



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے محمد بن یوسف نے بیان کیا، کہا ہم سے شیخان ثوری نے بیان کیا، ان سے اعش نے، ان سے ذکان نے اور ان سے ابوسعید خدری رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: ہذا خنفسہ وقت میں پڑھا کرو، کیونکہ گری کی شدت جہنم کی بھاپ سے پیڑ ہوتی ہے۔ (بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3259)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

I appreciate SC judges for upholding constitution; Imran Khan
Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan says I appreciate our SC judges for standing firm & upholding the Constitution & law, against all manner of threats & abuse. Thankful to Barrister Ali Zafar, his team as well as the people of Punjab for coming out in unprecedented numbers in by-elections against rigging.



Parliament must limit SC's power: Babar
Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Farhatullah Babar says parliamentarian and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leadership must limit the Supreme Court of Pakistan's power. Parliamentarians/ PDM, if you care about restoring the balance of powers then read Art 191 and act decisively. Or stop grumbling. A new political philosophy in the making: Constitution, not parliament, is supreme and Constitution is not what's written in it but what the SC says it is.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 27, Wednesday, July 27, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 118

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Baseless & misguided

Pakistan rejects Indian MEA's remarks on CPEC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejects baseless and misguided remarks made by the Official Spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in an effort to politicize the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

CPEC is a transformational project and a harbinger of stability, mutual cooperation and shared development for the region. As a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative and hallmark of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, CPEC provides a vehicle for the people of the region to break from zero-sum approaches. China's investment in CPEC has helped Pakistan overcome the energy and infrastructural bottlenecks that once constrained growth and development.

Attempts to cast aspersions over CPEC show India's insecurity as well as the pursuit of a hegemonic agenda that has held back socio-economic development in South Asia for decades.

While rejecting India's fallacious assertion that CPEC impinges on its "sovereignty and territorial integrity", it is pointed out that it is in fact India that is illegally occupying the state of Jammu & Kashmir for over seven decades while perpetrating gross and widespread human rights violations and effectuating blatant territorial and demographic changes in the occupied territory in complete contravention of international law and relevant UNSC resolutions.

India's attempts to mislead the international community about the status of Jammu and Kashmir and to hide its atrocities against the Kashmiri people will never succeed.

Economy in sight

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Finance Division Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Not such a bad idea

No harm in Army Chief's early appointment: President

Calls for consultative process to overcome economic woes

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has said that there is no harm in early appointment of the Army Chief. President in a conversation with senior journalists, said that he does not have any authority to mediate any grand dialogue. He said it is not a bad idea to appoint the next chief of army staff before the time fixed for appointment — November. The head of the state said that in his personal opinion clear mandate is essential. He clarified that he did not commit any treachery and said if anyone has committed it, they should be held accountable. The president was asked what he thinks of the suggestion that the new army chief be appointed in advance due to the ongoing political crisis in the country. "It's not such a bad

idea," he said in response.

Arif Alvi said that the threatening cypher should be thoroughly investigated so that people can know its reality. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto has tried to mend ties with United States and stressed that even America does not want to sabotage its relationship with Pakistan. Alvi added that the impression that he and the PM have a tense relationship is false. A total of 74 summaries were sent to me since this government took charge, I signed 69 of them immediately, he said. President Dr Arif Alvi said that there was a need for the political parties to find solutions to financial and economic woes faced by the country through a consultative process and to take steps to manage the rising inflation.

He made these remarks during

an interaction with media persons here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President said that as uncertain political and economic situation in any country can expand polarization in society which was detrimental to everyone's interest, therefore, all stakeholders should take meaningful steps to bring about political and economic stability through a consultative process while remaining within the bounds of the Constitution and relevant laws of the country. He said that all pillars of the state and institutions should play their constitutional role while remaining within the bounds of law for holding free and fair elections, whenever held, to pave the path for the setting up a government which truly reflected the aspirations and hopes of the people of

Pakistan.

"Only a government that comes to power through transparent, free and fair elections can provide much-needed political, financial and economic stability to the country", he said according to a press release issued here by the President's Media Wing. The President said that he had good working relationship with the current government and had no confrontation with the Prime Minister. He stated that he had received 74 summaries from the present government out of which 69 summaries had been assented to without any delay. "The Budget bill was signed immediately as it was received", he added. The President said that he didn't receive any directions from the PTI's leadership in relation to his official duties and conduct.

Depleting reserves

Pakistan borrows \$22.5b in FY22

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has obtained total foreign loans of \$22.5 billion in fiscal year 2021-22, including highly expensive \$2.24 billion commercial loans just last month (June 2022) to avoid rapid depletion of foreign currency reserves. Due to the government's inability to restart the IMF programme, Islamabad was unable to obtain budgetary/policy loans from multilateral creditors and had to rely on loan disbursements for project financing. In such a case, the government would have to rely on commercial loans, bilateral deposits, the issuance of international bonds, and guaranteed loans to bridge the financing gaps.

However, the external debt repayments and increased imports bill resulted in depleting of foreign currency reserves and the foreign exchange reserves declined from \$20 billion to below \$10 billion till June 30, 2022. Till July 15, 2022, the foreign exchange reserves had further declined to \$9.3 billion, The

News reported. In bilateral lenders, Saudi Arabia has become the largest lender in the last fiscal year and provided over \$400 million in FY2022. The Economic Affairs Division (EAD) data showed the government received total loans and grants of \$17 billion (\$16.98 billion exactly) in the last fiscal year 2021-22 ended on June 30, 2022 against \$14.2 billion received in the previous fiscal year 2020-21.

However, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, they received \$4.606 billion in Roshan Digital Accounts out of which \$2.9 billion were received for Naya Pakistan Certificate till June 22, 2022. Pakistan also received \$1 billion tranche from the IMF after completion of the 6th Review under the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) in February 2022. According to the official data released by EAD, Islamabad received \$4.8 billion from multilateral creditors during the last fiscal year out of which the Asian Development Bank (ADB) disbursed a loan of \$1.62 billion.

Up to 80%

Gas for export sectors made costlier

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The incumbent government has increased gas prices for the export industry by up to 80pc. The rate of gas per mmBtu for the export-oriented sector has been increased by Rs530 and has been fixed at Rs1,350 per mmBtu from Rs820. The rate for general industry has been increased from Rs850 per mmBtu and now has been fixed at Rs1,550 per mmBtu.

This will mostly apply in Sindh where the current price for export and general industry stands at Rs820 and

Rs853 per mmBtu, respectively, showing an increase of almost 65pc and 82pc.

Defending the recent increase, spokesperson for the Finance ministry, Rana Ahsan Afzal said increasing prices of electricity and gas for the industrial sector was inevitable. He further said that the government is still providing gas to the export-oriented industries at the concessionary rate. The spokesperson said the government has allocated Rs40 billion for the subsidies to the export-oriented industries so that they can compete in the international market.

Timely wheat import saves \$10.3m

PM reviews current reserves of wheat in country

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As a result of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's timely decision on the second tender of wheat import, the government has saved \$US10.3 million of the national treasury, the meeting on wheat reserves informed on Tuesday. The review meeting chaired by PM Sharif on wheat stocks highlighted that the prime minister's instruction for the second tender of wheat import of 300,000 metric tons saved US\$34.54 per metric ton. The meeting attended by federal ministers Miftah Ismail, Syed Naveed Qamar, Tariq Bashir Cheema, and relevant senior officials was told that the current wheat production in the country was estimated at 26.389 MMT while the previous year's reserves were 1.806 MMT.

In view of the total reserves of 28.199MMT against the total national demand of 30.79MMT and to eliminate the gap between demand and reserves, the government had decided to import wheat in a time-



ly manner through the Economic Coordination Committee. On cutting the per metric ton price reduction in tender, he lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Food Security, and other relevant ministries. PM Sharif stressed holding consultation with an international expert to ensure devise a strategy for import of quality and quantity of wheat. The meeting was informed that the materialization of the government's agreement with Russia for the import of two million metric tons of wheat was in the final stages. Furthermore, the meeting discussed in detail the progress on the import of wheat through Gwadar port. The prime minister issued instructions for effective measures for the import of wheat through Gwadar port.

a food crisis due to the lack of planning of the previous government. Injustice has been done to the 220 million people of the country by not making comprehensive plans for meeting the demand and supply of wheat, he added. PM Sharif stressed holding consultation with an international expert to ensure devise a strategy for import of quality and quantity of wheat. The meeting was informed that the materialization of the government's agreement with Russia for the import of two million metric tons of wheat was in the final stages. Furthermore, the meeting discussed in detail the progress on the import of wheat through Gwadar port. The prime minister issued instructions for effective measures for the import of wheat through Gwadar port.

Miftah, Bilawal discuss political, economic scene

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail held a meeting with Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here Tuesday during which current political and economic situation of the country was discussed. According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, various financial issues related to Pakistan's Missions abroad and Ministry of Foreign Affairs also came upto discussion during the meeting.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha; Coordinator to PM on Commerce and Industry, Rana Ihsan Afzal; Foreign Secretary, Chairman FBR and senior officers of Finance Division and Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present in the meeting. Miftah Ismail extended warm welcome to the Foreign Minister on his arrival at finance division, the statement added.

Rs 3.50 per unit

Cabinet okays power tariff hike: Khurram

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir on Tuesday said the Federal Cabinet had decided to increase the power tariff with special directives to the Power Ministry for protecting the poor consumers from its impact. Addressing a press conference along with Minister of State for Petroleum Musadiq Malik, he said that Rs 3.50 per unit hike in the tariff would be from July 26 while another Rs 3.50 per unit increase would be from the next month while 90 paise from October.

He said first three months would be difficult for the consumers but the power prices would start decreasing from November after reflection of fuel surcharge in the tariff. The hike would have no such impact on the consumers as the increase had already been reflected in the monthly bills on account of fuel prices adjustment, he added. Khurram said the cabinet had also decided to provide smooth and uninterrupted power supply round the clock to the dedicated industrial feeders to protect the livelihoods of the people.

Similarly, minimum load-management would be carried out on mix-industrial feeders, he added. He said it was also decided to provide both gas and electricity on priority basis to five major export sectors on reduced rates. An announcement to this effect would be made soon, he added. He



said they would give the tariff that was close to the regional countries in order to enhance the country's exports. He said the cabinet was also informed about power shortfall in last month. However, power generation has significantly jumped owing to increase hydel generation from Tarbela and resumption of 1100 MW from nuclear power plant K-2. Currently, hydel generation from Tarbela stood at 4500 MW, he added.

The minister said the country's economy had gradually been strengthening and the power supply had also witnessed ups and down. The prime minister was personally monitoring the entire situation, he added. Replying to a question, he said the incumbent government inherited Rs 2467 billion circular debt which

had been brought down by Rs 214 billion in short term. Steps were also being taken to reduce line losses, he added. Coming hard on the previous PTI government, the minister said Imran's government delayed main power projects including 1320 MW Shanghai Thar Coal, 1200 MW Trimmu RLNG, 1320 MW Jamshoro and 720 MW Karot hydropower to provide benefit to their blue eyed.

To another question, the minister said entire tunnel of Neelum Jhelum was being de-watered to assess real issue while Gwadu power plant was generating 460 MW. Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadiq Malik expressed confidence that the electricity price would start coming down from October-November due to effective policies of the government.

Stand-by

ISLAMABAD: A view of prisoners van stand outside Supreme Court during hearing a case against the disputed ruling of deputy speaker in Punjab assembly over the election of the provincial chief minister, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

No dept
exempted from
audit: PAC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Noor Alam Khan Tuesday said all the public departments were bound to conduct audits regularly as no department was exempted from audit as per constitution. During his visit along with a delegation of the PAC to the office of Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) here, the PAC Chairman said no department can be given permission to give it exemption from the audit.

Taking keen interest in the modern system of the audit, the delegation stressed the need to focus on forensic audit. The delegation comprising members of the Committee Sardar Riaz Mazari MNA, Dr Afzal Khan MNA, Wajaha Qamar MNA, Nuzhat Pathan MNA, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed visited various section of the office.

Later, AGP Muhammad Afzal Gondal briefed the delegation on the working of the Audit Department.

CM Punjab election

SC turns down PA's
Deputy Speaker's ruling

Elahi is now CM Punjab, rules Supreme Court, removes Hamza

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday turned down the ruling of Punjab Assembly deputy speaker in the chief minister's re-election case. A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar announced the decision, which was reserved earlier today. According to the verdict, Chaudhary Pervez Elahi would now take over the position of chief minister as Hamza Shehbaz lost his status of trustee chief minister.

