARACHI: People wade through a flooded road at a road after a heavy rainfall in Provincial Capital. Several people have died in rain-related incidents across Pakistan.



NDRMF extends grant financing of Rs2899.67m to Agri Dept KP

🐞 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Syed Zafar Ali Shah on Monday witnessed the signing of a Grant Implementation Agreement signed by Muhammad Israr Khan, Secretary Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Department KP, Shah Mahmood Khan, Secretary Planning & Development Department, KP and Muhammad Fawad Hayat, National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDMRF) for the execution of Climate Resilience through Horticulture Interventions in KP with grant financing by NDRMF amounting Rs 2899.67million.

The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives.

Speaking at the occasion, Secretary Planning Commission, Syed Zafar Ali Shah appreciated the initiatives taken by the provincial government of KP termed it's a landmark project, contributing in climate resilience and creating highly valuable crops such as Olives and Saffron, which will help around 10,000 farmers further contributing in income generation and job opportunities.

"Horticulture is an important element and such projects will help our farmers who are the backbone of the county's economy," said Syed Zafar Ali Shah. He said that the country is facing several challenges and flood is one of them which directly affects our agriculture sector and such projects are essential to contain the disaster.

Junaid Khan to star in drama serial'Adan'

腾 Staff Reporter

KARACHI: After ruling the screens in 2022 with one hit after the other, the talented Junaid Khan will be seen starring in the upcoming Show Case Productions 'Adan' alongside Mansha Pasha and Azfar Rehman.

Directed by the ace director Azeem Sajjad and penned down by Atique Inayat, 'Adan' is a plot filled with romance which culminates to a thrilling twist. "I am very excited about my latest project because the day I read the script I felt that this is



something out of the ordinary for sure. Working with Shazia and Wahjahat has been an amazing experience and of course Mansha and I have a great on screen chemistry hence I just couldn't have said no to this one and I am glad I didn't", stated Junaid Khan.

NHA fills crater caused by heavy rains

ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of Chairman National Highway Authority Captain (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, the crater caused by heavy rains near Soan Bridge on Rawalpindi GT Road has been filled. NHA has completed the repair work, so now the traffic is flowing at the affected place near Soan Bridge. It clarified that the maintenance staff of the National Highway Authority across the country is always ready for repair work on its entire network. Due to heavy rains, NHA has taken measures to ensure immediate repair affected portion of the road. During rainy season to ensure traffic flow is the primary responsibility of NHA. In order to deal with such a situation and repair the affected roads in time, active teams of National Highway Authority are present in different areas to review their entire network.

EPD, PHA LAHORE, Coca-Cola start tree plantation drive with 30,000 trees

😂 Staff Reporter



SECP registered 172,206 companies in FY2022

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 26,502 new companies in FY 2021-22, which shows an increase of 4% as compared to previous FY. The total number of registered companies with SECP now stands at 172.206.

Real estate development & construction sector led the number of new incorporations with 4,791 new companies registered, followed by information technology with 3,760 new companies and trading with 3,534 new companies.

registered online while 1,640 foreign users were registered from overseas. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs42.4 billion.

SECP has made significant reforms to facilitate the registration of companies by fully digitizing the registration process, along with company registration certificates. With this automation, companies can now be registered online from any part of the world, without needing to visit SECP offices. SECP's e-services have been integrated with Provincial Revenue Departments to facilitate registration of companies As a result of end to end digitization with Provincial Revenue Departments of the company incorporation process, at the time of incorporation. Compaabout 99.5 percent of companies were ny tax numbers are also issued online.

In addition, an online portal has also been created for banks to facilitate companies in opening corporate accounts after registration. SECP has launched a WhatsApp helpline as well to provide immediate assistance to the investors. All these measures led to notable improvements in ease of doing business, one result of which can be seen through steady increase in the number of new incorporations. During fiscal year 2022, nearly 64 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 33 percent were registered as single member companies. Three percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations,

foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP).

Xiaomi brings forth giveaway competition of year



😂 🛛 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Xiaomi with their latest Redmi 10C has put forth a new legacy of budget devices which comes packing flagship features. The device has a brilliant battery and the biggest (6.71") screen in the industry, truly a dus bata dus device perfect for everyday use.

Along with the drop of this brilliant dus bata dus device, Xiaomi Pakistan announced its 'Dus Bata Dus tiktok challenge'. The details are simple and to the point, make a tiktok on the jingle shared by the brand and get a chance to win Redmi 10C, some cool eco products and a return ticket to Dubai. Sounds too good to be true right? But it is true, for this challenge has spread like wildfire with everyone sharing their entries to bag some freebies for themselves. Famous tiktokers have taken part in this challenge, creating fun and quirky tiktok videos using the Dus Bata Dus jingle in hopes of winning some free devices or a trip to Dubai. The roster of participants includes Kanwal Aftab, Chaudhary Zulqernain, Hoor Mahaveera, Dr. Madiha etc with growing entries and numbers.

You too can take part in this challenge, with the hashtag. Go to Xiaomi Pakistan's tiktok handle (@xiaomipakistan), use the Dus Bata Dus sound and share your video with the hashtag #MainHoonDusBataDus and get a chance to bag these amazing gifts or a return ticket to dubai absolutely free. So what are you waiting for?

LAHORE: Punjab Environment Protection Department (EPD) and Parks & Horticulture Authority Lahore (PHA), in partnership with Coca-Cola Export Corporation commenced the Tree Plantation Drive for 2022 at Jilani Park, Lahore.

As part of The Coca-Cola Company's purpose of "Refresh the world. Make a difference", the company will plant 30,000 trees at Jallo Forest & Wildlife Park in Lahore during the ongoing monsoon season. Coca-Cola is committed to the communities where it operates and is working to reduce its carbon footprint and protect the environment. Last year, Coca-Cola paved Pakistan's first plastic road on Ataturk Avenue in Islamabad to demonstrate the collection and re-use of large-scale PET plastic waste.

SME-financing Khushhali Karobar' achieves big milestones



腾 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited is a leading institution in Pakistan. Over the years, it has won four awards for being the 'Best Microfinance Bank'. Besides its vast network of more than 200 branches, it has launched a specialized SME channel-"Khushhali Karobar", with exclusive branches that provide customized Term-Financing and Running-Finance facilities for the Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) sector, with generous lending limits of up to 3 million Rupees. On the 28th of June, 2022, this fast-growing SME-Distribution channel completed its first year of successful operations. A vibrant ceremony was recently held in Guiranwala to celebrate this anniversary.

These specialized branches are already operating in Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Sargodha, and Sheikhupura. This year, Khushhali Microfinance Bank is ready to launch even more 'Khushhali Karobar' branches across Pakistan. At the completion of one year, this resourceful channel has already provided country.

financing facilities to a large number of SME borrowers, including SMEs owned by women. Khushhali Karobar branches are also offering: Deposit, insurance, ATM, Internet banking, and full-service banking facilities to its valued customers.

The Chief Executive Officer of Khushhali Microfinance Bank-Ghalib Nishtar gave an inspirational message on this occasion and said: "It is a delightful moment for the microfinance and SMEs sectors of Pakistan, as the diligent efforts of our competitive workforce are adding great momentum, for the growth and sustainability of small businesses across Pakistan. Our prestigious institution is rapidly expanding the financial outreach to the unbanked SME market, to deliver the highest standards of customer service."

A dedicated team of sales and operations staff was hired and trained comprehensively for 'Khushhali Karobar'. This highly responsive team is catering to the evolving needs of small businesses and accelerating the socio-economic progress of the

FINCA Microfinance Bank partners with Millat Tractors

😂 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan's leading microfinance bank, FINCA Microfinance Bank Ltd (FMBL) joins hands with the market leader in agricultural tractors and machinery, Millat Tractors Ltd (MTL). Under this collaboration, farmers who are FMBL's stan, MTL dealers will also existing or potential customers looking to purchase a tractor for their farming needs will be able to book a tractor which will be delivered on maintenance of tractors. easy terms and conditions through a quick and a hasslefree process. With a network of 80+ distributors pan Paki-



Chaudhry

assist customers with aftersales services and will provide awareness through educational web series on routine

The MOU signing ceremony was attended by key management members of both the organizations.

an easy and a quick delivery, our collaboration with Millat Tractors can help address some of the unmet needs of the farmers of Pakistan". Azhar Noor, General Manager for the Marketing

acquire superior machin-

erv on low mark-up rates,

Division at Millat Tractors On this occasion, Mr. was also present and said, Mohammad "FINCA Microfinance Bank Ahmad, Chief Commercial is playing a vital role in the economic development of Officer at FINCA Microfinance Bank Ltd stated; "The Agriculture sector, particuagriculture sector contributes larly in supporting small farmers. This contributes to over 20% to the GDP and plays a vital role for the econemployment opportunities omy of Pakistan and its devel-& sustainability in the rural opment. By helping farmers sector".



Islamabad 23º – 38º Clear

Namaz 7	Timings	
Fajr		
Zohr	12:14 pm	
Asr	5:09 pm	
Maghrib		
Isha	8:51 pm	
EMERGENCY		

15 Rescue (Police) Bomb Disposal 15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance...... 1122 & & Rescue Services .. . 4451122 ...9266044 Motorway Police .

Women Police Stations

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ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS			
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DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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Rawal Town

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

NHA fills crater caused by heavy rains near Soan Bridge

腾 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD/RAWAL-PINDI: On the instructions of Chairman National Highway Authority Cantain Muhammad Khurram Agha, the crater caused by heavy rains near Soan Bridge on Rawalpindi GT Road has been filled. NHA has completed the repair work, so now the traffic is flowing at the affected place near Soan Bridge. It clarified that the maintenance staff of the National Highway Authority across the country is always ready for repair work on its entire network. Due to heavy rains, NHA has taken measures to ensure immediate repair affected portion of the road. During rainy season to ensure traffic flow is the primary responsibility of NHA. In order to deal with such a situation and repair the affected roads in time, active teams of National Highway Authority are present in different areas to review their entire network.

No monkeypox case reported in Pakistan so far

The situation is being closely monitored by the health authorities

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Monday said that not a single case of monkeypox has been reported so far in Pakistan.

According to the official sources, the situation is being closely monitored by the health authorities and all the national and provincial health authorities have been advised to remain on high alert for any suspected case of monkeypox.

They added timely detection and notification are important for prompt implementation of preventive measures and all public and private hospitals have been directed to ensure readiness for isolation and treatment.

They said that concerned health authorities and professionals at all levels, stakeholders, especially the Central Health Establishment including monitoring points of entry have also been asked to remain vigilant. They said that an effective monitoring mechanism has been developed on a scientific basis at all points of entry.



They added that the screening of all incoming passengers will be ensured particularly passengers coming from African countries. They said that instructions have also been issued for strong coordination among concerned organizations while steps are also being taken for awareness of the public.

Monkeypox is a rare viral zoonotic disease that is caused by infection with

the monkeypox virus. Although the natural reservoir of monkeypox remains unknown, however, African rodents and non-human primates like monkeys may harbor the virus and infect people.

The patient develops a rash within one to three days after the appearance of fever, often beginning on the face and then spreading to other parts of the body. Other symptoms include headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and lymphadenopathy.

The incubation period is usually seven to 14 days but can range from five to 21 days. The illness typically lasts for two to four weeks. The transmission occurs via contact with an infected animal, human, or materials contaminated with the virus.

The virus enters the body through broken skin, respiratory track, or the mucous membranes like eyes, nose or mouth. Other human-to-human methods of transmission include direct or indirect contact with body fluids, lesion materials or through contaminated clothing or lines. APP

Health

Strengthening the immune response to cancer

ISLAMABAD: For patients with lymphoma, multiple myeloma, or certain types of leukemia, treatment with chimeric antigen receptor T cells (CAR T cells) is sometimes the last chance of overcoming the cancer. The treatment involves taking T cells from the patient's blood and adding artificial receptors - the CARs - to them in the lab. As the guards of our immune system, T cells are on permanent patrol in our blood vessels and tissues, where they hunt down foreign structures. Equipped with CARs, T cells can also detect very specific surface structures on cancer cells. Once the CAR T cells are returned to the patient by infusion, they circulate in the body as a kind of living drug that can bind to very specific tumor cells and destroy them.

The engineered immune cells remain in the body permanently and multiply. If the cancer flares up again, they'll go back into action. That's the theory, at least. But in practice, many patients still relapse. This is because the tumor cells can outwit the CAR T cells by producing more of the protein EBAG9 – and by causing the T cells to produce more of it, too. In T cells, EBAG9 inhibits the release of cytotoxic enzymes, which slows the desired immune response.

A month earlier, a team led by last authors Dr. Armin Rehm and Dr. Uta Höpken from the Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC) showed in the journal JCI Insight that shutting down the EBAG9 gene in mice led to a sustained increase in the immune response to cancer. The mice also developed more T memory cells. These cells are part of our immunological memory, which allows our immune system to respond better to a cancer antigen after encountering it previously.

Now the researchers have also shown these key findings in vitro, in human CAR T cells. Writing in Molecular Therapy, the team says that this is the decisive step on the road to therapeutic use. "Shutting down EBAG9 allows the body to eradicate tumor cells earlier and more radically. As well as achieving longer-lasting therapeutic success, this could also create a real chance of cure," says Rehm.

As soon as the EBAG9 gene was discovered, researchers recognized that it played an important role in cancer. But it took a long time to identify what that role actually was. When the MDC team started working on it in 2009, they found that mice without the gene dealt with bacterial and viral infections much better than mice with the gene, and that they formed more T memory cells, which are of particular interest in tumor biology.

Then in 2015, lead author Dr. Anthea Wirges succeeded in curbing synthesis of the EBAG9 protein using microRNA. For the latest study, she used microRNA to cultivate "EBAG9-silenced" CAR T cells with different human leukemia or lymphoma cells. Just like in the mouse model, the silencing reduced tumor growth much more. Relapses also only developed much later.

"Releasing the EBAG9 brake allows the genetically engineered T cells to release more cytotoxic substances. However, they don't cause the strong cytokine storm that is typically a side effect of CAR therapy," says Wirges. In fact, the risk is minimized because fewer cells are used. "Switching off the immune brake works across the board. We can do it with every CAR T cell that we produce - regardless of which type of blood cancer it targets.

However, the first-line therapy for blood cancer will remain chemotherapy combined with conventional antibody therapy, as many patients respond very well to this. "CAR therapy only comes into play if the cancer returns. It's very expensive because it's an individual cellular product for a single person," says Höpken. And a single treatment with that product can save a life. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



ISLAMABAD: A view of rain water accumulated as showing a water pond at Melody Market during heavy rain in Federal Capital.



Rains hit the capital

😂 Pakistan Diamond Jubilee **Musical concert organized at PAC**

😂 Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab arts council organized a musical concert titled "Azam Alishan, Shadar Hai Pakistan" regarding the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan. The chief guest of the program was Naheed Munzoor and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. Shama Adil performed the duties of the host.

Naheed Manzoor said on this occasion that on the occasion of Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, we should also remember our ancestors, industry, dams, infrastructure due to whose sacrifices we are breathing in free air. In the last and services. Today, Pakistan 7 decades, Pakistan has develis among the 40 largest econooped in every sector despite mies in the world. And till Paki- we are a nuclear power. Today, seeing many crises. Signifistan's platinum jubilee, Pakicant achievements have been stan will be included in the 20 made in the fields of educa-



tion, health, agriculture, heavy she added.

and prosperity in their lives. Ufone 4G

is a Pakistani company therefore, it is

always on the lookout for opportunities

to create shared value for our people."

Zubair, Cantonment Executive Officer

Speaking at the ceremony, Arfeen

She further described that with the hard work of our scientists day and night; today no country in the world can look at Pakistan with a blind largest economies of the world, eye. I have full confidence that

the future of Pakistan is bright. In the end, he congratulated all the singers for rendering the beautiful song.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Pakistan is a gift from Allah to the Muslims of India. In 75 years of independence, Pakistan has progressed in all spheres of life. Today, Pakistan is valued in the Islamic world. Among the singers of the music concert were the famous singers of Azad Kashmir, Bano Rahmat, Mohsin Pasha, Samina Khalid, Syeda Bushra Wakil, Hamza Ali, Ramiz Ishaq. The dance group stole the show by presenting dances from all four provinces including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. A large number of people from different cities participated in the music festival.

Ufone 4G supports livelihoods of local community in Murree

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G has donated pushcarts and food stalls to local community members in Murree to help them earn a decent livelihood for themselves and their families. The initiative is an extension of Ufone 4G's Corporate Social Responsibility programme, designed to create a shared impact for society.

Station Commander Murree handed over the pushcarts and food stalls to deserving members of the community during a ceremony held at Murree Hills Cantonment. Amir Pasha, Group Head PR and Corporate Communication PTCL & Ufone along with senior executives from the company and Cantonment Executive Officer Murree Hills Cantonment, Arfeen Zubair also attended the ceremony, alongside government officials, local



leaders and media personnel.

helping them achieve financial stability Sharing his thoughts regarding the initiative, Amir Pasha, Group Head PR and Corporate Communication PTCL & Ufone, said: "We are glad to lend a helping hand to the local community of Murree so that they can improve their incomes and economic conditions. They work hard and we believe

thank Ufone 4G on behalf of the entire local community of Murree for extending a helping hand when it was most needed. It is heartening to witness a leading telecom player stepping up to foster welfare and social wellbeing in the society. It sets a positive precedent for other players from the private sector to come forward and create social good for the communities they serve."

Apart from leveraging its core competencies to create social good, Ufone 4G has an elaborate social responsibility programme in place to give back to the community. The CSR programme is especially focused on providing socio-economic opportunities to marginalized segments of society, so they can also grow and prosper at par with their compatriots. The company continues to explore opportunities to create a shared impact for society Murree Hills Cantonment said: "I at large.

ISLAMABAD: The new members after joining Private Schools Network Bhara Kahu zone pose for a group photo with Central President Dr. Muhammad Afzal Babar.

President AJK seeks world community's role in resolving K-dispute

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that the international community should play its due role to resolve the long running Kashmir dispute to ensure durable peace in South Asia.

"Peace in South Asia, is inescapably linked to the settlement of Kashmir dispute", the President said adding that for a last peace and stability there was dire need to resolve Kashmir dispute in line with the UNSC resolutions.

The AJK president expressed these views during his meeting with ambassadors and diplomats of America, Norway and Bulgaria here in Islamabad on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said that the world community should influence the Indian government to implement the UN resolutions and let the people of Kashmir decide their future peacefully. Referring to the abysmal situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK), Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that the situation in the IoK demands urgent attention of the international community.

He said that it was high time that the global community should play its role for the establishment of peace in the region and intensify its efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue that has been the cause and consequence of the continued unrest and bloodshed in the region.

On this occasion, Norwegian Ambassador Per Albert Ilsaas, Bulgarian Ambassador Irena Gancheva and American Embassy Political Section Officer Melissa, Jessica Pfleiderer, Eric and others were also present.



ISLAMABAD: The relatives of Kashmiri-origin British citizen, Farooq Ali, who was murdered in Ramada Hotel Islamabad, Dr. Rehiana Ali, Yasmeen Ali along with the lawyer Advocate Sharafat Ali addressing a press conference here on Monday.