The court, in its short order, also declared all the appointments made by Hamza Shehbaz as illegal and directed his cabinet members to vacate their offices. The 11-page order authored by the CJP stated: "The office shall immediately communicate/ transmit a copy of this order to the Governor Punjab, Deputy Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Lahore as well as Chief Secretary, Punjab for implementation and compliance of the same."

"All acts, deeds and things lawfully done or purported to be done by Deputy Speaker and or any Member of the Provincial Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution and the law under colour of office are hereby saved and protected under the de facto doctrine subject to all just and legal exceptions and such review, modification, reversal or withdrawal as may be deemed appropriate by the incoming Chief Minister, Punjab and any member of the Cabinet or other officer appointed by him in accordance with law."

The court further directed the Punjab governor to arrange and administer oath of office to the petitioner as the duly elected chief minister of Punjab in accordance with law and the Constitution not later than 11:30 pm tonight. "In case, the Governor, Punjab was unable or unwilling to administer such oath, the President of Pakistan may forthwith administer oath of office to the petitioner as Chief Minister, Punjab." It further stated, "All Advisors, Special Advisors and Special Assistants by whatever name called appointed by, on behalf or under orders/advice

of Respondent No 2 would immediately and forthwith cease to hold office, their appointment is declared

illegal and without lawful authority and the respondent No.2, the persons appointed as Ministers on his advice and the aforementioned persons are relieved of their offices/posts with immediate effect."

The order further read, "In consequence of the foregoing, it is declared that Respondent No.2 not being the duly elected Chief Minister, the oath of office administered to him was and is without lawful authority and of no legal effect. Likewise all acts, deeds and things attendant and consequent upon such oath including but not limited to the notification of Respondent No.2 and the formation and swearing in of the Cabinet on his advice is also declared to be without lawful authority and of no legal effect."

"We direct the Chief Secretary, Punjab (Respondent No.3) to immediately and forthwith and on announcement of this short order issue the requisite notification declaring the petitioner as the duly elected Chief Minister, Punjab."

Khar to represent Pak at
D-8 FMs' Council

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will represent Pakistan at the 20th Developing-Eight (D-8) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting hosted by Bangladesh in hybrid format today (Wednesday). The D-8 Group was established in Istanbul on 15 June 1997. In addition to Pakistan, its founding members include Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Türkiye. Housed in Istanbul, the Organization is currently led by Ambassador Isaiaka Abdulqadir Imam of Nigeria, who assumed the position of Secretary-General on 1 January 2022.

With a combined population of more than 1.1 billion people from eight developing economies of the Muslim world, D-8 is a unique cross-regional inter-governmental Organization, stretching from Southeast Asia to Africa. D-8 Member States represent 60 percent of the world Muslim population and have an annual GDP of nearly US \$4.92 trillion. The D-8 presents a robust platform to promote economic growth, trade and development, and enhanced connectivity amongst some of the world's largest Muslim countries, as well as to forge common approaches to international economic

issues and architecture.

The Organization also aims to enhance social, cultural and scientific cooperation besides promoting trade, connectivity and ease of business amongst its members. With the intra-D-8 trade target of US \$500 billion conceived under the Decennial Road Map 2020-30, the Minister of State would be encouraging D-8 countries to swiftly implement the existing Preferential Trade Agreement and further expand the remit of their multi-sectoral cooperation. Besides, prospects and implementation of the D-8 Payment Card System, D-8 Barter Trade System and promotion of D-8 Creative Economy such a halal food will also come under discussion. Considering the Organization's strong potential, Azerbaijan has also applied for D-8 membership, which Pakistan welcomes.

Pakistan hosted the 8th D-8 Summit in November 2012. Pakistan has also hosted two Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meetings, several D-8 Commissions meeting, and various sectoral interactions.

Pakistan's University of Agriculture, Faisalabad has been declared as the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture. Pakistan plans to host the 4th Senior Officials and 3rd D-8 Ministerial meeting on Tourism this year.

Vandalism

ATC rejects Ejaz Ch
interim bail plea

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Anti-terrorism Court on Tuesday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ejaz Chaudhry's plea of interim bail in the long march vandalism case. The court rejected Ejaz's plea after he did not appear before the court personally as the court had rejected his request of one-day exemption from appearing in the hearing of the case.

A case has been filed against Chaudhry in two police stations of Lahore, Gulberg and Bhatti Gate. On the other hand, ATC extended interim bail of other PTI leaders including Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Hammad Azhar and others.

Among the PTI leaders, Hammad Azhar, Yasmin Rashid, Aslam Iqbal, Jamshed Iqbal Cheema, Musarat Cheema, Shafiqat Mehmood, Mahmood-ur-Rashid, Andalib Abbas, Murad Ras, Yasir Gilani, Zubair Niazi and others appeared. On behalf of the accused, Burhan Muazzam Advocate sought time for arguments after which ATC extended the interim bail of PTI leaders till August 5.

Politicians rejecting
public decision 'real
issue: Fawad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday underscored that politicians rejecting the public decision is the real problem in Pakistan. In a statement on Twitter, the PTI leader while criticizing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership said that Hamza would have resigned after the Punjab Chief Minister election if he followed the democratic approach.

Instead of considering the democratic move, they are devising the policy to remain in power, he added. Further shaming the opposition leaders with accusations of buying the Deputy Speaker's support and blackmailing the courts, he posed a question saying that after all this how could they stay in the government? He pointed out that things won't work this way as in the present time the public witnesses and decides. "Now is the era of individuality, everyone decides for itself," he said.

Political crisis

Rupee continues to sink against US dollar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to lose ground against the US dollar on Tuesday, hitting a new low in the interbank market as the financial markets remained jittery amid an ongoing political crisis. The local unit closed at Rs232.93 in the interbank market, up from Rs229.88 a day earlier, as it shed Rs3.05 or 1.31% against the dollar, data from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) showed. The rupee has been one of the world's worst-performing currencies, slumping more than 30% since the start of the year (2022).

Shortage of dollars, political and economic uncertainty tagged with

ambiguity regarding commitment from friendly countries, which is needed for disbursement of IMF tranche were the reasons behind rupee's persistent slide. Fears have risen about Pakistan's stuttering economy as its currency fell nearly 8% against the US dollar in the last trading week, while the country's forex reserves stand below \$10 billion with inflation at the highest in more than a decade.

The dollar is getting stronger in the global market almost against all the world currencies — and the rupee is not an exception. In addition Pakistan's external account issues are not settled as yet though imports are slowing. Although the International Monetary Fund is on board for disbursement,

the flows are yet to materialise as the Executive Board's final approval is awaited. Global rating agencies have put a negative outlook on the economy, so that is an additional burden that is weighing in on the financial markets in general and forex market in particular.

The rise in political uncertainty — of whether the present government will remain in office long enough to stabilise the economy and the continued confusion around who governs the Punjab province — is causing the rupee to slip. Note that balance of payments pressure on the currency have eased, as per the central bank, which asserts that Pakistan has enough capital commitments for the next 12 months to take care of its dollar outflows.

Rule of law, people's mandate respected
today: Qureshi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following the verdict of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to instate PTI's candidate Pervez Elahi as the chief minister of Punjab, the party's senior vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that today, the Constitution's rule has been accepted and the Pakistani people's mandate has been respected. On July 17, the people of Pakistan accepted Imran Khan's narrative wholeheartedly and we reject this imported government, the ex-foreign minister said in a press conference.

A three-member bench of the Supreme Court today declared Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's



ruling in the Punjab Chief Minister election illegal and ruled that Pervez Elahi will be the new CM of the province. Berating the deputy speaker's ruling, Qureshi said Mazari trampled the Constitution and did not follow the principles, adding that he did not care about the law.

He said that the judiciary tolerated

the criticism with patience and fulfilled its responsibility. The coalition government tried to employ delaying tactics to intimidate the judiciary. Qureshi said that the decision has proved that Pakistan's judiciary is independent. Former minister for planning and development Asad Umar said that Pakistan's politics has taken a new direction. "There was a foreign conspiracy; however, Imran Khan did not bow before anyone or tolerate anyone's dictation," he said. PTI's Senator Faisal Javed termed the decision as Imran Khan's victory and said that the decision was according to the law and Constitution, adding that the party wants the general elections to be announced immediately.

Judicial coup

Coalition govt strongly reacts to Supreme Court's ruling

This is the murder of justice: Maryam : Nawaz says order made "mockery" of the country

ISLAMABAD/LONDON: The coalition government Tuesday strongly responded to the Supreme Court's verdict to place Pervez Elahi as Punjab's chief minister, removing Hamza Shahbaz from the province's top office. The Supreme Court declared Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari's ruling in the Punjab Chief Minister's election "illegal" and ruled that PTI's candidate Pervez Elahi will be the new CM of the province.

"Judicial coup," PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said in a tweet, who had hours before the verdict asked the government to take a firm stand on the matter. She also termed the decision "the murder of justice." PML-N supremo and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif took to his Twitter to

"salute the three judges", who heard the case. "[Order] has made a mockery of Pakistan," he wrote.

Maryam says decision to
further divide nation

In a press conference, Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb said it was "clear" a day earlier that this decision will be announced today.

"This decision is tantamount to judicial coup [...] and this will lead to further anarchy and divide the nation.



More than half of the people of Pakistan do not accept this," Aurangzeb said. The information minister said



that the majority of political parties demanded a full court to hear the case as this bench "is considered a biased



bench". Aurangzeb added that the petition filed for a full court to hear the case had already shown that it had



"no confidence in the current bench" and today's decision shows that the decision to file the plea was right.

In his tweet, Labour Minister Sindh and PPP leader Saeed Ghani said he was amazed that the top court instructed either the governor or the president to administer the oath to Elahi. "If we say something, then they will hold us in contempt," Ghani said. Talking to Geo News, PML-N leader Talal Chaudhry said that his party does not accept the top court's "one-sided" decision and that they would now approach the "people's court". "We do not accept this one-sided decision, we were not heard," Chaudhry said, mentioning that the PML-N has been facing "injustice" since 2017.

Khurshid Shah for complete restoration of Naleem Jhelum Hydro Project

Federal Minister for Water Resources says there should be no delay in taking practical steps to restore the project

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah said that all other measures including the services of international consultants should be taken immediately for the complete restoration of Neelum Jhelum hydro project to increase the production of electricity.

While giving necessary instructions in this regard, he said that there should be no delay in taking practical steps to restore the project after making TORs and other necessary actions.

Federal Minister for Power Khurram

Dastgir and Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar and Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmad Shah were given a detailed briefing on the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project in the National Assembly here on Tuesday, said a press release.

The Federal Law Minister said that concrete steps should be taken for the Neelum Jhelum early restoration program.

Federal Minister Khurram Dastgir said that after the agreements with various firms for rehabilitation, the restoration work of Neelum Jhelum

project will be completed in minimum time.

That was the first meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee formed on the Neelum Jhelum Restoration Project. Federal Secretary Water Resources Kazim Niaz and Chairman WAPDA also participated in the meeting.

It was informed in the briefing that steps are being taken to restore the Neelum Jhelum project as soon as possible and the speed of restoration work will be accelerated in the light of the committee's instructions. Agencies

Monsoon Rains

HYDERABAD: People use handmade boats for travel in Fatima Jinnah Colony, who are trapped in rain water, inundated in their houses and area.



Photo: Online



LAHORE: Honorary Consul of Tunisia for KP & Punjab (Ammad Rasheed & Muhammad Hameed) meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman at Governor House.

NHA clarifies about Hub bridge

ISLAMABAD: The Spokesperson of the National Highway Authority has said that the news story regarding land connection between Sindh and Balochistan provinces has been cut due to the demolition of the Hub Bridge on the Karachi-Quetta National Highway (N-25), is not based on reality. The traffic is plying through the Hub ByPass. According to the details, the bridge on the Hub River on the National Highway (N-25) connecting Karachi to Balochistan has been collapsed as a result of recent heavy rains and resultant floods. PR

Pak Army, FC South distribute food, ration bags among flood victims

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps (FC) South distributed cooked food and ration bags among flood affected here in flood affected village Ranwal in outskirts of Tank.

According to details, cooked food was distributed to more than 400 people and ration bags to thirty families.

The district administration also distributed tents among the flood affected families of Ranwal village. Due to heavy rains, the water inundated the village and later flash floods caused damages to various houses.