Editorial/Opinion

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

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CPEC Pakistan's future

he China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has played a vital role in the future economic development of Pakistan, with the Gwadar port as the main component. The CPEC is one of the most important flagship projects of the five corridors launched under Belt and Road Initiative. Half of its projects have already been executed. Under the first phase of the CPEC, several major energy project including hydro, wind and solar projects were executed.

China-Pakistan relationship is unshakable and the relationship between the two countries remains constant, no matter which government has been in Pakistan or China, no matter how the international political landscape changes. Pakistan and China have reviewed continued implementation of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its expansion to jointly agreed priority areas.

Review was made during the 3rd meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) held in the virtual mode. It is the manifesting the historic choice of the countries and peoples, the vitality and dynamism of CPEC reflected the deep-seated mutual goodwill that lay at the heart of the bilateral relationship.

The second component of the CPEC is infrastructure, highways, waterways and bridges which have been built across Pakistan, improving the communication and road infrastructure. The important part of physical infrastructure was laying the fiber optic link from Chinese border to Pakistan to help the communication network. The third important component of the first phase was the Gwadar port which is almost complete and functional. The other infrastructure projects like recently inaugurated East Bay Express were inaugurated and the work was under progress on International Airport and many of the allied infrastructure industry. A large number of Chinese companies are setting their businesses in special Economic Zone being set up in Gwadar. The country is entering into phase two which is even more important and focused on industrialization, agriculture, social well-being of the people, poverty alleviation and green economy.

Under Green Corridor, Pakistan is focusing on the agriculture and food security, and in digital corridor, we are benefiting from China's experience and expertise in the IT sector and industry. The government is developing special economic zones and encouraging relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan not only to help the domestic market, but also to the region and exporting to other countries. The CPEC is a broad framework of economic development for Pakistan and also for the region.

Not both the countries have agreed that CPEC's development had reached a new point, with increasing emphasis on high-quality development of industry, agriculture, IT, and science and technology, while ensuring tangible socio-economic efits for the people. It was further noted that as a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC had broken new ground in strengthening international and regional connectivity, especially in the context of its extension to Afghanistan. As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC. The two sides also agreed to support and encourage the media and think tanks to highlight CPEC's contributions as a high-impact case study of international cooperation for sustainable development.

Russia Sanctions Regime & Problems

Mohamed A El-Erian

t has been five months since Europe and the United States imposed tough economic and financial sanctions on Russia, a G20 country that was the world's 11th-largest economy on the eve of its invasion of Ukraine. While the sanctions have been gradually strengthened in the intervening months, debate rages about their effectiveness, the war's broader implications for markets and the global economy, and what the West's next steps should be. On the first question, although the sanctions have been less effective than Europe and the US had hoped, they also are proving more onerous than the Kremlin claims. Russia's central bank expects GDP to contract by 8-10% this year, while other forecasters expect a larger fall, together with longer-lasting damage to growth potential. Imports and exports have been severely disrupted, and inflows of foreign investment have essentially stopped. Shortages are multiplying, pushing inflation higher. At this point, the country no longer has a properly functioning foreign-exchange market.

The sanctions would have bitten much harder had the West not opted for a carve-out of Russia's energy sector, and had many more countries joined the US and Europe in the effort. Because that didn't happen, Russia has not felt nearly as much pressure as it would have. Moreover, it has been able to continue trading through various side and back doors that

will likely become increasingly important the dollar's role as the world's reserve urging member countries to cut consumpas long as the sanctions regime, as currently designed, continues. Nonetheless, it is only a matter of time before the Russian economy experiences a harder hit. Inventories of imported goods - including many critical technological and industrial inputs - are dwindling fast, and many sectors are becoming less resilient. The cumulative damage to Russia's economy over time will be significant and long-lasting - a fact that has not yet been fully captured by consensus medium-term forecasts.

The second question concerns global spillovers from the war and the sanctions regime. Most observers agree that Russia's invasion has increased not just energy insecurity but also food insecurity, highlighting the fallout from the war's disruption to Ukrainian agricultural exports. But there is still much debate about the West's use of the economic nuclear sanctions option: the curbs placed on Russia's central bank and on Russia's use of the international payments system. These curbs are far more intrusive than the usual mix of restrictions on sanctioned government and private sector trade and on individuals' financial dealings. Yet, because they are not subject to any internationally agreed standards, guidelines, or checks and balances, they fall outside the purview of relevant global-governance bodies such as the Bank for International Settlements, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organisation.

In a time of war, such oversight might seem like a nicety. But some worry that the sanctions could significantly reduce currency and the US financial system's role as the primary global intermediary for other countries' savings and investments. After all, a growing number of countries undoubtedly now feel more vulnerable to the reach of US sanctions. But it is impossible to replace something with nothing, which means that no significant loss of dollar or US financial primacy will occur in the immediate future. Rather, the sanctions will lend further momentum to the gradual process of global economic fragmentation, which was also fuelled a few years ago by the tariffs imposed by the Trump administration. More countries now have even more of a reason to pursue greater financial resilience and inherently inefficient forms of self-insurance.

That brings us to the third debate. With no end in sight for the war, what should the West do next? Fearing the implications for energy prices and the supply of gas to Europe, many in the West are tempted to call for a moratorium on any new sanctions - or even for additional carve-outs. Others, however, favour additional measures to hold Russia accountable for its indiscriminate attacks on Ukrainian civilians. In any case, maintaining the current sanctions regime is not problem-free, owing to the twin objectives of pressuring Russia and limiting the economic disruption to Europe. Moreover, as European Commission President Ursula von der Leven recently said, it feels as if Russia is "blackmailing" Europe by threatening to disrupt gas supplies at any moment. No wonder the Commission is

tion by 15%.

Under the current sanctions regime, the West risks falling between two horses. While easing sanctions could help alleviate concerns about Europe's economic outlook, this option is a non-starter, given the atrocities that Russian forces are committing in Ukraine. But if the West is serious about pressuring Russia through truly crippling economic and financial sanctions, it needs to bite the bullet and eliminate the carve-outs for energy. Doing so would undoubtedly have a severe shortterm economic impact on European economies and the rest of the world, amplifying the "little fires everywhere" syndrome that I warned about in May. It is therefore critical that governments use their available fiscal space to provide targeted support to vulnerable segments of the population, as well as to fragile countries; and multilateral agencies must support developing countries through aid and a more operational debt relief framework. If done properly, this option would yield better outcomes in the medium and long term than the current strategy.

Muddling through risks bringing about the worst of all possible worlds. It is insufficient to dissuade Russia from continuing its illegal war; it is fuelling deeper fragmentation of the international monetary system; and it is not even protecting Europe from a winter gas disruption.

The writer is President of Queens' College at the University of Cambridge. Courtesy Gulf Times



Middle East politics: From hyper to hybrid

Marwan Bishara

s a new type of Cold War came to dominate American-Russian relations after the latter's invasion of Ukraine, major Middle Eastern players are maintaining a distance, refusing to take sides. It is a sign that the hyper-strategic alliances that polarised the region, and the world, during the old Cold War are turning hybrid, fluid, pragmatic and unpredictable.

During the old Cold War, the Middle East was characterised by greater foreign intervention and relatively more frequent high-intensity conflicts. The post-Cold War was even worse for the ill-fated Middle East - in the past 20 years, it featured most of the world's deadliest conflicts. But as the wars in Syria, Yemen and Libva wind down: as regional conflicts reach dead ends, and regional and global powers show signs of faintness and fatigue, a new geopolitical environment is now taking shape.

During his first trip to the region as president, Biden, who had only recently railed against the "pariah" regimes that rule in the Middle East, swallowed his tongue and pride at the service of the "national interest". Yet, Riyadh and Cairo rejected US dictates and even questioned its strategic competency and staying power, considering its humiliating withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan and its erratic behaviour over the past two decades. America's relative decline, amid China's rise and Russia's resurgence, has prompted its allies to pursue hybrid, non-exclusive foreign relations based solely on their national and regime interests. It is as if Israel's chutzpah has enemies, stuck in a Cold War logic of sort, but finally rubbed off on its neighbours, friends

and foes alike. Like Tel Aviv, important Middle Eastern players want American arms and American aid but not America's advice.

Despite being Washington's closest regional ally and the first stop on President Biden's Middle East trip, Israel has also refused to acquiesce to US wishes on not only Russia but also Iran and Palestine. In fact, Israel, which has taken the tail-wagging-the-dog dynamic to a whole new level, yet again treated America like no more than a dumb puppy. Like Israel, Saudi Arabia and its regional allies, Turkey, which straddles east and west, geographically and geopolitically, has gone hybrid for some time now. In this week's trilateral summit in Tehran, this major NATO member has reached new agreements with Washington's strategic foes, Iran and Russia; even proposing arms sales to the ayatollahs. After NATO allies refused to sell it air defence systems on acceptable terms, Turkey turned to NATO's foe, Russia, to purchase its sophisticated S-400 system, to Washington's utter dismay.

Since then, Saudi Arabia has shown similar defiance, initiating talks with Moscow to purchase the Russian system. And like Turkey, Israel and Saudi Arabia, Iran is also trying to pursue hybrid relationships, allying itself with China and Russia while remaining open to collaboration with Europe and insisting on negotiating a return to the Nuclear Deal with the United States. And since its invasion of Ukraine, Russia has become more dependent on Iran to counterbalance American and Turkish influences in Syria. Meanwhile, these central Middle Eastern players are pursuing hybrid relations within the region as well as beyond it. Iran and Saudi Arabia may be arch they are also involved in direct diplomatic talks

aimed at reducing tensions in the Gulf and finding accommodations on regional hotspots, like Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, etc.

Similar dynamics emerged between UAE and Iran, as the UAE normalised relations with the Assad regime in Syria and sort of pulled out of the Yemen war, while at the same time establishing diplomatic, security and strategic relations with Iran's arch enemy, Israel.

In short, the new hybrid geopolitical dynamics look nothing like the rigid and hyper bi-polarity that divided and dominated the world for decades. Since the world fights wars as it makes business and as it does politics, using similar tools and methods, this shift will likely prove lasting and global. In other words, and at the risk of oversimplification, expect more governments to pursue hybrid policies in an increasingly hybrid environment characterised by hybrid work, hybrid cars and hybrid warfare.

This will further complicate the global and regional dynamics, producing a dizzyingly changing reality, making it ever harder to predict what might come next; where a new explosion might occur, or whether certain countries might reach accommodation tomorrow.

All of this begs the question: Will the shift from hyper to hybrid relations bring stability; or even peace to the Middle East? It might indeed reduce inter and intra-national instability for some time, but unless and until regional actors use that window to address the urgent questions of justice and human rights, expect more of the same instability and violence.

The writer is former professor of International Relations at the American University of Paris. Courtesy Al Jazeera

Developing countries & the pandemic

Mariana Mazzucato & Jayati Ghosh

t their recent meeting in Bali on July 15-16, G20 finance ministers reaffirmed their commitment to coordinated action to get the Covid-19 pandemic under control and better prepare for the next global health emergency. A central topic was the creation of a new financial intermediary fund (FIF) to address pandemic preparedness and response (PPR), under the trusteeship of the World Bank and with the World Health Organization playing a central technical and coordinating role. The goal is to close some of the annual PPR financing gap of \$10.5 billion and help strengthen capacities that are critical to protecting global health, including genomic sequencing and drug manufacturing.

Over the next month, the G20, World Bank, and the WHO will finalise the FIF design, under heavy external pressure to develop an equitable and inclusive governance structure. The Indonesian G20 Presidency has enabled some preliminary agreements that move in the right direction. For example, there is an emerging consensus that the FIF's governance must include lowand middle-income countries, non-G20 partners, and civil society. Moreover, G20 countries acknowledge that the FIF must build on the existing global health framework for PPR, with a central role for the WHO.

The inclusion of the WHO in the FIF is a central piece of the governance structure. Hardwiring it into the FIF's design should include having the WHO chair the technical advisory group that will assess and weigh the evidence and data required to inform priorities. The WHO is not only the leading hub of scientific expertise and coordination for global health; it also represents 194 countries, providing essential legitimacy. While the FIF is meant to augment existing donor and national PPR investment in public health, there are already signs that its fundraising could cannibalize the resources of well-tested complementary mechanisms like the Global Fund and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness

Innovations. If the FIF ends up undermining resourcing for the rest of the global PPR framework simply to become the shiny new deliverable at this year's G20 summit, it will have done more harm than good for global health security.

The scale of financial need - particularly in low- and middle-income countries confronting a massive debt crisis and soaring inflation - far surpasses what even the most effective FIF will be able to deliver. As part of its commitments to PPR, the G20 should redouble its efforts to bring China and private creditors to the table to renegotiate mounting debt burdens through its Common Framework, or face the risk of many more Sri Lanka-style debt defaults and growing social and political unrest in the coming months and years. To ensure the success of the FIF and global PPR efforts more broadly, the G20 must take all measures within its control to provide debt relief and free up fiscal space in low- and middle-income countries. This includes extending the Common Framework and the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and developing effective ways to ensure private-sector participation; eliminating austerity conditions from International Monetary Fund loans that encourage countries to cut public spending in areas like health; increasing liquidity through additional allocations of special drawing rights (the IMF's reserve asset); and exploring more creative financing mechanisms like the "debt for health" swaps used by the Global Fund.

The new FIF proposal and broader G20 and World Bank actions on PPR cannot afford to deliver "health for some" - the wealthiest and most privileged. This is a morally bankrupt and woefully ineffective approach. Now is the time to pivot toward a more promising "health for all" approach, starting with an inclusively governed FIF and economic interventions that better enable low- and middle-income countries to invest as required in their own health systems.

Mariana Mazzucato is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All. Jayati Ghosh is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Courtesy Khaleej Times

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International

Tuesday, July 26, 2022



Lavrov says Russian goal to oust Ukraine's president

Ukraine says it has destroyed 50 Russian ammunition depots

KYIV: Russia appears to have reversed itself after the country's top diplomat said Moscow's overarching goal is to topple the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as Russian artillery barrages and air strikes continue to pummel cities across Ukraine.

The remark from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov comes amid Ukraine's efforts to resume grain exports from its Black Sea ports, something that would help ease global food shortages, under a new deal tested by a Russian strike on Odesa over the weekend.

Speaking to envoys at an Arab League summit in Cairo late Sunday, Lavrov said Moscow is determined to help Ukrainians "liberate themselves from the burden of this absolutely unacceptable regime."

Lavrov accused Kiev and "its Western allies" of spouting propaganda intended to ensure that Ukraine "becomes the eternal enemy of Russia." "Russian and together, we will certainly help Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime, which



is absolutely anti-people and anti-historical," he said.

Lavrov's remarks contrasted sharply with the Kremlin's line early in the war, when Russian officials repeatedly emphasized that they weren't seeking to overthrow Zelensky's government.

Lavrov argued that Russia was ready to negotiate a deal to end hostilities in March when Kyiv changed tack and declared its intention to rout Russia on the battlefield, adding that the West has encouraged Ukraine to keep fighting. "The West insists that Ukraine must not start negotiations until Russia is defeated on the battlefield," Lavrov said.

It was not yet clear when grain ship-Ukrainian people would continue to live ments would resume following Russia and Ukraine signing identical agreements with the United Nations and

Turkey on Friday in Istanbul. The deals are aimed at clearing the way for the shipment of millions of tons of desperately needed Ukrainian grain, as well as the export of Russian grain and fertilizer.

The Kremlin insisted Monday that the attack on the port of Odesa over the weekend targeted military assets and would not affect grain shipping.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the strike had to do "exclusively with the military infrastructure." "This is in no way related to the infrastructure involved in fulfilling the agreements and exporting grain. So this can't and shouldn't affect the start of the shipment process in any way," Peskov said.

The Kremlin spokesman also said that Moscow has no interest in halting all gas supplies to Europe and that recent restrictions on the flow of Russian gas to European countries "are simply the consequences of restrictions the Europeans have imposed, and the Europeans themselves are suffering from these restrictions."

Palestine welcomes EU report on

"Russia is a responsible gas supplier, and no matter what anyone says, the European Commission, in European capitals, in the US, Russia has been and continues to be a country that to a large extent guarantees Europe's energy security," Peskov said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's presidential office said Monday that at least two civilians were killed and another 10 were wounded in the latest Russian shelling during the last 24 hours. In the eastern Donetsk region, the focus of the Russian offensive, Russian artillerv struck Avdiivka, Kramatorsk and Kostiantynivka. An airstrike on Bakhmut damaged at least five houses.

"The Russians are using the scorched earth tactics across the entire Donbas, they fire from the ground and from the air to wipe off entire cities." Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said in televised remarks. The Russians also struck the Kharkiv region. In the city of Chuhuiy, a Russian strike ruined the building of a local club and rescue workers removed several people from under the debris.

Philippines' Marcos Jr. vows farm and tax overhauls

MANILA: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. pledged on Monday to overhaul his country's tax system and make it a destination for investment and tourism, promising also a big agriculture overhaul to boost output and reduce its heavy import reliance.

Speaking before Congress in his first state of the nation address, Marcos, who won a May election in a landslide, said it was vital to implement reforms to bring in tourism and investment and maintain what was currently firm growth momentum.

His administration would implement solid fiscal policy management and was targeting 6.5 to 7.5 percent gross domestic product growth this year, he said, while warning of challenges ahead in keeping prices stable.

Marcos, the son of the late strongman ousted from power in a 1986 uprising, said it was critical that the Philippines, a major importer of rice and other commodities, can boost its farm output and become more resilient to climate change.

Among the measures he would introduce was a moratorium on farmers' debts to allow them to channel resources into improving output.

"It will unburden farmers of their dues and be able to focus on improving farm productivity," he said, while stressing the need for an "infusion of fresh and new blood," and use of scientific farming by a new breed of farmers. Marcos also promised to improve education, health care and working conditions for doctors and nurses and boost infrastructure in the nation of more than 7,000 islands, including modernizing airports.

EU approves smallpox vaccine

COPENHAGEN: The European Commission has approved a smallpox vaccine for use against monkeypox after the World Health Organization declared monkeypox a global health emergency, the Danish drugmaker that developed the jab said on Monday.

The European Commission has extended the marketing authorization for the company's smallpox vaccine, Imvanex, to include protection from monkeypox" in line with a recommendation by the EU's medicines watchdog, Bavarian Nordic said in a statement.

'The approval... is valid in all European Union Member States as well as in Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway." On Saturday, the WHO declared the monkeypox outbreak, which has affected nearly 16,000 people in 72 countries, to be a global health emergency — the highest alarm it can sound.

Imvanex has been approved in the EU since 2013 for the prevention of smallpox.

It was also considered a potential vaccine for monkeypox because of the similarity between the monkeypox virus and the smallpox virus.

Monkeypox is less dangerous and contagious than smallpox, which was eradicated in 1980. The first symptoms of monkeypox are fever, headaches, muscle pain and back pain during the course of five days.

Rashes subsequently appear on the face, the palms of hands and soles of feet, followed by lesions, spots and finally scabs. A surge in monkeypox infections has been reported since early May outside the West and Central African countries where the disease has long been endemic.

The EMA carries out a scientific assessment of drugs and gives a recommendation on whether any medicine should be marketed or not.

However, under EU law the EMA has no authority to actually permit marketing in the different EU countries. It is the European Commission which is the authorizing body and takes a legally binding decision based on EMA's recommendation.