Pak Army, FC South, District Administration, Rescue 1122, local police,



volunteers has immediately mobilized to rescue affected areas people and provide all possible facilitation. The affected people highly appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Army, FC South and the district administration for great efforts to rescue people. They also demanded that government should give compensation to the affected people, they also demanded an immediate survey to ascertain the losses of people in the affected village.

Public Notice

"Kingdom Valley Phase-II" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Chooria Tehsil & District Rawalpindi. Public is hereby informed that Mr. Ghulam Hussain son of Noor Muhammad (CNIC#36104-4844291-5) Chief Executive Officer Kingdom Valley Pvt Ltd Rawalpindi. Office Address- 172, Block "Y" Commercial Area, Phase-III, DHA Lahore. has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Housing Scheme comprising an area 1400-Kanal located in Mouza Chooria Tehsil & District Rawalpindi. The detail of area is as under:-

| Khatoni No. | Khatoni No. | Total Area | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|-----|-----|
| | | K | M | Sft |
| 78 & 771 | 292 to 293 | 08 | 16 | 39 |
| 56 | 160 | 01 | 01 | 109 |
| 120 & 118 | 443 | 03 | 03 | 135 |
| 152 & 149 | 511 to 517 | 07 | 07 | 217 |
| 49 | 150 | 13 | | |
| 189 & 186 | 638 & 639 | 16 | 16 | 144 |
| 185 & 182 | 634 | 01 | 19 | 96 |
| 114 & 112 | 425 & 436 | 02 | 18 | 10 |
| 83 & 82 | 322 & 326 | 16 | 01 | 181 |
| 163 & 160 | 548 | 10 | 68 | |
| 40 | 120 & 121 | 02 | | |
| 4 | 38 & 39 | 09 | 05 | 78 |
| 23 | 86 | 19 | 12 | |
| 165 & 162 | 553 to 555 | 03 | 15 | 243 |
| 176 & 173 | 608 | 19 | 80 | |
| 03 | 37 | 01 | | |
| 174 & 171 | 603 to 606 | 04 | 07 | 16 |
| 58 | 168 to 180 | 04 | 02 | |
| 110 & 108 | 410 to 414 | 08 | | 22 |
| 168 & 165 | 562 to 594 | 73 | 08 | 22 |
| 76 | 271 to 284 | 39 | 08 | 204 |
| 36 | 112 to 113 | 03 | | |
| 182 & 179 | 630 | 63 | 15 | 208 |
| 53 | 157 | 01 | 91 | |
| 95 & 94 | 359 to 364 | 17 | 10 | 91 |
| 01 | 01 to 05 | 17 | 90 | |
| 57 | 161 to 167 | 04 | 04 | 109 |
| 90 & 89 | 348 to 349 | 10 | 05 | 101 |
| 84 & 83 | 327 | 10 | 02 | |
| 22 | 85 | | 136 | |
| 35 | 110 & 111 | 17 | | |
| 181 & 178 | 626 to 629 | 04 | 08 | 174 |
| 177 & 174 | 609 to 611 | 05 | 04 | 154 |
| 96 & 95 | 365 to 367 | 01 | 01 | 90 |
| 66 | 228 to 242 | 02 | 18 | 204 |
| 02 | 06 to 36 | 58 | 09 | 151 |
| 09 | 45 | 53 | 18 | |
| 184 & 181 | 632 & 633 | 07 | 19 | 90 |
| 85 & 84 | 328 to 334 | 02 | 09 | 121 |
| 111 & 109 | 415 to 418 | 08 | 256 | |
| 24 | 87 to 93 | 03 | 04 | |
| 69 | 245 | 02 | 136 | |
| 107 & 105 | 393 to 394 | 03 | 61 | |
| 169 & 166 | 595 to 598 | 06 | 01 | 148 |
| 147 & 144 | 503 & 504 | 02 | 04 | |
| 92 & 91 | 351 & 356 | 15 | 136 | |
| 47 | 143 to 148 | 12 | 204 | |
| 73 | 264 & 265 | 04 | 18 | 107 |
| 87 & 86 | 336 | 08 | 151 | |
| 74/2 | 267 | 17 | 121 | |
| 15 | 62 to 64 | 106 | 04 | 256 |
| 75 | 270 | 02 | 18 | 31 |
| 118 & 116 | 440 & 441 | 06 | 06 | 84 |
| 32 | 103 | 05 | 91 | |
| 133 & 131 | 471 to 475 | 03 | 19 | 240 |
| 180 & 177 | 615 to 625 | 09 | 17 | 151 |
| 192 & 189 | 642 | 01 | 13 | 134 |
| 112 & 110 | 419 & 423 | 02 | 09 | 151 |
| 125 & 123 | 446 | 11 | 190 | |
| 135 & 133 | 478 | 04 | | |
| 158 & 155 | 538 & 540 | 03 | 011 | 205 |
| 70 | 246 & 249 | 40 | 09 | |
| 178 & 175 | 612 to 616 | 02 | 05 | 54 |
| 128 & 126 | 466 | 05 | 02 | 136 |
| 132 & 130 | 470 | 01 | 271 | |
| 77 | 285 to 291 | 20 | 12 | 136 |
| 123 & 121 | 446 | 01 | 121 | |
| 86 & 85 | 335 | 08 | | |
| 175 & 172 | 607 | 04 | 05 | 197 |
| 136 & 134 | 479 to 490 | 04 | 02 | 151 |
| 136 | 479 to 490 | 04 | 08 | 90 |
| 82 & 81 | 304 to 321 | 39 | 16 | |

ANY PERSON having objection against sanction of "Kingdom Valley Phase-II" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Chooria Tehsil & District Rawalpindi or ownership/title of land mentioned above may, within FIFTEEN DAYS of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained. (The notice shall not be taken as commitment of Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for sanction of the scheme).

AZHAR SAEED AWAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PUNJAB HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING AGENCY
AIRPORT LINE ROAD NEAR WATER TANK
GULZAR-E-QUAID RAWALPINDI
PHONE NO.051-5191753

Meta, Zindagi Trust partner to launch child safety drive

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Meta and Zindagi Trust are collaborating to launch a broad-based awareness and stakeholder engagement campaign to curb the spread of harmful content related to child safety in online space. Under the arrangement, a series of policy roundtables will be organised with local CSOs and policy stakeholders working in the areas of both digital safety and child rights. The partnering institutions will also carry forward their on-going campaign to raise awareness regarding actions individual social media users can take to curb the spread of content depicting abuse or violence against children across cyberspace.

The first of the series of three roundtables was held this week at one of the Zindagi Trust Schools in Karachi. These roundtables are expected to provide a conducive platform for meaningful engagement amongst local organisations to give recommendations to Meta as well as key government agencies including, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA),

Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) and other important industry stakeholders to tackle the sensitive issues pertaining to child safety in Pakistan. The prime objective of this program is to raise awareness on the harms of sharing such content and the importance of reporting through existing mechanisms and methods of reporting malicious content on social media. The campaign uses informative videos to educate social media users about reporting inappropriate content through proper channels instead of sharing it on social media, which can cause further harm to young victims.

Sharing his thoughts regarding the campaign, Founder and President-Zindagi Trust, Shehzad Roy said: "Whenever I used to encounter disturbing content, my first instinct was to share it so it could help find the perpetrator. However, I have realised that the content can be distressing for many viewers, is illegal, and is a breach of privacy of the victims."

Further fuel, power inflation inevitable as dollar crosses 230: Chawla

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has categorically forewarned the government that there is no other way than to raise petroleum and electricity prices even further; if the dollar continues to rise and stays above Rs. 230 per dollar as observed on Monday's Intra-Day Intra-Bank session. Suleman Chawla emphasized that all the gains on the back of a substantive and progressive decline in the international oil prices over the past many weeks will be nullified as the government will have no buffer to pass on the relief to the masses due to further weakened rupee.

Acting FPCCI Chief maintained that the business, industry and trade community of the entire Pakistan is in shock and awe over the government's economic mismanagement, maladministration, absence of prudence and lack of vision—as only keeping the exchange rate stable in the vicinity of Rs. 190 would have enabled the government

to reduce the petroleum prices by at least another 5 percent. It would have provided a breathing space to the businesses and the economy alike, he added.

Suleman Chawla noted with bated breath that despite the bloodbath in the forex market, the government has failed to appoint the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan; which, in turn, has rendered the central bank into a rudderless ship.

Action FPCCI President has reiterated the demand of the apex body to appoint a competent, pro-business and pro-growth SBP governor at the earliest to help eliminate the speculative trading, barrage of misinformation and scarcity of dollars to the importers.

Suleman Chawla has demanded that the government must fix the dollar rate for 15 days as the country can no longer afford the free floating exchange rate. We, as a nation, do not have many choices at hand and we do not have any time left; the government must act now and act decisively, he added.

Milestone Achievement

NTDC BOD approves Grid Code 2022

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: A big day and milestone achievement by NTDC, the Board of Director NTDC has approved draft Grid Code 2022 for onward submission to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). The Grid Code is prepared on international standards by NTDC team, which is an essential requirement of the regulation of electric network supply and delivery system.

NTDC team has completed the revised Grid Code in the light of upcoming CTBCM market, new technologies, new voltage levels and increased penetration of Renewable Energy in Pakistan's Power Sector including KE.

TCL launches latest iFFALCON S52 Android Smart TV

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's No.1 LED TV Brand, TCL has launched a new brand iFFALCON, with its S52 Smart Android LED Series which will be exclusively available on Daraz with Free Shipping, Early Bird Discount, Easy Monthly Installments and it will come with 2 Year Brand Warranty covered by TCL Electronics Pakistan.

The brand new S52 incorporates HDR 10, Dolby Audio, Micro Dimming and FHD* to provide a cinematic experience to its customers. Full HD (FHD) provides a viewing experience with 2x the clarity of standard HD TVs. HDR 10 lets you experience a wider colour gamut and optimum contrast with dynamic scene-by-scene adjustment of your content.

Its sophisticated technology of Micro Dimming analyses TV content in 1,296 separate zones, intelligent-



ly adjusting brightness and darkness. Together with Dolby Audio which delivers immersive surround sound, customers experience a superior viewing experience. Majid Khan Niazi, Head of Marketing at TCL says, "At TCL, our mission is to make life intelligent with innovative technology."

As the leading electronics company of Pakistan, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the iFFALCON S52 TV series which will allow our young generation to go infinity and beyond with its competitive technology."

The brand new iFFalcon S52 will be available in two sizes: 32" HD and 40" FHD with a fully covered warranty by TCL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mst. Asma Altaf d/o Altaf Hussain transferee of plot No. 230-B, Area Development Scheme, Talagang have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mr. Muhammad Faisal Altaf s/o Malik Altaf Hussain vide registered deed at No. 88/4 dated 20-11-2021 from Sub Registrar, Talagang. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer of the above mentioned plot to Mr. Muhammad Asif s/o Muhammad Aslam.

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

Secretary
District Housing
Committee
Chakwal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mst. Naseem Akhtar d/o Ghulam Moin ud Din, allottee / transferee of plot No. 8-E, Block-B, Lane-4, Area Development Scheme, Attock have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mst. Kaneez Akhtar d/o Mohammad Feroz w/o Jahan Khan vide registered deed at No. 244/4 dated 23-04-1984 from Sub Registrar, Attock. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer of the above mentioned plot to Mr. Jawad Hassans/o Jahan Khan.

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

Secretary
District Housing
Committee
Attock



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:38 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:09 pm
Maghrib 7:13 pm
Isha 8:50 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 92766044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Pakistan keen to present recent climate initiatives at COP27: Sherry

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday held a meeting on the "Living Indus" initiative with United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Julien Harneis and stressed that Pakistan was keen to present its recent climate initiatives at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP-27) to be held in Egypt.

The Federal Minister informed the UN Resident Coordinator on the inter-provincial consultations held by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) and has taken the provincial chief secretaries on board for the Living Indus Project to restore the health of the Indus Basin as well as the



major rivers of Pakistan, a news release said.

Emphasizing on the objectives of the project, Minister Rehman said, "The water of the Indus River had been contaminated

to the extent that it is necessary to engage society and change their perceptions and attitudes as well as take action to conserve water and maintain its quality.

The "Living Indus" initiative hopes to restore and repair the natural resources and ecosystems of the basin to ensure that they are resilient to climate change. The need is to expedite climate financing for the project and design top priority interventions with the support of the Cabinet and the provinces. These priorities can be undertaken in phases."