China warns of serious consequence over Pelosi's Taiwan visit

BEIJING: The Chinese side will take firm and strong measures to safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity if the United States insists on going ahead with its House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan, a foreign ministry spokessaid Monday "The Chinese side has repeatedly made clear to the U.S. side our serious concern over Pelosi's potential visit to Taiwan and our firm opposition to the visit," spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a regular news briefing. "We are fully prepared for any eventuality," he said. The United States must assume full responsibility for any serious consequence arising thereof, Zhao added.

Egypt warns of Ethiopia's *unilateral steps* regarding Nile dam



ANKARA: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Monday warned of repercussions of Ethiopia's unilateral steps amid a decades-long dispute regarding a controversial dam project on the Nile River.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Cairo with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, al-Sisi said he agreed with his Somali counterpart on the gravity of unilateral steps in the file of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

"Cooperation between riparian countries is important to avoid harms," he stressed. Al-Sisi said his talks with the Somali president dwelt on region-



Israeli settlements

Land theft is an Israeli national project undertaken by every branch of Israel's government and facilitated by Israeli officials. This project aims to cleanse the land of its rightful owners, and to displace the Palestinample evidence of Israel's defiance of international ian people, and replace them with illegal Israeli settlers. law and its intentional aim

January.

Despite the continuous to undermine the Two-State statements and condemsolution. nations from the EU and clearly states the advance-

land theft and settlement vant resolutions, which has construction plans in 2022. undermined the rules-based international order.

It is indisputable that exceptionalism and double standards will imbue chaos and destruction for all. Accountability for crimes in Palestine is not and This state of chron- cannot be optional, we must dismantle all its settleworld countries, the report ic impunity and systemic therefore call on the Euro- ments and return the lands violence is a direct conse- pean Union to immediately to its rightful Palestinian suspend its regrettable deci-

of international law should not be met with closer ties and thriving relations. The State of Palestine reiterates that there is no such thing as authorized settlements.

> All settlements are illegal under international law. Israel, the occupying Power, owners. Israel's illegal colo

al developments in the Horn of Africa region.

"We agreed to work together to maintain security and stability in this important and strategic region," he added.

The Egyptian leader said he also agreed with his Somali counterpart to intensify coordination between Egypt and Somalia regarding security in the Red Sea. Sheikh Mohamud started an official visit to Egypt on Sunday, his seventh overseas visit since he became president in May.

Egypt views the GERD as an existential threat to its water share from the Nile, the country's only source of freshwater. Egypt and Sudan, two downstream nations, want a legally-binding agreement on the filling and operation of the GERD, a demand resisted by Ethiopia. Yearslong negotiations between the three countries have failed to make any breakthrough.

Last year, the UN Security Council called on Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to resume the African Union-led nego tiations to reach an agreement on the filling and operation of the dam "within a reasonable time frame." Ethiopia has started carrying out a third-stage filling of the dam this month despite opposition from Egypt and Sudan.

in the year 2021 compared community's willful failure sion to resume the Associa- nial occupation and settle-

ment of settlements units

The continuous policies of

Israeli governments provide

quence of the international

to the previous year. The to hold Israel accountable tion Council meetings with ment enterprise continue to State of Palestine confirms for its crimes and to enforce Israel. Ethnic cleansing of threaten regional and intermore shocking figures of international law and rele- Palestinians and violations national peace and security.

First grain shipments to leave Ukraine 'this week'

KYIV: Kyiv expects the first grain deliveries under a UN-brokered deal to leave Ukrainian ports "this week," Ukraine's infrastructure minister said Monday, despite Russian strikes on Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odessa.

"We expect the agreement to start working in the coming days," Oleksandr Kubrakov, who led Ukraine's delegation at grain talks in Turkey, told a press conference.

"We are preparing for everything to start this week," he added. Kubrakov also highlighted the importance of security following a strike on the port of Odessa, one of the three export hubs designated in the agreement.

"Our position is very simple. We signed an agreement with the UN and Turkey. If the sides guarantee



security, the agreement will work. If they do not, it will not work," Kubrakov said.

Russia and Ukraine signed agreements on Black Sea grain exports in Istanbul on Friday, with Turkey and the UN as co-guarantors.

Both countries are major exporters of agricultural products, but Moscow's invasion has severely

disrupted Ukrainian wheat exports as the fighting damaged harvests and left ports blocked and mined.

Kubrakov added that de-mining will take place "exclusively" in the shipping lanes required for grain exports, while Ukrainian ships will accompany the departing convoys that will transport not only grain but also fertilizer.

Deputy infrastructure minister Yuri Vaskov told the press conference that the southeastern port of Chornomorsk will be "the first" used for grain deliveries, followed by the port of Odessa in the south and then Pivdennyi in the southeast. "In the next two weeks, we will be technically ready to carry out grain exports from all Ukrainian ports," Vaskov added.

APHC expresses concern over unrelenting CASOs in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has expressed deep concern over the continued cordon and search operation and arrest of youth by the Indian forces in the territory.

The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said that the rapidly changing realities in the region also indicated the need for an immediate solution to the Kashmir dispute.

The spokesman urged the world powers to focus on finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute so that the region could get out of the situation of constant tension.

He expressed concern over the imposition of cruel laws in IIOJK aimed at keeping the freedom-loving people under constant pressure.

The spokesman appealed to the justice-loving institutions and figures around the world to do their part in restoring the political rights of the oppressed Kashmiris.

Meanwhile, Hurriyat leader, Dr Musaib in a statement said that Kashmiris are struggling for their right to self-determination which was promised by India. Addressing a gathering of Hurriyat activists in Srinagar, he said there should be a plebiscite under United Nations supervision in Jammu and Kashmir to decide the fate of the disputed territory.

UN appeals for funds to avert crisis in Horn of Africa

ed Nations humanitar- pia, Kenya and Somalia. ian agency on Monday in the Horn of Africa amid a severe drought.

The UN Office for the required to prevent the Coordination of Humani- worst in the months ahead," issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that lives will least 19.4 million people be lost if there is no more funding.

UNOCHA said the across the region. It said

NAIROBI: The Unit- seasons in parts of Ethio- could rise to 20 million by

"Forecasts indicate that appealed for urgent funding the October-December to help avert a humanitari- 2022 rainy season could an disaster that is looming also fail, leading to an unprecedented catastrophe. Immediate action is

tarian Affairs (UNOCHA) UNOCHA warned in its warned in its latest report latest report on drought. The UN agency said at

> are affected by the drought that began in October 2020

people in the Horn of Afri- some 18.6 million people ca, who are suffering the across Ethiopia, Kenya and the Intergovernmenworst drought in over 40 and Somalia are living tal Authority on Developyears, face the threat of with acute food insecuristarvation following four ty and rising malnutrition, consecutive failed rainy warning that the number million people are expect-

September.

According to UNOCHA, food prices are increasing in many drought-affected areas due to the below-average harvests and rising prices on international markets. Moreover, floods, COVID-19, and the desert locust infestation have affected communities throughout the region, and millions of people in Ethiopia and Somalia are living through conflict.

The report came barely a week after the UN ment (IGAD), a regional bloc, said that more than 50

ed to face high levels of acute food insecurity this year across seven east African countries - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda According to the 2022

edition of the IGAD Regional Focus on Food Crises, released on July 22 by the World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and IGAD, conflict, climate extremes, economic shocks, rising costs and now the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on food and energy prices are pushing millions toward starvation in eastern Africa.

TEHRAN: The Irani- cameras at its nuclear sites their obligations," he said. an nuclear chief said his country will not turn on the surveillance cameras of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) installed within the framework of a 2015 nuclear deal until

parties resume honoring their commitments under the deal. Mohammad Eslami,

president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), made the remarks in an address to accusations at Iran based reporters on the sidelines of an exhibition in Tehran on Monday, the official news agency IRNA reported.

He said the Islamic Republic sees no reason for the presence of these

as they had been recording data supposed to exonerate Tehran from certain accusations, which are still in place.

Iran says won't turn on IAEA

cameras until nuclear deal revival

Eslami added although in 2015, lengthy negotiations between Iran and the world powers resulted in the signing of a nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the West is still leveling "baseless claims."

curbs on its (nuclear) capacities to build trust, but not remain committed to particles at three unde-

clared sites.

In the wake of the adop-Eslami said the agency itself has removed the tion of the IAEA resolution, cameras and sealed them, Iran announced its decision adding they will be kept in Iran's nuclear facilities until the other sides return to the JCPOA. Eslami emphasized that the IAEA is currently monitoring Iran's nuclear

activities according to the safeguards agreements. In June, the IAEA's Board of Governors passed an anti-Iran resolution proposed by the Uniton stolen documents and ed States, Britain, France and Germany following "Iran accepted to put the agency's reports that Tehran had not provided "technically credible despite all these, they did explanations" for uranium drop some of its commit-

to take a number of measures, including turning off the IAEA's surveillance cameras at its sites. Iran signed the nuclear deal with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear program in return for the removal

of sanctions on the country. However, former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement in May 2018 and reimposed unilateral sanctions on Tehran, prompting the latter to ments under the pact.



Economy/Commerce

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

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

00-Share Index Prev. Close		
40,077.30		
Day's Low:		
39,720.80		
Change		
-233.28		
Time		
25 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Change		
+29.93		
Time		
25 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
es Industrial Average		
Change		
+97.58		
Time		
25 Jul, 11:41 am GMT-4		
ei Stocks Average		
Change		
-215.41		
Time		
25 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	155.14	156.39	
Bahrain Dinar	597.45	601.95	
Canadian Dollar	174.75	176.1	
China Yuan	33.31	33.56	
Danish Krone	30.87	31.22	
Euro	224.5	227.5	
Hong Kong Dollar	28.66	29.01	
Indian Rupee	2.81	2.89	
Japanese Yen	1.78	1.84	
Kuwaiti Dinar	729.26	734.26	
Malaysian Ringgit	50.54	50.99	
NewZealand \$	140.32	141.52	
Norwegians Krone	22.62	22.92	
Omani Riyal	584.22	588.72	
Qatari Riyal	61.82	62.32	
Saudi Riyal	59	59.9	
Singapore Dollar	161.65	162.95	
Swedish Korona	22.02	22.32	
Swiss Franc	231.45	233.2	
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04	
U.A.E Dirham	60.5	61.5	
UK Pound Sterling	264	267.5	

Enhancing Cooperation Pakistan's ideal location connecting CA countries with sea routes: SG SCO

Secretary General of SCO, Zhang Ming called on FPCCI Chief Irfan Iqbal Sheikh & Chairman Coordination Mirza Abdul Rehman

😂 Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Zhang Ming visited FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad. The SCO Secretary-General called on Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman Coordination FPCCI, and other Business Community of Pakistan.

During the meeting, the importance of effectively using the potentials of the multilateral trade and economic cooperation created during the process of the SCO's activities was discussed. It was reaffirmed that SCO must consider the initiatives to develop and adopt an Economic Development Strategy for the SCO Region. Participates suggested that visa sticker scheme of SCO for the member states to enhance people to people contact and in the region so that the bilateral and multilateral trade and business can be flourished.

Zhang Ming, Secretary General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) expressed his views on a broad range of international and regional development issues and discussed trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation in the He said that I will share your sugges-



SCO space. He discussed the Organization's successful development as an effective mechanism of equal partnership based on the Shanghai spirit and also that SCO has taken a befitting place in the system of international organizations of multilateral cooperation. He termed Pakistan's geo-strategic location ideal for connecting Central Asia countries with the sea routes. This will facilitate the trade among SCO member states and even beyond. The transport corridors stand to benefit all the member states, leading to win-win cooperation.

The Secretary General SCO said that we know visa regime Arrangements is very important and I agree with the Ideas given by some member.

tions for visa with other member states to consider this. Women Empowerment is very important all the members of SCO give priority and pay attention to the Women Entrepreneurs and closely followed by the Governments of all the member states.

The Secretary General SCO said that we are expecting another SCO Women's Forum, the first one of this kind in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in 18-19 August, 2022. The purpose of this forum is to advance exchanges on gender equality, advance Women's Rights and opportunities within SCO. He said that Women's Education is also very critical because a well-educated mother can benefit her children. And the education for Women.

how to start a business is also very is looking forward to enhanced trade important, which includes digitalization and training for E-Commerce. ing a formidable economic alliance for He said that the ideas of Ambreen Zaman Former President of Rawalpindi women Chamber of Commerce are Excellent and inspirational. SCO will also facilitate Women Entrepreneurs in this regard.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of FPCCI said that it is indeed a great honor for FPCCI that the Secretary General Zhang Ming of the SCO Secretariat visits FPCCI first time after accreditation of the membership of SCO countries. We hope, this meeting will open new vistas in the relationship between Pakistan and SCO countries. SCO provides an excellent opportunity to create linkages as the bloc has proposed that all countries should try to simplify trade procedures and work for a free trade agreement.

FPCCI Chief further said the creation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Development Bank and the SCO Development Fund along with the development of a draft roadmap on the gradual increase of the share of national currencies in reciprocal payments by the interested member states. He said that FPCCI the Middle East and South Asia.

and investment within SCO and forgmutual prosperity and development of the member nations. he raised the issues of economic, trade, and investment liberalization within the powerful bloc of SCO.

He also highlighted the economic and commercial potential of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project. They would not only promote the development of an open global economy based on the principles of multilateralism, mutual consultation, and mutual benefit but would also help in maintaining a smooth and stable operation of sustainable and diversified industrial supply chains.

Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination FPCCI, Capital Office, Islamabad said that the Pakistan is a big market of 221 million people and a GDP of US\$ 383 billion. Pakistan is bestowed by Allah with one of the world's richest natural resources and beauty. Pakistan is a gateway to the Central Asian States and has strong and long-standing links with

Ghandhara, Chery plan to invest another \$10m in Pakistan's automotive industry

Eyeing an increase in production capacity, localization, and exports

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Leading Chinese automaker Chery has launched in Pakistan through a manufacturing and licensing agreement with Ghandhara Group.

This initiative has initially injected an investment of Rs. 2.4 billion in Pakistan's automotive sector. Besides, it has brought myriad employment opportunities and financial benefits for the country's hospitalized economy. Both entities have planned to increase the production capacity and ameliorate product quality while embracing the latest trends in technology.

Ghandhara and Chery are eyeing localization and export as the next targets. award-winning models "Tiggo-8 Pro" and the country's economy through exports." Following the successful infiltration into Pakistan's market, the companies are now the event. looking to penetrate South Asia and other emerging markets. This endeavor promises to give a great boost to Pakistan's export sector helping the economy tackle financial



at Marriott Islamabad. It was an official celebration of Chery's triumphant entry into Pakistan's automotive market. The event was attended by Chinese diplomats, politicians, senior government officials, businessmen, media personnel, and influ-"Tiggo-4 Pro" were also showcased during

and cooperation of the Pakistani government, this will deliver sustainable benefits for the national economy, stakeholders, partners, Chery, and Pakistan's automotive industry."

The Ghandhara-Chery alliance has also agreed on promoting localization. Ahmed Kuli Khan Khattak, CEO of Ghandhara Group said, "By localizing the manufacturing of components and parts and boosting development in the auto supplier industry, Pakistan will be provided with the much-needed technical assistance. This will also serve as a cornerstone for promoting Pak-China cooperation in the automoencers. Moreover, Chery's top-of-the-line bile industry that will significantly boost

It was also revealed that Ghandhara



ISLAMABAD: Munawar Iqbal, Chairman IT Committee, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry presenting appreciation award to Country Manager Hewlett-Packard Pakistan Nawaz Dhanii for his meritorious services in the IT sector.

Pak economy collapsing but political circus continues: PEW

US Dollar	228	230

For small traders

ICCI calls for revising minimum tax under fixed tax regime



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the new fixed tax regime introduced by the FBR for the collection of sales tax with monthly electricity bills has created great concerns in the small traders as it would force them to pay minimum sales tax of Rs.3000 even though their electricity bill amount is less than Rs.1000 and urged that FBR should revise the minimum slab of sales tax in consultation with ICCI to save the small traders from unnecessary tax burden.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that FBR was previously collecting sales tax in monthly electricity bills at the rate of 5% and 7.5% of the amount of bill, however, vide Circular No.09 of 2022-23, the tax authority has decided to charge minimum tax on monthly electricity bills of retailers @ Rs.3000 for monthly bill up to Rs.30,000, which is very discriminatory and will put extra tax burden on those small traders who are consuming less units of electricity bill. Therefore, he urged that the Finance Minister and FBR Chairman should immediately engage ICCI into consultation to make the minimum tax proportional to the units of electricity bill so that it could be affordable for small traders.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that the Finance Minister and Chairman FBR had agreed to decide the final slabs of fixed tax regime in consultation with ICCI and other trade bodies, but the tax slabs have been finalized without taking them on board, which is contrary to the assurance given. They stressed that the Finance Minister should immediately hold a meeting with ICCI and other trade bodies to sort out this important issue with mutual consultation so that small traders should be saved from extra financial burden.

challenges and improve GDP. The official brand launch of Chery Automobiles Co. Ltd. named, "A Glance

While addressing the attendees, the Executive Vice President of Chery, Charlie Zhang said, "Chery's entrance to Pakistan's automotive market represents a colossal leap in the ongoing progress of local manufacturing infrastructure and economic activity." He further added, "We Into The Future of SUVs" was arranged believe that, with the close collaboration

plans to invest about \$10 million over the next four years.

The project and the development of a distribution network promise to create many job opportunities in the industry while driving economic growth. The ambition to localize production, create jobs, and drive exports was reiterated by the key speakers.

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said Russian policies have divided European Union (EU) and many countries of the block have refused to take a unified stance on different issues.

ent on Russian gas, it said.

Despite the war, Russia's

economy continues to grow

while the rest of the world

which the United States is

PEW.

He said that the European Commission had suggested a 15% cut in gas consumption to reduce the intensity of a crisis in winter but the twenty-seven countries were not on the same page on this matter while twelve have openly voiced against it.

Even before this, Euro-The split in the EU has pean countries have taken alarmed the United States different positions on buying and its other allies as Russia oil, grain, fertilizers and is successfully using its natuchemicals from Russia and supplying arms to Ukraine ral gas as a weapon which has fracturing this important alliresulted in economic troubles for the continent in which ance, he added. many countries are depend-

Dr. Mughal said that some EU countries are in favour of sanctions, while some are trying to buy more oil, gas and grain from Russia as suffers from problems for the price of one unit of gas in Europe in July last year was solely responsible, said Dr. 21.8 euros, which has now Murtaza Mughal, President increased to 166 euros, altering the lifestyle of the people.



13 Member delegation of Reap led by Chairman Ali Hussam Asghar was received by head of rice importers of Iran, Abbas Tavakoli on arrival of their 5 davs vist to Tehran.

Dollar appreciation can bankrupt Pakistan like Sri Lanka

Friendly countries are unwilling to trust or lend, says Mian Zahid Hussain

腾 🛛 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the constant appreciation of the dollar can bankrupt Pakistan like Sri Lanka so all possible steps should be taken to contain it.

The central bank should not play the role of a silent spectator to the depreciation of the rupee while the government should act against the black sheep of the

currency market benefitting from uncertainty, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain

said that every passing day is weakening the economy which is worrisome.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that during the week, the value of the dollar increased by fifteen rupees in three days, which is enough to make the country a banana republic.