Federal Minister underscored the importance of the project and thanked Julien for his continued efforts in supporting Pakistan's climate initiatives. APP

Development work

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work of Rawal Dam Chowk flyover during development work, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Training of QEC directors concludes at NUML

ISLAMABAD: The three-day meeting and training for directors Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) of 22 universities of Pakistan concluded at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Tuesday.

The activity was organized by Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher education Commission (HEC).

Director QAA HEC Nasir Shah and director QEC NUML Dr. Khushbakht Hina were the chief organizers of the event.

The chief guest Dr. Shaista Sohail Executive Director HEC was received by Major General Muhammad Jaffar, Rector NUML and Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali.

The closing ceremony was graced by Prof. Meritorious Dr. Javed Iqbal, member of the commission.

At the end, certificates were distributed among the organizers and participants. Agencies

Mushaal urges world's bodies to save Yasin's life

Fast deteriorating health condition: Yasins hunger strike reaches 6th Day

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson urged the world's bodies to force India to release Yasin Malik who was shifted to the medical investigation room due to his fast deteriorating health condition.

Mushaal, who is wife of Yasin Malik, in a statement on Tuesday, said that JKLF Chief was on hunger strike in Tihar jail for the last six days against the fascist Indian government's biased attitude not to provide him opportunity of fair trial.

She stated that Yasin Malik was being given intravenous fluids and he was battling for life.

Mushaal said that Yasin Malik was kept in solitary confinement in a high-risk cell in a false and fabricated cases to defuse the intensity of Kashmir freedom movement.

The Chairperson said that her husband informed



Yasin forced to fast unto death despite worsening health condition

the court that he had written a letter to the government seeking his transfer to a Jammu jail so that he could physically appear in the case and contest the allegations against him but his request was not entertained.

Therefore, she said that went on an indefinite hunger strike inside the jail in protest against the callous attitude of the authorities.

Mushaal feared that Yasin being the most powerful and effective voice of Kash-

mir liberation movement, hence the fascist government was using all barbaric and unlawful tactics to silence him.

The Chairperson lamented the world silence over the criminal and unjust treatment meted out to JKLF Chief.

She urged that the United Nations, European Union, human rights organizations and world powers should build pressure on the Hindutva regime to not only save Yasin Malik's life but to ensure his safe release.

Dr. Ayub Alvi becomes 2nd Vice-Chancellor of SS-CASE-IT

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Sir Syed CASE Institute of Technology (SS-CASE-IT) has announced the appointment of Dr. Muhammad Ayub Alvi as its 2nd Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Alvi will assume his office from Aug 1st, 2022. Dr. Alvi holds a Ph.D in Electronics Engineering from UMIST, Manchester, UK.

Dr. Alvi has served FAST-NUCES for almost forty years and played a leading role in its establishment and making FAST the number one University of Pakistan producing best IT graduates. Besides holding various senior appointments at FAST, Dr. Alvi served FAST-NUCES as its Rector from 2017 to 2021.

We hope that Dr. Alvi with his extensive experience and achievements will help SS-CASE-IT to achieve its vision to attract talent,

Health Corner

Wider list of long COVID symptoms

ISLAMABAD: Long Covid sufferers have experienced a wider set of symptoms than previously thought including hair loss and sexual dysfunction, new research has found.

A study published in Nature Medicine today (25 July 2022) found that patients with a primary care record of infection with the virus that causes Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus) reported 62 symptoms much more frequently 12 weeks after initial infection than those who hadn't contracted the virus.

Anonymous electronic health records of 2.4 million people in the UK were analysed by researchers from the University of Birmingham alongside a team of clinicians and researchers across England, and was funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research and UK Research and Innovation. The data taken between January 2020 and April 2021 comprised of 486,149 people with prior infection, and 1.9 million people with no indication of coronavirus infection after matching for other clinical diagnoses.

Using only non-hospitalised patients, the team of researchers were able to identify three categories of distinct symptoms reported by people with persistent health problems after infection.

Patterns of symptoms tended to be grouped into respiratory symptoms, mental health and cognitive problems, and then a broader range of symptoms. While the most common symptoms include anosmia (loss of sense of smell), shortness of breath, chest pain and fever; others include: amnesia, apraxia (inability to perform familiar movements or commands), bowel incontinence, erectile dysfunction, hallucinations and limb swelling.

Dr Shamil Haroon, Associate Clinical Professor in Public Health at the University of Birmingham is the senior author on the study. Dr Haroon said: "This research validates what patients have been telling clinicians and policy makers throughout the pandemic, that the symptoms of Long Covid are extremely broad and cannot be fully accounted for by other factors such as lifestyle risk factors or chronic health conditions."

"The symptoms we identified should help clinicians and clinical guideline developers to improve the assessment of patients with long-term effects from Covid-19, and to subsequently consider how this symptom burden can be best managed."

Patient partner and co-author of this study Jennifer Camaradou said: "This study is instrumental in creating and adding further value to understanding the complexity and pathology of long COVID. It highlights the degree and diversity of expression of symptoms between different clusters. Patients with pre-existing health conditions will also welcome the additional analysis on risk factors."

The study suggests that females, younger people; or belonging to a black, mixed or other ethnic group are at greater risk of developing Long Covid. In addition, people from low socioeconomic backgrounds, smokers, people who are overweight or obese, as well as the presence of a wide range of health conditions were associated with reporting persistent symptoms.



Poster completion "Historical places of Pakistan" held



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Poster making competitions were organized under the title "Historical places of Pakistan" at the Punjab Arts Council to celebrate Pakistan Diamond Jubilee.

The competitions were held in two different age groups, in which one category was 6 to 15 years and the other category was 16 to 25 years. The chief guest of the competition was Naheed Manzoor. The judges were the director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed and Mohammad Younis Rumi. While addressing the prize distribution ceremony Naheed Manzoor said that the arts will always flourish in the Arts Council.

In Tuesday's competitions, children have painted the beautiful Minar Pakistan, Badshahi Masjid, Shahi Qila, Rohtas Qila, Shah Rukn Alam, Zaidat Residency on the canvas. Pakistani youths are endowed with natural talents. Young painters are encouraged to excel in their work. Artists trained by Arts Council have made Pakistan famous all over the world. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that everything between the earth and the sky is created by Allah. Artists have captured the beautiful sights of nature in colors. Colors do not need language. Colors speak their own language. Artists always play a positive role in society. In the 6 to 15 years group competition, Sanavesh got the first position, Nimra Wasiq, Javeria Zafar and Arfa Zafar got second third

DIPLOMATIC CORNER

Korean envoy lauds Pakistan's role in fight against climate change

Ambassador Suh Sangpyo says Korean govt appreciates Pakistani govt's efforts to prevent and respond to climate change induced natural disasters

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo said that the Korean government appreciated the Pakistani government's efforts to prevent and respond to climate change induced natural disasters.

Addressing a seminar on climate change policy of Korea and Pakistan, he said, "Our two countries have contributed a lot to the global efforts to address climate change induced challenges and also have worked together in multi-lateral forums including UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

He said that Pakistan was one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Recently, a report published by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



(UNESCAP) estimated Pakistan's annual losses caused by climate change at 26 billion US dollars under the worst scenario. That cost is equal to 9% of Pakistan's GDP.

This year Pakistan had experienced huge losses and damag-

es all over the country due to the abnormal heavy rainfalls. "In this monsoon season, this kind of natural disaster still haunts us here in Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan is a member country of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), which was

established by the Korean Initiative to support and promote sustainable economic growth in developing countries.

Korea and Pakistan continue to collaborate closely on all the climate related issues that our planet faces.

The Ambassador said that in order to promote renewable energy, the Korean Development Agency (KOICA) had established a Solar Panel testing laboratory in Islamabad and also worked on a project to enhance the water quality monitoring system by providing equipment and supporting capacity building.

Moreover, with the Public and Private Partnership (PPP) model, Korean hydropower companies are constructing hydropower plants in northern areas, KP and AJK, he added.

Korea Land and House Coop-



eration in partnership with UN-HABITAT was also working on a project to reduce greenhouse gasses.

The Korean Embassy also financially supported tree plantation in Pakistan in 2019 and 2021. Korea and Pakistan also collaborate in achieving UN

Sustainable Development Goals.

The Ambassador, while explaining bilateral cooperation, told the participants that last year in January Korea and Pakistan held a DG-level consultation meeting on climate change, science, and technology. Since then, some of the meeting results

were successfully followed up, so one of the outcomes was Pakistan's joining GGGI.

He said that Korea will host two expos to promote sustainable development. One is the World Smart City Expo which will be held near Seoul city from August 31 to September 2. The other expo is World Expo 2030.

Speaking on the occasion, the additional secretary of the Climate Change Division said that Pakistan and Korea have had a decent relationship in multiple fields including climate collaboration and climate dialogue.

Pakistan is among the top ten countries in the world as far as vulnerability is concerned, he informed. He further stated that the cooperation between Pakistan and Korea in climate change should be enhanced to combat climate change.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
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 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
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 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Countering climate change

Chris Doyle

As temperatures surge upward shattering records and lives with an alarming consistency, it is jaw-dropping to just take stock of the phalanxes of climate-change deniers. Most species on this planet may reach the level of extinction before some of these diehard, cultist, fact-denying, science skeptics smell the coffee. Being a skeptic is one thing and perfectly acceptable. Challenging the research and insisting on evidence is responsible. It is legitimate to question how serious the crisis is, how fast the world has to act, how much time is left to deal with it, and what steps should be taken first. Many were latecomers to the gravity of the challenge life on Earth faces, not least in the Middle East. Yet even in the hydrocarbon rich states, that may be considered to have so much to lose on this front, tackling the environment and man-made climate change has become a top priority.

It is also understandable why many simply do not wish to face the reality. It is tough. It is hard to get one's head around the challenge in front of us all. The attractions of wanting to believe the climate-change deniers are clear. What is not acceptable, and

is frankly extremely dangerous, is the head in the boiling sand approach of the climate change denial movement. This is a debate-free zone. It is akin to a religious belief that the climate has not altered one jot and those who say it has, are either grand conspirators or their victims. As too often nowadays, science and expertise are derided and dismissed. Worse still, are those who knowingly trumpet pseudo-science and dangerous conspiracies. Alarming many of those who parroted dangerous coronavirus pandemic conspiracy theories are also in the climate change conspiracy camp.

Sadly, the most serious challenge is in the US, where largely far right groups try to undermine the science. One survey, in 2008, showed that in America, 92 percent of climate-skeptical materials were linked to conservative think tanks. While Democrats have tended to become more concerned about climate change, the Republican party is still dominated by climate-change skeptics. Members of the credible scientific community are clear. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change determined that, "since systematic scientific assessments began in the 1970s, the influence of human activity on the warming of the climate system has evolved from theory to established fact." The science shows that climate

change is not just happening but getting worse. Which begs the question what such delusional headbangers think is happening? Do they have to wait until all the ice sheets, and glaciers have disappeared?

Given that, according to NASA, Greenland lost an average of 279 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2019, they may not have to wait long. Such attitudes represent a serious threat to our existence and have to be faced down. Climate change kills. It destroys homes and livelihoods. It will get worse and will only be halted with systematic and determined global action. When record temperatures are broken once again in Europe, they just say this is fake or quite natural. They think the same when learning nearly half the continent is facing drought this summer. The huge numbers of wildfires across Europe and elsewhere are just part of the natural cycle, though clearly, they are not given their increased frequency and intensity. Wildfires are getting more ferocious every year not least due to drier winters and longer, hotter summers. They have even broken out in Scandinavia and recently, in southern England, where temperatures tipped over 40 degrees Celsius for the first time in recorded history. Rail lines are buckling in the heat. Wildfires destroyed 41 homes

around London.

Paris recorded temperatures of more than 40 degrees Celsius for only the third time since recordings began in 1873. In Greece, officials said that since the fire season commenced on May 1, they had tackled more than 2,500 fires. According to the World Health Organization, this year alone, "we have already witnessed more than 1,700 needless deaths in the present heat wave in Spain and Portugal alone." Major cities suffering from heat stress will have to adapt. Early warning systems are needed. Urban construction will have to change. Rather than treat heat waves as emergencies many countries will have to plan for them as standard, not rare, events. This is the future. In the hotter countries of the Middle East, extreme heat may render areas uninhabitable. Look at the dust storms in Iraq. In countries such as Britain, the population will have to adapt their housing and lifestyles to cope with temperatures the country is not used to. At the same time severe flooding in Europe is also an immense risk.

How serious is this climate-change denial movement? It is hard to charge. A recent opinion poll in Britain showed that 70 percent of people believed climate change was the cause of the recent heatwave, but 17 percent claimed it was unrelated.