He said that a prominent economist of the country has termed the sharp rise in the value against Pakistan that should be

taken into account. Due to the devaluation of the rupee, Pakistan's debt and liabilities have increased by several thousand billion rupees, while inflation is setting a new record every day, which has

made people's lives hell. The increased value of the dollar is affecting the people and all sectors of the economy, but the manufacturing sector

increases the prices immediately, but the people associated with the service sector cannot increase the price of their servicof the dollar as a deliberate plan es immediately, which increases the financial pressure on them.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that as a result of the negative policies of the past several years, Pakistan has become isolated to such an extent that friendly countries are not ready to trust or lend, while important political figures are still far from any political or economic consensus.

He further said that the direction of foreign investment in the country also needs to be corrected because it is also causing a shortage of dollars in Pakistan. Most of the foreign capital is invested in the country in water, juice, milk, food, banking and communication sectors which have no significant benefit.

Jazbatalks, RDF, SPADO organize seminar on Financial Literacy

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Jazbatalks platform in collaboration with Rural Development Foundation (RDF) and Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) organized a seminar on Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy. The workshop was attended by about 60 participants including government officials, lawyers, researchers, teacher and students at universities and college. The seminar was aimed to motivate, inspire and up skill the youth across the nations.

Zill Ur Rehman Director RDF welcome to the participants of seminar and briefly discuss the main objectives of seminar.

Dr. Shahzad Jadoon Director / CEO at Alltech Pakistan Private Limited was the keynote speaker of the seminar. He said that Pakistan is the land of opportunities and most profitable agriculture enterprise is good for sustainable use of natural resources for economic growth, improving livelihood and creating job opportunities. There should an urgent need to teach entrepreneurship and financial literacy to the youth of Pakistan.

Co-Founder of Jazbatalks platform Dr. Imdad Ullah Salaar explain the vision and mission of Jazbatalks platform. The main objective of jazbatalks platform is to create skillful, positive, inspired, motivated and hopeful youth of Pakistan and further make



them the future leaders in every field of their life. He further explain that jazbatalks platform is also working on motivational stories of struggle, hardship, bravery, courage, enthusiasm, fortitude, patriotism, spirit,

and passion.

Col. Imtiaz Ashraf Malik (Retd) Chairman RDF briefed the participants about ongoing projects of RDF regarding rural development. He explain the objectives RDF that mainly working on rural development in field of agricultural development, education, health, technology, women empowerment, skills development, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Raza Shah Khan Executive Director Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) explain that SPADO aims at promoting a peaceful environment for all people especially those living in poverty and marginalized communities, where they can utilize their potentials for sustainable development. He appreciate the efforts of Jazbatalks platform to organize such a great seminar for our youth. He suggested that more seminars should be arranged in the rural areas of Pakistan.

😂 Pak vs SL Ramesh grabs three to put Sri Lanka on top in 2nd Test

Tourists end the day still trailing Sri Lanka by 187 runs

GALLE: Sri Lanka followed their good performance with the bat to restrict Pakistan to 191 for seven in their first innings at close on day-two of the second ICC World Test Championship match at the Galle International Stadium on Monday. Off-spinner Ramesh Mendis scored 35 with the bat and then took three Pakistan first innings' wickets to give his side the ascendancy in the series decider.

Resuming at the overnight 315 for six, Sri Lanka added 63 runs before they were bowled out. Dunith Wellalage (11) was the first to go on day-two, he was dismissed by a searing bouncer by Naseem Shah. Niroshan Dickwella completed his 22nd half-century before falling to Naseem. Yasir Shah accounted for Prabath Jayasuriya (8) and Mendis to finish off the Sri Lankan first innings. Mendis' 35 off 52 balls propelled his side past the 375-mark.

Pakistan were dealt a big blow in the first over of their reply with the first Test hero Abdullah Shafique falling on the second ball of the innings. The right-hander was bowled for a duck by Asitha Fernando.



Captain Babar Azam who promoted himself to number three in the batting order in the absence of Azhar Ali scored 16 before falling to Jayasuriya. Imamul-Haq looked set for a big score but fell at 32 when Mendis bowled him as the left-hander attempted a defensive shot

on the front foot.

Mohammad Rizwan was another batter who failed to make the most of a start as he was sent packing for 24 as Pakistan took tea at 111 for four.

Fawad Alam was the next Pakistan batter to fall in the 20s as the left-hander was pinned lbw on the backfoot by Mendis, Fawad also scored 24. Mohammad Nawaz was the next to go as he continued the trend of the batters getting starts but failing to convert when he was dismissed for 16 off Mendis to leave Pakistan 145 for six.

Salman Ali Agha absorbed the pressure from one end and played some stylish shorts in his maiden half-century that kept Pakistan afloat. The right-hander who made his Test debut in the first Test of the series last week at the same venue, fell on the last ball of the day to Jayasuriya with de Silva taking the catch in the slips.

Salman's 62 came off 126 balls (four fours, one six). Before his dismissal which left Pakistan in a real spot of bother, the middle-order batter added 46 runs for the seventh-wicket with Yasir (13 not out). This partnership is so far the best in Pakistan's first innings.

The visitors finished the day 187 runs behind Sri Lanka's first innings score. Pakistan would need meaningful contributions from the tail enders if they are to avoid conceding a big first innings lead.

Verstappen wins French GP after Leclerc crashes out

LE CASTELLET: World champion Max Verstappen took full advantage of Charles Leclerc crashing out of the lead to extend his advantage in this year's title race with a crushing victory ahead of Lewis Hamilton in Sunday's sun-baked French Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Dutchman drove with flawless control in the searing heat to guide his Red Verstappen. "You never know pace," he said. Bull home 10.587 seconds ton, in his 300th race, with George Russell, in the second Mercedes, beating Sergio Perez in the other Red Bull, for third. It was Verstappen's seventh win this season and the 27th of his career and a and McLaren's Lando Norris.

half of the season. After 12 of the



how it is going to go... It was ahead of Mercedes' Hamil- unlucky for Charles and I'm the team and George did an amazing job." On an afterglad he is ok." Perez finished fourth ahead of a rampant noon of searing heat, with a track temperature of 52 Carlos Sainz, who drove degrees and the air 34 at the from the back of the grid to finish fifth for Ferrari ahead start, Leclerc made a clean of Fernando Alonso of Alpine start to lead into the first corner ahead of Verstappen, blow to Leclerc's challenge in Esteban Ocon was eighth in with Hamilton leaping clear the opening race of the second the second Alpine ahead of of Perez into third. Leclerc led

end of the Mistral Straight, but the leader held firm, his car squirming for grip in the heat. Having resisted Verstappen's early attacks, Leclerc held a lead of nine-tenths by lap 13. Sainz, praised for his progress by Ferrari, reached 10th on lap 14. At the front Leclerc

increased his pace to draw 1.7 seconds clear by lap 15, when the track temperature was recorded at 55 degrees. "Great reliability from "We are planning Plan B," Ferrari told Leclerc, refocusing on tyre wear and strategy. Verstappen came in on lap 17 for a stop in 2.4 seconds, rejoining seventh. As he came back, Ferrari warned Leclerc his tyres were over-heating, but he held a 10-second lead ahead of Hamilton with Perez third, three seconds adrift. Daniel Ricciardo of McLar- by a second after the opening Verstappen passed Norris en and Lance Stroll of Aston lan, which saw Yuki Tsunoda swiftly for sixth, but Leclerc Verstappen leads Leclerc Martin. Hamilton was spin and recover while Sainz, stayed out and then, on lap 18 crashed at Le Beausset, going heavily into the tyre barrier. pace, but it was hard to follow bottle didn't work so it was a pen's superior straight-line He climbed out, apparently unhurt despite the estimated 175 kph impact.

Ghana, Senegal win as CHAN qualifying kicks off JOHANNESBURG: Ghana captain Glad-

win Awako completed the scoring in a 3-0 rout of Benin when 2022 African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifying kicked off this weekend.

Before Awako struck nine minutes from time in Cape Coast on Sunday, Daniel Barnieh and Mohammed Alhassan, two of his teammates at Accra club Hearts of Oak, scored either side of halftime. Barnieh converted a 26th-minute penalty awarded for handball and Alhassan doubled the lead on 48 minutes with a shot through a crowd of players after Benin failed to clear a corner. Awako gave Ghana a convincing advantage ahead of the first round second leg on July 30 when he curled a shot into the roof the net from just inside the box.

Ghana have experienced mixed fortunes in the CHAN - a biennial competition restricted to home-based stars - finishing runners-up in 2009 and 2014 but failing to qualify for the last three editions. In the likely event that they eliminate Benin, Ghana will face arch rivals Nigeria for a place at the 18-nation finals in Algeria. Senegal completed a memorable four

5 NTDC players to represent Pakistan in Commonwealth Games



Spokesman Report

The Spokesman

LAHORE: Five players from different sports disciplines of the National Transmission and Desptach Company (NTDC) have been selected by Pakistan Sports Board to represent Pakistan in the Commonwealth Games 2022 to be held in Birmingham, England.

Olympian and National Champion Mahoor Shahzad (Badminton), South Asian & National Champions Haider Ali, Hanzla Dastgir Butt (Weight Lifting), Qaisar Khan (Judo) and Abdul Hannan Shahid (Hockey) will represent Pakistan in commonwealth games. In a meeting with the Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, the players assured that they will strive hard to secure medals in their respective sports disciplines.

MD NTDC hoped that the players will perform at their best and bring laurels for Pakistan as well as for the NTDC. He said that NTDC will announce performance awards and other benefits for the best performers.

PBCC awards central contracts to 17 players

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Blind cricket Council (PBCC) on Monday awarded central contracts to 17 players who had performed well in the recent domestic and international competitions.

The players would receive a monthly Honorarium for the term of the next six months from July 2022 to December 2022 in categories including Category A (Rs 20,000 per month), Category B (Rs 17,000 per month) & Category C (Rs 15,000 per month).

PBCC has increased the honorarium amount by Rs 2,500 each in all categories

The players include Category A: Badar Munir, Nisar Ali; Category B: Muhammad Rashid, Faisal Mehmood, Riasat Khan, Mati Ullah; Category C: Anees Javed, Moeen Aslam, Muhammad Safdar, Shahzeb Haider, Mohsin Khan, Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Salman, Haroon Khan, Kamran Akhter, Muhammad Shahzeb and Sana Ullah Khan.

Musetti defies odds to lift Hamburg title

HAMBURG: The emotions of lifting his maiden Tour-level trophy will be hard to forget for 20-year-old Italian Lorenzo Musetti, who overcame disrupted preparations and survived a rollercoaster ride at the ATP 500 event in Hamburg.

Musetti had lost his last six matches on the tour before the Hamburg European Open and arrived at the German port city without his bag of rackets. Although he managed to sort out his playing gear in time for the tournament, he then suffered a bout of food poisoning. "I arrived here ... with all the strikes, one of my luggage (bags) got lost.

(It was) the one with the rackets, so I was a little bit worried about how I would play," Musetti told the ATP Tour after his victory on Sunday. "The night before the start of the matches, I threw up all night. I had food poisoning, so I felt a little bit sick. I didn't expect to go as far as I went, so I'm happy that my luck turned around at this tournament."

He was on the brink of his seventh straight loss in the opening round against Serbia's Dusan Lajovic but showed great resilience to save two match points before registering his first Tour-level victory since May. Musetti was playing his first championship final on Sunday while his opponent – Spain's 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz - came into the contest having won all five Tour-level finals he had reached. The Italian wasted five championship points in the second set but found the mental strength to down Alcaraz, who on Monday became the youngest player to break into the world's top five since Rafa Nadal in 2005, 6-4 6-7(6) 6-4 in a thriller. "For me it's a dream.

here with the tyres overheat-great result for us, especially

by 63 points in the drivers' delighted to be second. "It from the back of the grid, standings. "We had good was a tough race as my drinks began his charge. Verstapspeed powered him close ing so we stayed calm," said considering we're so far off the behind Leclerc's Ferrari at the

days for the country ranked No 1 in Africa when they beat Liberia 3-0 in Paynesville with Bouly Sambou, Raymond Ndour and Jean-Louis Diouf scoring before half-time. On Thursday in Morocco, 2022 African Player of the Year Sadio Mane led the way as Senegal topped five of the seven men's categories at the annual awards ceremony. South Africa overcame bungled travel arrangements to defeat the Comoros 1-0 in Moroni through a second-half goal from Khulekani Shezi.

The kick-off was delayed 90 minutes due to the late arrival of the visitors, who dashed from the airport to the stadium and played after a brief warm-up. South Africa have a dismal record in CHAN qualifying, reaching the finals only once in five attempts.

A second tournament appearance in 2014 was due to the country being the hosts. Recently crowned southern Africa champions Zambia are set to reach the second round after forcing a 0-0 draw with Mozambique in Maputo. Eswatini have not won a qualifier since debuting 14 years ago, and the unwanted record stretched to 17 matches after a 0-0 draw against Botswana in Francistown. Apart from automatic qualifiers Algeria, title-holders Morocco and Libya have secured places with the other 15 finalists to be known by September 4.

FIFA gives full international status to CHAN matches and they count toward world rankings.

Sports festival for underprivileged children to start on Tuesday

PESHAWAR: Sports Festival for under-privileged and orphanage children of Zamunga Kor under the aegis of Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be commencing from Tuesday.

The Festival title as "Smile Again" will continue until July 28 wherein the children from Zamung Kor would participate in different Games

Talking to APP, Sports In-charge and former cricketer of the Zamung Kor, Khatijah Khan said that the children were fully ready and more enthusiasts for taking part in different Games to be organized under the aegis of Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The festival would be held in Orphanage Village Zamung Kor situated in Haryana Bala village on main Charsadda Road, Near Khazana Sugar Mills.

She said that all the arrangements had been completed in this regard. She also lauded Director General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Khan, Director Operation Aziz Ullah Jan and Deputy Director Operation Jamshed Khan Baloch for initiating such steps in providing healthy activities for the children of Zamung Kor. APP

Henderson wins second major title at Evian

Henderson birdied the final hole to survive a pressure-packed final round and end her long wait for a second major title at the Evian Championship.

The 2016 Women's PGA champion shot a final-round two bogeys and a double - she patient, made a few birdies on

EVIAN: Canada's Brooke four putted the sixth - in the the way home and the one at tournament last month and first 11 holes. 18 was really special.

But, one behind Schubert, she hit back with birdies at the short 14th and long 15th and was tied for the lead at the closing par-five hole. She pulled her tee shot but hit her third shot to eight feet and

71 for a 17 under par total holed out for victory. "I didn't and claimed the title by a get the start I wanted and it single shot from American certainly wasn't my best day," world number 283 Sophia said Henderson, who led by Schubert, who closed with a three after two 64s and was 68. The 24-year-old Canadi- still in control after her thirdan had led by two overnight, round 68. "But they say majors but struggled to find form in don't start until the back nine the ideal final-day conditions on Sunday and I kept that in and fell out of the lead after my mind. "I managed to stay

now this. I feel I've got a real-I'm super excited to win my ly good mind-set and now I'm second major and my 12th just hoping to continue with win on Tour." Only 18 when the same form." The 26-yearshe won her first major, it old Schubert, a former US Women's Amateur champihas taken an unexpectedly long time for number two to on, fell just short of a fairvtale

come round. Part of the turnsuccess. But second place for the LPGA rookie marked an around is thanks to a new incredible breakthrough. putting technique and leaving the flag in the cup. "I took "I was just trying to stay calm coming down the stretch a break a couple of months ago and went home and spent and didn't know until the last time with my Mum and Dad hole where I stood," revealed he's my coach — and my Schubert, whose one profes-

sister, Brittany (her caddie) sional victory came on the also helped me work on a few Symetra Tour in 2019. "I decided not to look at the lead-"I came back and won a erboards.

Record-breaking Duplantis soars at worlds

EUGENE: Armand Duplantis second time of asking. wrapped up the World Athletics Championships in Eugene at Hayward Field went wild in stunning fashion on Sunday, as Duplantis sprinted to see setting a new world record in the pole vault as the curtain came down on the 10-day global track and field extravaganza.

The gripping finale could not whose new mark bettered by have been any better scripted for the first world championships ever to be held on American soil - apart from the fact maybe that the US-born and raised Duplantis was wearing the yellow and blue of Sweden and not representing the Stars and Stripes.

As the furious hullaboo of the frenzied 4x400m relays won by the US men and women died down, all eyes turned on Duplantis. And the 22-year-old Swede did not disappoint, sailing with ease over 6.21 metres at the

The packed, raucous crowd his father and coach Greg and plant a kiss on girlfriend Desire Inglander. "It is great, I cannot complain!" said Duplantis, hurdles. 1cm his previous best set when winning gold at the World Indoor Championships in Belgrade in March. It was his fifth world record, and third this year. "Actually, I did not

things in my game.

today," he said. "Usually, it is always somewhere in the back of my mind but today, I was really focused on the win and I really wanted to win the gold so badly. It was the medal I was missing. "I love jumping in Eugene and

think about the record that much

figure the next heights right now. I am going to have a bit time off with my family and my friends." Unheralded Nigerian Tobi Amusan had earlier stolen the show with two electric runs on her way to gold in the 100m

In the very first event of a loaded evening of track, people had barely had chance to sit down with their sodas and popcorn before Amusan rocketed to a new world record of 12.12 seconds in the semi-finals. When she retook to the track later in the session, the Nigerian stormed to victory in 12.06sec, although a tailwind speed of 2.5 metres per second meant it wouldn't go down in the freshly-inked record books. "The goal was to come out and to win this gold. I just did it," said

it was amazing here. I cannot Amusan, who finished ahead of Jamaica's Britany Anderson and Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico. "I believe in my abilities but I was not expecting a world record at these championships."

American Athing Mu lived up to her hype by adding the world 800m title to her Olympic crown. Mu, still only 20 years of age, was forced to dig deep to hold off British rival Keeley Hodgkinson in a thrilling battle down the final straight before taking gold in a world-leading 1min 56.30sec. "I'm just glad I made it to the line to finish the race, and thankfully I won gold. I just physically wasn't where I would like to be," Mu said.

Another gold medallist from last year's Tokyo Olympics, Malaika Mihambo, won



Germany a long-awaited medal wanted to prove that I'm a better as she retained her world long jump title. But Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei floundered in a 5000m race won convincingly by Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who bounced back from the disappointment of silver in the

runner than the rest of the guys. "It was a great race.

I ran it, I needed it. I felt really good today, but 5km is really tough." In the absence through injury of Olympic champion Damian Warner of Canada, Felix bagged a 20th world medal 1500m. "I didn't want a sprint France's Kevin Mayer seized the as she was a squad member who finish," Ingebrigtsen said. "I moment to claim a second world ran in Saturday's heats.

decathlon gold. Mayer accrued 8,816 points after 10 disciplines over two days to follow up on previous world gold in 2017 in London. Consolidating their place atop the medals table with a world championship record of 33 (13 gold, nine silver, 11 bronze), the United States claimed emphatic victories in both 4x400m relay finals, much to the delight of the partisan crowd.

Strength in depth saw record-breaking 400m hurdles gold medallist Sydney McLaughlin anchor the women and individual 400m winner Michael Norman take a leg for the men's quartet. The women's victory meant the now-retired Allyson