Even if some of that 17 percent were skeptics, not deniers, it is worryingly high. A major public education program is required. Climate change should be taught at schools or at least incorporated significantly into the curriculum. The media too can play its role. Gone should be the days of false balance between eminent scientists and heavily paid climate denying lobbyists. Broadcasters and editors should abstain from marketing images of fun and children splashing in the water in the sun during a heatwave as if this was all normal and lovely.

All of this leads up to the next COP climate conference in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh, in November. Many excuses for inaction may be made citing the global financial crisis and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It should not be a choice. Investment into countering climate change is too vital to be subject to the fate of the financial markets. The funding must be ring fenced. The impact of climate change cannot be left to the side to wait for another day. Speaking at the recent Petersburg Climate Dialogue in Berlin, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "We have a choice; collective action or collective suicide. It is in our hands."

The writer is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding, in London. Courtesy Arab News

Looming global inflation, recession

The International Monetary Fund cut global growth forecasts again on Tuesday, warning that downside risks from high inflation and the Ukraine war were materializing and could push the world economy to the brink of recession if left unchecked. Global real GDP growth will slow to 3.2% in 2022 from a forecast of 3.6% issued in April. The world GDP actually contracted in the second quarter due to downturns in China and Russia.

World growth had rebounded in 2021 to 6.1% after the COVID-19 pandemic crushed global output in 2020 with a 3.1% contraction. The 2023 growth forecast to 2.9% from the April estimate of 3.6%, citing the impact of tighter monetary policy. The outlook has darkened significantly since April. The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one.

According to latest assessment by IMF, the latest forecasts are extraordinarily uncertain and subject to downside risks from Russia's war in Ukraine spiking energy and food prices higher. This would exacerbate inflation and embed longer-term inflationary expectations that would prompt further monetary policy tightening.

Under a plausible alternative scenario that includes a complete cut-off of Russian gas supplies to Europe by year-end and a further 30% drop in Russian oil exports, the global growth would slow to 2.6% in 2022 and 2% in 2023, with growth virtually zero in Europe and the United States next year. Global growth has fallen below 2% only five times since 1970, the IMF said, including the 2020 COVID-19 recession.

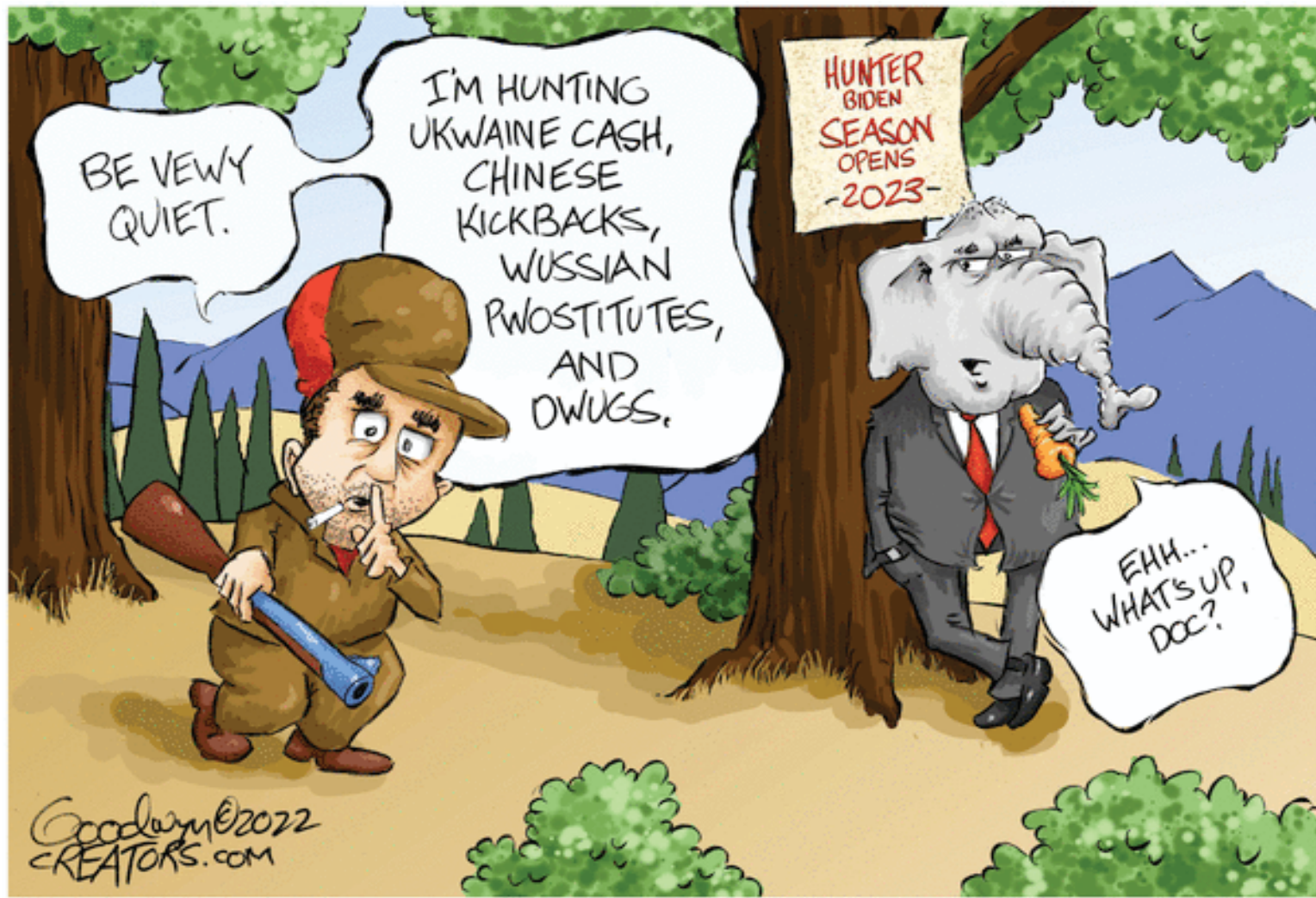
IMF now expects the 2022 inflation rate in advanced economies to reach 6.6%, up from 5.7% in the April forecasts, adding that it would remain elevated for longer than previously anticipated. Inflation in emerging market and developing countries is now expected to reach 9.5% in 2022, up from 8.7% in April. Inflation at current levels represents a clear risk for current and future macroeconomic stability and bringing it back to central bank targets should be the top priority for policymakers.

Monetary policy tightening will bite next year, slowing growth and pressuring emerging market countries, but delaying this process will only exacerbate the hardship and central banks should stay the course until inflation is tamed. For the United States, the IMF confirmed its July 12 forecasts of 2.3% growth in 2022 and an anemic 1.0% for 2023, which it previously cut twice since April on slowing demand.

The Fund deeply cuts China's 2022 GDP growth forecast to 3.3% from 4.4% in April, citing COVID-19 outbreaks and widespread lockdowns in major cities that have curtailed production and worsened global supply chain disruptions.

The IMF also said the worsening crisis in China's property sector was dragging down sales and investment in real estate. It said additional fiscal support from Beijing could improve the growth outlook, but a sustained slowdown in China driven by larger-scale virus outbreaks and lockdowns would have strong spillovers.

The IMF cut its eurozone growth outlook for 2022 to 2.6% from 2.8% in April, reflecting inflationary spillovers from the war in Ukraine. But forecasts were cut more deeply for some countries with more exposure to the war, including Germany, which saw its 2022 growth outlook cut to 1.2% from 2.1% in April.



Pandemic-A Sociological Lens

Jamal Nasir

It was the end of 2019 when a virus novel corona originated in Wuhan, Hubei province of China, and created an emergency in the world. An exigency was on the door which might have a dangerous impact on every segment of life. Yet, it did. The virus accelerated the whole world and put a gigantic impact on the normal routine. Some scholars claimed that it would be hard to back to the normal form of society because it struck in each segment of life from economy to society, social structure to the daily routine, and health management to social psychology. Novel coronavirus has possibly affected every individual in the world and vigorously exposed the hidden truths. In other words, it has shaken the edifices of our disillusionments about different things.

With the series of developments, we are deteriorating the condition of the ecosystem and the natural setting of almost everything. Whenever we tried to hit the setting of nature, it eventually hit us back and history witnessed the very fact. "COVID-19."

This extreme movement of bats and the interaction of humans were co-related. Due to this interaction, the pandemic spread out. It is necessary to keep in mind that we should listen to the experts who are continuously warning about the saddened condition of nature. Bio-politics is about the administration and regulation of the population. It generally refers to the relation of power-politics with continuity and stability of life. In the early 70s, Foucault contributed a lot to this field, and later Giorgio Agamben. The rudimentary question is about the relation of his theoretical grounds

to the COVID crisis. The adaptability of the biopolitical concept can be divided into two bodies the political body which relates to the mode of power and the care of self which belongs to scrutinizing one.

In the COVID crisis, one thing that should have been kept in the minds of those who held power was regulation. The key element of the regulation is the single most important factor that can prevent society from anarchy. The administration should have an obvious path to deal with hard and fast circumstances. We can take the example of India, the oxygen crisis which was reported by the BBC and The Washington Post delineated the infrastructural gaps as well as the governmental crisis of India. Also, the case of Brazil tells us that the modes of power need to be direct, glossy, and combatting when such types of incidents occur. Now moving toward the concept of care that he wrote in his book the history of sexuality: Volume I he talked about ethical subjectivity and put a high hand on caring for oneself. This concept refers to the observation of self which means that if this kind of crisis happens, you need to prepare yourself for this and scrutinize yourself. The combination of these two types of modes of power can prevent us from indulging in destructive crises.

Do you ever imagine the condition of a woman sitting in a brothel in Bangladesh, a man bare-handed in the slums of Mumbai, or a transgender on the roof of Lahore, in this type of crisis? As, Lupton in her book COVID societies elaborated that COVID had severely affected the marginalized communities – a class that was living under the poverty line was on the verge of destruction in the crisis. Many social groups were vulnerable during the crisis because of poor health services, falsified information, and poverty. Social stig-

matization of those people who suffered from virus illness was also a problem that has had a deep-down effect on many persons.

At the initiation of the virus, the lockdown was imposed by the governments in different countries which worked out. In the case of Pakistan, the alteration lockdown and smart lockdown impacted very much. But it had severe consequences, especially in the case of urban areas. All in all, it affected the sections of the mind and put many young persons into post-pandemic mental disorders. It equally affected the mental health of married couples as argued by Zara Maqbool in quarantine quarrels. There was a situation of panic in the society and it was an irrefutable fact but there are certain things that we should have worked on them.

COVID vehemently revealed that the current health care facilities are not very much adequate. We need to work on our health care system and surveillance system. In selected reading and writing, Yuval Noah argued that it is the first time possible for a human to develop a surveillance system that could help us, especially in hard times. He made the argument of soap surveillance that would make us able to monitor the system of hand washing.

A fundamental thing that has been described by different scholars is global cooperation. Spanish flu and other epidemics realized us that cooperation could be the way out of the crisis. Gone are those days when the things like epidemics were very confined to a specific territory. Now, if a virus spreads in China, it may hit the badly USA and Brazil. So, global solidarity is the need of the era and we should focus on the economic stability of the world during these crises.

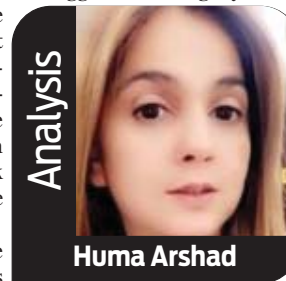
The writer is student at the University of Punjab, Lahore.

The Only Cosmopolitan City is drowning

For Karachites rain is a pain in disguise! Every year, Pakistan struggles to cope with the monsoon season, which batters the country from June through August and which sets off widespread criticism over poor planning. Pakistan has long ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, according to the Global Climate Risk Index. The country is estimated to have lost nearly 10,000 lives to climate-related disasters and suffered about \$4 billion in losses between 1998 and 2018. When we see the situation in Karachi, torrential rains, floods, and landslides in Karachi and surrounding areas have once again raised questions over poor urban planning in Pakistan's biggest

and only cosmopolitan city. Dozens were killed and hundreds of people have been left homeless in Karachi ruining Eid celebrations. This is a story of millions of Karachites, who, instead of looking forward to the rainy season as is the romanticized notion in popular fiction and movies, must seek refuge from the havoc it wreaks due to the city's crumbling infrastructure. For years, authorities have pinned the blame on encroachments along the city's age-old storm water drains. The solution, they kept saying, lay in removing these encroachments and making them wider. And yet, two years of anti-encroachment drives that rendered thousands homeless could not save the city's streets from flooding. To an outsider, the level of incompetence and apathy on display is nothing less than mind-numbing. Nearly 100 projects were planned under the KTP, which included the Karachi bulk water supply scheme (K-4), circular railway, and waste disposal system. Unfortunately for Karachites, the project never materialized. With the onset of the monsoon season, the city has already received more than 700 millimeters of rain and many roads have been inundated.

Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) predictions of the upcoming monsoon rains in Karachi and across the country are alarming. It raises the question of whether there is an effective crisis management mechanism that can deal with the torrential rains in Karachi. Data from the last 60 years reveals that Karachi faced a record-high rainfall back in 1967, which was broken in 2020. In 1967, Karachi's population was hardly 1.5 million, but in 2022 more than 30 million people live in the mega city and the record of 2020 be broken in 2022 and one can imagine how destructive it is now. It is not impossible to address Karachi's rain crisis, but it will be an uphill task because there is a need for ownership, planning, utilizing resources, and using scientific engineering tools. Also, eradicating illegal settlements, maintenance of drainage systems, and ensuring that storm drainage systems are functioning is not a difficult task. Each year is the same — authorities pretend to swing into action once the media highlights the damage caused by the rain. Once the water recedes, it is assumed that those who were displaced simply come back to their homes and everyone lives happily ever after. Since 2018 and even before that Karachi was always been neglected as it is generating enough revenue even with this poor infrastructure but the credit for generating revenue goes to the people of Karachi following the devastation Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif spoke to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, offering help after heavy rains brought life in Pakistan's largest city to a halt. The rains that began on the evening of Eid ul Adha's first day continued to pour till today, leaving several parts of Karachi submerged and main roads — including Shahrah-e-Faisal, Dr. Ziauddin Ahamd Road, and II Chundrigar Road — inundated. Posh neighborhoods such as DHA and Clifton, too saw severe flooding as water entered the houses of the residents who pointed out the negligence of the authorities. Central Karachi is heavily affected by today's rain. The rain is causing massive power outages.



Analysis

Huma Arshad

The writer is senior analyst and columnist.

New Russian airstrikes strike Black Sea regions of Ukraine

A number of private buildings in Odesa region hit and caught fire

KYIV: Russia targeted Ukraine's Black Sea regions of Odesa and Mykolaiv with airstrikes Tuesday, hitting private buildings and port infrastructure along the country's southern coast, the Ukrainian military said.

The Kremlin's forces used air-launched missiles in the attack, Ukraine's Operational Command South said in a Facebook post.

In the Odesa region, a number of private buildings in coastal villages were hit and caught fire, the report said. In the Mykolaiv region, port infrastructure was targeted despite the agreements Moscow and Kyiv signed last week that was intended to allow grain shipments to resume from Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

Hours after the strikes, a Moscow-installed official in southern Ukraine said the Odesa and Mykolaiv regions would soon be "liberated" by Russian forces, just like the already occupied Kherson region further east.

"The Kherson region and the city of Kherson have been liberated forever," the region's Russia-appointed official, Kirill Stremousov, was quoted as

saying by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. Meanwhile, Russia's top diplomat repeated his insistence that Moscow was ready to hold talks with Ukraine on ending the war, though he once again claimed that Kyiv's Western allies oppose a deal.

"We never refused to have talks, because everybody knows that any hostilities end at the negotiating table," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday during a trip to Uganda. He said negotiations have gone no further since a meeting between the two sides in Istanbul at the end of March.

While Ukrainian officials have spoken of a possible counteroffensive in the south, the British Defense Ministry said Tuesday there was no indication a Ukrainian warship and a stockpile of anti-ship missiles were at Odesa's port, as Moscow claimed when it struck the site over the weekend.

The British ministry said Russia sees Ukraine's use of anti-ship missiles as "a key threat" that is limiting its Black Sea Fleet.

"This has significantly undermined

the overall invasion plan, as Russia cannot realistically attempt an amphibious assault to seize Odesa," the military said. "Russia will continue to prioritize efforts to degrade and destroy Ukraine's anti-ship capability."

It added that "Russia's targeting processes are highly likely routinely undermined by dated intelligence, poor planning, and a top-down approach to operations." In other military developments, Russian shelling over the previous 24 hours killed at least three civilians and wounded eight more in Ukraine, the Ukrainian president's office said Tuesday.

In the eastern Donetsk region, where the fighting has been focused in recent weeks, shelling continued along the entire front line, with the largest cities of the region, including Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Toretsk, targeted by Russian forces, the presidential office said.

Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko accused Russian troops of using cluster munitions and repeated his call for civilians to evacuate.

"There is not a single safe place left,

everything is being shelled," Kyrylenko said in televised remarks. "But there are still evacuation routes for the civilian population."

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, reported that Moscow was using mercenaries from the shadowy Wagner Group to capture the Vuhledar Power Plant on the northern outskirts of the village of Novoluhanske village.

But Russian forces have made "limited gains" there, according to Ukraine's General Staff. The main Russian focus for the moment is on capturing Bakhmut, which the Russian military needs to press its offensive on the main Ukrainian strongholds in Donetsk, the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk.

"Russian forces made marginal gains south of Bakhmut but are unlikely to be able to effectively leverage these advances to take full control of Bakhmut itself," the Institute for the Study of War said. Russian forces continued to launch strikes on civilian infrastructure in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and the surrounding region in the country's northeast.

Hunger strike

Yasin Malik put on IV fluids in Tihar jail

NEW DELHI: Four days after Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, who is already suffering from multiple ailments, went on a hunger strike in Tihar jail, the jail administration has put him on intravenous (IV) fluid or glucose.

The decision in this regard was made after Yasin Malik's health deteriorated in jail on Monday night. As per Indian media reports, Yasin Malik is severely dehydrated and he needs he to be shifted to the hospital.

The head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) had stopped eating food since July 22 (Friday) saying that his case was not being investigated properly.

Malik, sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency court in Delhi this year, is serving two life sentences on fake charges under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Senior jail officials confirmed to the Indian media that Malik refused to eat on Friday and declared an indefinite hunger strike.

"Initially, the jail officials met with him and tried to convince him to end his strike, but he refused. From July 24, he is on intravenous fluid or glucose," a senior official was quoted as saying the Indian media including The Indian Express.

Delhi police arrest Rahul Gandhi amid protests

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was detained at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi on Tuesday as he, along with other Congress leaders, was protesting against the Enforcement Directorate questioning party chief Sonia Gandhi.

Gandhi, accompanied by his security personnel, was whisked away in a police van. Seventeen other Congress MPs besides Gandhi were detained by Delhi Police, as per the report. Gandhi was sitting on a road near Vijay Chowk as part of the sit-in.

The Delhi Police were trying to convince Gandhi to leave the place as Section 144 was imposed due to the ongoing session of Parliament. "India is a police state," said Gandhi as Congress MPs were detained along with him. Earlier, youth Congress leaders and workers staged a protest at the Congress headquarters in Delhi.

They came out of the premises and indulged in commotion with the police personnel. Congress MPs led by Gandhi staged a protest march from Parliament to Rashtrapati Bhavan, reads the report.

Erdogan to visit Russia on Aug 5



ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit the Russian coastal city of Sochi on Aug. 5 to meet with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the Turkish presidency announced Tuesday. The presidency had no further details on the visit.

The visit comes just days after Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed a landmark deal to resume grain exports through three Ukrainian ports after months of blockade due to the Russia-Ukraine war, now in its sixth month. The exports are due to resume soon, coordinated by a center in the Turkish metropolis Istanbul.

Last Wednesday, Erdogan and Putin met during a trilateral gathering with their Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi in Iran's capital Tehran. The leaders gathered for the 7th summit in the Astana format to discuss recent developments in Syria, the fight against terror groups which pose a threat to regional security, particularly the YPG/PKK and Daesh/ISIS, as well as the humanitarian situation and the voluntary return of Syrians.

Myanmar executions of 4 activists spur global outrage

BANGKOK: International outrage over Myanmar's execution of four political prisoners intensified Tuesday with grassroots protests and strong condemnation from world governments, as well as fears the hangings could derail nascent attempts to bring an end to the violence and unrest that has beset the Southeast Asian nation since the military seized power last year.

Myanmar's military-led government that seized power from elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021 has been accused of thousands of extrajudicial killings since then, but the hangings announced Monday were the country's first official executions in decades.

"We feel that this is a crime against humanity," said Malaysian Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah, speaking at the side of the United Nations' Special Envoy on Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur. He said the executions would be a focus of the upcoming meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers, which begin in Cambodia in a week.

Myanmar is a member of the influential ASEAN group, which has been trying to implement a five-point consensus it reached on Myanmar last year calling for dialogue among all concerned parties, provision of humanitarian assistance, an immediate cessation of violence and a visit by a special envoy to meet all parties.

With the executions, he said, "we look at it as if the junta is making a mockery of the five point process." Heyzer said that the U.N. sees the executions as a "blatant violation" of a person's "right to life, liberty and security."

In Bangkok, hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators protested outside neighboring Myanmar's embassy, waving flags and chanting slogans amid a heavy downpour.

Croatia opens Adriatic bridge linking divided region

ZAGREB: Croatia on Tuesday opened a long-awaited bridge connecting two parts of the country's Adriatic Sea coastline while bypassing a small sliver of Bosnia's territory.

Braving summer heat, many Croats rushed early on Tuesday to be among the first to cross the Peljesac bridge on foot as it opened for pedestrians ahead of the formal opening ceremony planned in the evening. It was to open to road traffic after the ceremony.

Co-funded by the European Union and built by a Chinese company, the elegant, cable-stayed bridge with six pylons is a rare venture of its kind amid concerns in Europe over China's bid to boost its economic influence through investment in infrastructure.

The 2.4 kilometer (1.5-mile) bridge spans the Adriatic Sea to link Croatia's mainland to the Peljesac



peninsula in the south, thus also allowing easier access to the country's most important tourism destination — the medieval walled city of Dubrovnik.

State HRT television on Tuesday described the bridge opening as a "historic day that generations awaited."

"This is big day for Croatia," said Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic. "Let's enjoy it today!" The Yugoslav federation had no internal borders between its six

republics, including Croatia and Bosnia. But when it broke up in the early 1990s, the two parts of Croatia's Adriatic Sea coastline were split by a narrow strip of Bosnia.

Both residents and tourists had to pass border checks, which slowed down traffic and left the inhabitants of the southern area feeling isolated from the rest of the country.

That area includes Dubrovnik, a stunning medi-

eval town that has been on UNESCO's protected heritage list and is Croatia's biggest tourist attraction.

The bridge finally became a reality in 2017 when the EU allocated 357 million euros (\$365m), which covered much of the 526 million-euro (\$533) cost. The China Road and Bridge Corporation in 2018 won an international tender to construct the bridge.

The project, however, had faced criticism from Bosnia, whose officials complained of unresolved border issues and said the bridge would hamper access to its part of the coastline.

Known for its stunning nature and hundreds of Adriatic Sea islands, Croatia is a major tourism destination, attracting millions from Europe and all over the world every summer. Tourism also is key for Croatia's economy, which remains among the weakest in the EU.

EU reaches deal to ration gas

BRUSSELS: European Union governments agreed Tuesday to ration natural gas this winter to protect themselves against any further supply cuts by Russia as Moscow pursues its invasion of Ukraine.

EU energy ministers approved a draft European law designed to lower demand for gas by 15% from August through March. The legislation entails voluntary national steps to reduce gas consumption and, if they yield insufficient savings, a trigger for mandatory actions in the 27-member bloc.

"I know that the decision was not easy, but I think, at the end, everybody understands that this sacrifice is necessary. We have to, and we will, share the pain," Czech Industry Minister Jozef Sika told reporters after chairing the meeting in Brussels.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed the move, saying in a statement that "the EU has taken a decisive step to face down the threat of a full gas disruption by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin."

The energy ministers approved the legislation a day after Russian energy corporation Gazprom said it would cut gas flows through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to 20% of capacity starting Wednesday. Natural gas prices jumped Tuesday to their highest level since early March, according to Europe's TTF benchmark, and more than five times what they were a year ago.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in late February and the West protested by imposing economic sanctions, 12 EU countries have faced halts

to, or reductions in, their Russian gas deliveries.

Gazprom has said the Nord Stream 1 cutbacks were necessitated by delays in receiving a repaired turbine for the pipeline. The turbine, which was repaired in Canada, has not been reinstalled yet, and another is expected to go offline because it needs repairs now, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday.

"The situation has been critically complicated by the restrictions and sanctions imposed on our country," Peskov added. "If not for those restrictions, all maintenance, warranty, and service operations would have been carried out in a usual, routine, and prompt manner, without causing situations like the one we're seeing now."

Under the the ministerial agreement sealed in less than

a week, the EU's 27 member nations tries are free to decide how best to meet the target of cutting 15% of their average annual gas use over the last five years.

France, for example, wants to save energy by turning down the temperatures of office thermostats in winter and ensuring that air conditioners in public buildings and shops are used more efficiently, among other measures.

Exemptions are allowed for countries that might have specific vulnerabilities or find themselves particularly exposed to difficulties from certain cuts.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, can ask members to consider triggering a mandatory system of cuts if it still fears a supply shortage over the next eight months.

Liberia marks its founding and independence amid challenges

LOUISIANA: Liberia is celebrating two major anniversaries this year — 200 years ago freed slaves from the U.S. arrived here and 25 years later they declared the country to be independent.

Amid the festivities for Independence Day on Tuesday, many Liberians say the West African country's promise is unfulfilled and too many of its people still live in poverty.

"Liberia has gone backward 50 or more years," says Richard Cooper, a 67-year-old farmer in Louisiana township, outside the capital, Monrovia. "We have had government after government, people coming into and going out of power, doing their own things without consulting

or satisfying the masses," he told The Associated Press on a dusty road in front of his two-roomed home.

"We put governments in power so that in return they will meet some of our needs, but now the masses are suffering," Cooper said, munching on popcorn. "Liberia should have been a better country if leaders had the country at heart. Money is here; but where is it going? Into the pockets of a few?"

Nearly 20 years after the country's back-to-back civil wars killed an estimated 250,000 people between 1989 and 2003, Liberia's children still yearn for an opportunity to go to school, he said.

Information minister Ledgerhood Rennie, however, said that major celebrations for these anniversaries are necessary to build national pride and honor the work of many to establish the nation.

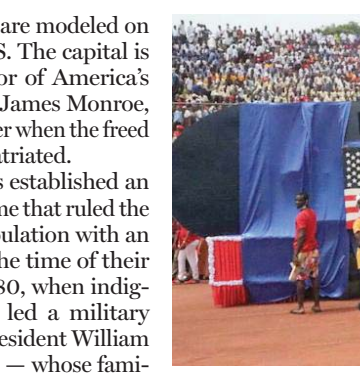
"This country has a rich history ... Liberia stood as the pedestal for Black independence south of the Sahara ... other nations of Black people were looking up to Liberia as a glowing nation on the continent of Africa," Rennie told AP as he oversaw preparations in the national stadium for the independence celebrations.

The United States has had a lasting influence on the West African country. Liberia's flag, constitution, form of government

and many laws are modeled on those of the U.S. The capital is named in honor of America's fifth president, James Monroe, who was in power when the freed slaves were repatriated.

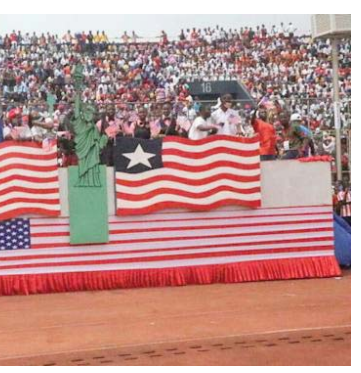
The slaves established an oppressive regime that ruled the indigenous population with an iron fist from the time of their arrival until 1980, when indigenous soldiers led a military coup against President William Tolbert. Tolbert — whose family migrated from South Carolina in the 1870s — was gruesomely murdered by the rebelling soldiers.

The prolonged trauma of the civil wars followed and then the rule of Nobel Prize-winning



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

A persistent problem has been corruption, which many say is largely responsible for the underdevelopment and poor economic growth of an otherwise resource-



ful country of less than 6 million people.

U.S. Ambassador Michael A. McCarthy was blunt in a speech earlier this year. "We would not be good stewards of U.S.

taxpayers' money, nor would we be good partners to Liberia, if we sat quietly and said nothing as misgovernance and corruption continued with impunity," he said.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, in a recent comment about Liberia, said: "Corruption is an act of robbery, plain and simple. It's a cancer in our societies. It is government stealing from the people of Liberia, from the mouths of children ... Corruption is a democracy killer, and we cannot have that in a place like Liberia, which we're counting on as a bulwark for Africa's democracy."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Current | Prev. Close | |
| 39,894.05 | 39,844.02 | |
| Day's High | Day's Low: | |
| 40,135.44 | 39,712.94 | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 3,329,485,731 | +50.03 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.13% | 26 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm | |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 7,306.28 | -0.020 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.00027% | 26 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1 | |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 31,789.01 | -201.03 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.63% | 26 Jul, 12:15 pm GMT-4 | |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 27,655.21 | -44.04 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.16% | 26 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9 | |
| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 159.82 | 161.07 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 610.4 | 614.9 |
| Canadian Dollar | 178.96 | 180.31 |
| China Yuan | 34.05 | 34.3 |
| Danish Krone | 31.52 | 31.87 |
| Euro | 226.5 | 229 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 29.29 | 29.64 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.88 | 2.96 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.85 | 1.9 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 745.39 | 750.39 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 51.62 | 52.07 |
| New Zealand \$ | 143.87 | 145.07 |
| Norwegians Krone | 23.34 | 23.64 |
| Omani Riyal | 595.88 | 600.38 |
| Qatari Riyal | 63.16 | 63.66 |
| Saudi Riyal | 59.8 | 60.5 |
| Singapore Dollar | 165.78 | 167.08 |
| Swedish Korona | 22.54 | 22.84 |
| Swiss Franc | 237.12 | 238.87 |
| Thai Bhat | 5.94 | 6.04 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 61.5 | 62.4 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 267 | 270 |
| US Dollar | 232 | 237 |

PNRA sensitizes industries about radioactive sources in metals, materials

Shahid Rashid says PNRA ready to organize free of cost training of industrial manpower in cooperation with ICCI

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) organized an awareness session to sensitize the industries about the radioactive sources in metals and materials and to control the chances of any radioactive activity in industrial units in order to ensure the production of radioactive sources free products.

Shahid Rashid, Director General (Licensing & Authorization), PNRA briefed the business community about the main functions of his organization and said that scrap was an important raw material for the metal industry which was usually imported from different countries.

He said that due to the weak regulatory controls over the sources in the exporting countries, there remained chances of intermingling of radioactive sources within the imported scrap metals. He said if such sources remained undetected, their unintended melting has the potential to cause unnecessary



radiation exposure to the employees and the public, which would have serious financial, social and economic costs besides damaging the credentials of industries. He said that PNRA intended to develop close liaison with chambers of commerce including ICCI for effective implementation of regulatory requirements in relevant industries to prevent any radioactive sources in production activities.

He said that industries should install radiation detection equipment to monitor scrap

material and assured that PNRA will provide them free of cost technical support in selection and procurement of such equipment. He said that PNRA was ready to organize free of cost training of industrial manpower in cooperation with ICCI to ensure production of radioactive free products and commodities. He stressed that industries should develop procedures for notification to PNRA and management of radioactive sources if found through detection mechanisms.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated the role of PNRA for regulating, controlling and supervising all matters related to nuclear safety, nuclear security and radiation protection measures in Pakistan. He said that ICCI would cooperate in identifying the industries which required radiation detection equipment. He said that ICCI would also collaborate in execution of PNRA survey strategy in different industries. He said that ICCI would work with PNRA for compliance of regulatory requirements by industries to prevent radioactive sources/radioactive contamination in scrap and metal products.

Saeer Hussain, Anayat Ullah and Imran Ali Khan Principal Scientific Officers, PNRA gave detailed presentations on prevention of radioactive materials in scrap and recycled products. They informed the business community about the preventive measures of radioactive contamination. Both sides discussed a range of issues to make industries and businesses free of radioactive contaminants.

Location of Pakistan beneficial for BD in terms of trade: HC Ruhul Alam

Vast opportunities are available to enhance economic relations between Pakistan, Bangladesh: President FPCCI

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Ruhul Alam Siddique called on Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), & Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination Capital office in FPCCI capital office, Islamabad. Ruhul Alam Siddique said that Bangladesh has great importance to its relationship with Pakistan and there are deep historic bond between the two countries.

The high commissioner said that trade opportunities between two countries can be explored in the construction material, light engineering, surgical goods, sports goods, food processing, denim cotton, yarn, tourism, and pharmaceutical sectors. He said that this is his first visit to any chamber in Pakistan. He said the current



bilateral trade volume has been increased upto \$900 million and hope that it will continue to rise at a faster pace. He said, hoping that the rising trend continues in the days to come, which would be very encouraging for the business communities of both countries.

High Commissioner mentioned that the Bangladesh wishes to cooperate with Pakistan in the fields of food processing, dairy, and textile, citing that He said that Paki-

stan is very important to Bangladesh in terms of trade and investment and both the countries must facilitate each other, instead of becoming competitors. There is enormous trade potential between the two countries and we must exchange our skills and capabilities for the benefit of each other.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President of FPCCI appreciated the efforts of Bangladesh's government for improving trade and investment with Pakistan. He

suggested some other measures to facilitate the rapid promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh. These include formulation and effective implementation of a joint trade promotion strategy for the rapid increase in bilateral trade for more joint ventures in textile production and services.

President, FPCCI further said that both countries should make it easier to boost export trade. This will enhance the trade of jute, tea and tobacco in Bangladesh, Pakistan will also increase the export of yarn, sugar, etc to Bangladesh. However it will make the current trade balance more favourable for Bangladesh, policy support from Pakistan is required. He further said that the Pakistan wants to move forward by developing trade relations with Bangladesh. There is vast opportunity available to enhance the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Ambassador of Norway calls on Chairman PTA



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Pakistan, Per Albert Ilsaas called on Chairman PTA, Maj General Amir Azeem Bajwa (R) at PTA Headquarters, Islamabad.

During the meeting,

matters of mutual interests including investment opportunities for Norwegian technology companies in Pakistan's ICT sector were discussed.

Chairman PTA also apprised the Ambassador about expansion and digital innovation taking place in Pakistan's ICT sector.

SM Muneer lauds appointment of Syed Tariq Huda as Chairman KPT

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer, President Salman Aslam, and KITE Limited CEO Zubair Chhaya welcomed the appointment of Syed Tariq Huda as the Chairman of Karachi Port Trust (KPT). Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer said that the government's decision to appoint Tariq Huda as Chairman of KPT is welcome. He said that Tariq Huda has performed duties in Customs operation, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). SM Muneer said that a long-standing relationship with Huda and his appointment would significantly enhance the performance of KPT.

KATI President Salman Aslam said that Tariq Huda is a devoted, courageous, and capable officer. He has always performed his responsibilities well, which is why he is considered as a reputable officer among government officials. He said that with the appointment of Chairman KPT, the business community hopes that he will play a key role in solving the problems in the shipping and delivery system.



President KATI further said that Tariq Huda has served in important positions in Customs and FBR.

Zubair Chhaya, CEO of KITE Limited, said that he has known Tariq Huda for a long time and his appointment will further improve the understanding and collaboration between the business community and KPT. He said that the economy is going through a difficult period, and exports have decreased, in such a situation, Tariq Huda

can play an important role in providing facilities and better services to exporters and importers.

Congratulating Tariq Huda, he said that KATI will always cooperate for the improvement of Karachi Port. He hoped that Tariq Huda would take all possible steps to improve the capacity and efficiency of KPT and facilitate modern technology and systems to address the grievances of the business community.

Angoor Ada border

Facilitation must be provided to business community



Mujebur Rehman Wazir

WANA: A joint meeting of leading tribal elders and Ullamas was held on the occasion of Wana trade union elections in the tribal district of South Waziristan. In which the newly elected cabinet of the business community was congratulated and the problems and difficulties faced by the business community were discussed in detail.

On this occasion, JUI Wana President Maulana Mirzajan Wazir, Maulana Naik Muhammad, Malik Alla Udin Wazir, Malik Bismillah Khan and Wana Trade Union President Sardar Ali Wazir said while talking to the media. That the business commu-

nity should be ensured the provision of facilities on the Pak-Afghan border Angoor Ada on the pattern of other borders.

The tribal elders said that the government of Pakistan has provided many facilities to the business community at Chaman, Torkham, Khar Lachi, and Ghulam Khan borders, but only Angoor Ada border has been deprived of these facilities.

Therefore, the Government of Pakistan, Corps Commander Peshawar and IGFC South should take concrete steps on an emergency basis to solve the problems of the business community and cooperate with us for the development of business for the welfare of the region.

Infinix launches cutting-edge industry leading 3D VCC Liquid Cooling Tech

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Infinix officially launched its revolutionary 3D Vapor Cloud Chamber (3D VCC) Liquid Cooling Technology. Using innovative design on the dimensionality of VC shape for the first time designers have achieved an increase in the chamber volume which significantly improves heat dissipation resulting in better performance. This creative solution fixes some issues caused by high temperatures for high-integration and high-power smartphones, such as CPU frequency reduction, frame rate drops, and frozen screens. This new technology has been certified by the China National Intel-

lectual Property Administration. "Regular smartphone gamers care about performance, while advanced players emphasize heat dissipation due to its direct impact on performance. As the 5G era poses new challenges to the heat dissipation technique, technology development drives innovations from traditional heat pipes to VC, a leap from line to surface basis, and now further upgrades from a flat surface to a three-dimension basis to form Infinix 3D Vapor Cloud Chamber Liquid Cooling. This technology not only exhibits Infinix's technical foundation and innovative spirit but also represents a huge step towards technological progress." said Manfred



Hong, Senior Product Director of Infinix.

When heat enters the VC, water in the evaporator is vaporized into steam, which removes excess heat. Hot steam then flows into the condenser becoming a liquid, which flows back to the evaporator through the internal wick structure that forms a hot and cold circulation system with the coexistence of water and steam.

When compared with traditional VC design, the 3D Vapor Cloud Chamber Liquid Cooling Technology come a long way forward. Bumps were added to one side of the evaporator, increasing chamber volume and water storage capacity along with thermal flux. Water injection volume and Q max values increased by 20% when compared with conventional VC resulting in massive improvements overall.

Reducing the thermal resistance media of the heating source is realized by adjusting the structure of the front housing to form a bump, which enables the 3D Vapor Cloud Chamber to almost directly contact the SoC chip. This significantly reduces ther-

mal resistance from shield to Vapor Chamber increasing thermal conductivity rate, performance, and heat dissipation. In comparison to traditional 2D designs, the new 3D VCC reduces the temperature by about three degrees, and the total heat dissipation performance is increased by about 12.5%.

For Infinix to master heat dissipation in the new 3D VCC design, structural strength needed to be vastly improved upon previous designs. After numerous tests and improvements, Infinix's R&D team designed the 3D internal structure into a matrix support column, balancing flatness and internal chamber volume.

PTCL, U Microfinance Bank announce conversion of U Bank's Rs1,000m debt into equity

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), country's largest ICT services provider and U Microfinance Bank Ltd. (U Bank), a wholly owned microfinance subsidiary of PTCL announced successful conversion of U Bank's subordinated debt into equity, signed by both institutions for an amount of PKR 1,000 million during a ceremony held in Islamabad.

President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf and President & CEO, U Bank, Kabeer Naqvi, signed the document that was witnessed by senior members of management from both organizations. This conversion will enable the bank to further capitalize on the growth opportunities possible in Pakistan's financial sector, spread across a heterogeneous spectrum of rural, corporate finance & treasury, urban, corporate, sharia, and digital banking services, thus catapulting bank's transformation into a challenger retail bank.

Speaking at the ceremony, Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, said, "Seeing the potential in U Bank's ability to further expand and grow, PTCL endeavors to contribute and support the bank in capturing new segments and customer classes to include more of Pakistan into the banking net and further its ambition of financial and social inclusion. This is not only in line with PTCL's commitment to support the country and its economy but also to strengthen ties between banking and telecom sector."

Speaking at the occasion, Kabeer Naqvi, President & CEO, U Bank said, "U Bank, thus far, has been successfully enabling underserved Pakistanis and has been positively contributing towards their economic empowerment. Bank has now embarked upon the exciting journey of penetrating into newer market segments, through its six specialized business canvases, to widen its existing customer base and create more impact. This conversion is a testament of our sponsor's confidence in our ability to deliver positive results.

Pak vs SL

Karunaratne, De Silva take Sri Lanka's lead past 300 in Test

The hosts reached 176-5 when bad light stopped play early on day three

Spokesman Report

GALLE: Pakistan are bracing for another big fourth innings chase as Sri Lanka consolidated their position on day-three of the second ICC World Test Championship match at the Galle International Stadium on Tuesday.

By the time play was called-off (bad light) on day-three, Sri Lanka had amassed a 323-run lead with five second innings wickets still in hand. Pakistan had chased down a venue record 342-run target in last week's first Test of the series which was also played at the same venue. If Pakistan fail to dislodge the last five wickets quickly, the Babar Azam-led visitors would in all probability need to better their own record if they are to complete a 2-0 series victory. On Tuesday, Sri Lanka were pegged back in their second innings after a 27-run opening stand between make-shift opener Niroshan Dickwella and Oshada Fernando.



Naseem Shah removed Dickwella with Mohammad Rizwan taking the catch behind the stumps. Pakistan made three more strikes in the post-lunch session with Yasir Shah dismissing Fernando (19), Mohammad Nawaz removing Kusal Mendis (15) and Salman Ali Agha dismissing Angelo Mathews

(35) – Salman's maiden Test wicket. Sri Lanka took tea at 109 for four, an overall lead of 256.

Pakistan made a vital breakthrough soon after tea when Naseem removed the prolific Dinesh Chandimal for 21. The hosts were brought back in the driver's seat by an unbeaten 59-run sixth-wick-

et stand between captain Dimuth Karunaratne (27 not out) and Dhananjaya de Silva (21 not out). Karunaratne has to drop himself to number six from his usual opening position due to a back niggle which kept him in the dressing room during Pakistan's first innings.

When stumps were drawn for the day, Sri Lanka had reached 176 for five. A total of 18 overs were left undelivered on day-three. Naseem with two for 29 in nine overs is so far Pakistan's most successful bowler in Sri Lanka's second innings.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at 191 for seven, Pakistan added 40 more runs before being out for 231 in 88.1 overs. Yasir Shah held firm for his 26 off 97 balls before becoming Ramesh Mendis' fifth wicket of the innings, Yasir was the last man to go. Hasan Ali (21) and Nauman Ali (1) were the other batters to fall in the opening session of play. Mendis registered figures of 5-47 in 21.1 overs. Jayasuriya took three wickets.

PCB unveils 2022-23 men's domestic cricket season schedule

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Streamlining pathways cricket and creating more playing opportunities for talented cricketers was the cornerstone of the Pakistan Cricket Board's 2022-23 men's domestic cricket season, which was revealed on Tuesday.

The seniors cricket will commence with the 33-match two-leg National T20, which will be held in Rawalpindi and Multan from 30 August to 19 September. Concurrently, the second XIs Cricket Associations Cup will be played in Quetta from 2-15 September. Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, the jewel in the PCB's crown, will be staged from 27 September to 30 November with Abbottabad, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Karachi sharing 31 matches between them.

The Cricket Associations Championship will be played alongside the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in the same

cities from 27 September to 23 November. Curtains on the 2022-23 domestic cricket season will fall with the 33-match Pakistan Cup 50-over tournament, which will be staged in Karachi from 10 December to 3 January. Karachi will also stage the Cricket Associations Challenge from 10-29 December.

Director High Performance, Nadeem Khan: "Making the domestic events competitive and challenging, while continuing to provide maximum opportunities to our talented cricketers to demonstrate their talent and help them graduate to the higher level, was the mainstay of our thought-process when we finalised the upcoming domestic season calendar.

"Last year, we allowed each Cricket Association to field two under-19 sides in the National tournaments and this year we have increased the number of

matches in the second XI CA Cup, Championship and Challenge. This means each player will get a minimum of 10 matches across all three formats, which provides a good enough opportunity for any player to show his mettle and talent, and stake his claim in the first XI competitions.

"We have introduced a new concept whereby the non first-class CA Championship matches will be four-day fixtures. This will ensure the matches are well-contested and result-oriented, and the players get full opportunity to make the best from these games. This will also help in narrowing the gap with our first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in which only the best of the best participate.

"We have also tried to streamline the player development and progression. Now, a talented U19 cricketer will not have to wait until the next year before play-

ing in the seniors' competition. I am sure that this year, we will see a few outstanding U19 cricketers from the CCA, CA and National tournaments that will feature in the topline events, as the pathways events have been designed to lead into the main competitions.

"Last year, youngsters Mubasir Khan of Northern and Balochistan's Haseebullah were adjudged players of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and Pakistan Cup, respectively. It was heartwarming for the PCB to see the youngsters stepping up and dominating these tournaments, as this not only reflected the talent in our country but also demonstrated the high standard of our events.

"I remain optimistic that a good number of youngsters will make a name for themselves from the forthcoming tournaments which, in turn, will help us increase the pool of our national team bench players."

Finale of Free Fire Esports 'Soobai' Series on July 31

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Secretary Sports Punjab Asadullah Faiz has announced that Sports Department Punjab is going to organise the grand finale of Garena Free Fire Esports 'Soobai' Series at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on July 31, 2022.

He made this announcement while addressing a press conference along with DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi at National Hockey Stadium on Monday. Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Youth Affairs Omair Hasan, Lead of Pakistan Free Fire Esports Hamza Hashwani, PR Media Falak Gondal and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the press conference, Asadullah Faiz said that 12 teams from all four provinces will be participating in the grand finale of Free Fire Soobai Series. "Four teams from Punjab, three teams each from Sindh and KP and two teams from Balochistan will be in action during the memorable Esports activity where a hefty cash prize of Rs 40 lakh will be distributed among the top performers of the event," he added.

Pak cyclists to feature in World Road Cycling C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cyclists would feature in the upcoming World Road Cycling Championship scheduled to be held in Australia from September 17 to 25.

According to Syed Azhar Ali Shah, President Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) Pakistani cyclists would participate in the Individual Time Trial (ITT) events of the World Road Cycling Championship.

Shah said Pakistani cyclists to participate in the mega event including two male and as many female. "In this regard a two-member selection committee has been formed under the chair of Muazzam Khan, Secretary General PCF." He said the committee would conduct trials at Lahore and Karachi on August 5 and 8, respectively.

"Miss Maham will be coordinator of the Selection Committee for Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while Javed Khan has been notified as Coordinator of Selection Committee of Sindh and Balochistan.

Other members of the Selection Committee Sindh are Javed Khan, Ishfaq and Punjab selection committee members include Adnan Hassan Khan, Nusrat Khan and Sardar Nazakat," he said.

Popp explodes for Germany after ending Euro woe

MANCHESTER: Alexandra Popp seem destined never to play at a European Championship due to injury, but the veteran striker is now leading Germany's charge back to the top of the women's game at Euro 2022. An Olympic gold medalist and Champions League winner at club level with Wolfsburg, the Euro had been the bete noire of the 31-year-old's glittering career until touching down in England a few weeks ago.

Her determination to play in Wolfsburg's Champions League final win over Lyon despite ankle ligament damage ruined her chances of playing at Euro 2013. Four years later it was a knee issue



that cost Popp a place in the squad for Euro 2017. Further injury woe looked set to derail what will realistically be her last chance to be crowned a European champion at international level. Popp has had two more knee operations on her meniscus over the past 15

months, only making a comeback in March.

And even when she proved her fitness in time to be selected by Martina Voss-Tecklenburg, Popp's pre-tournament preparations were disrupted by a positive test for coronavirus. A trained zookeeper, Popp

has reacted like a caged animal since being released upon the tournament as a substitute in Germany's opening game against Denmark. In her 115th appearance for Germany, she took just 25 minutes to score on her first match at the Euro with a diving header to cap a 4-0 win over the Danes.

In an emotional celebration the striker sank to her knees and appeared on the verge of tears in what she later described as the most emotional moment of her career. Another Covid-19 case in the German camp to Lea Schueller then opened the door for Popp to start against Spain, which she marked with another headed finish.



Legend of hockey Shahbaz Ahmad senior giving award of top scorer in Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 Spain and Netherlands.

DG SBP chairs meeting to discuss ways to increase revenue



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi presided over an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Tuesday.

Director Admin Javed Chohan, Director Youth Affairs Syed Omair Hasan, Deputy Director Tariq Wattoo, Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmad, SBP Revenue Consultant Saleem Bari and Bilal Akram also attended the important meeting.

The meeting was convened to discuss different ways and means to increase the revenue of Sports Board Punjab. A briefing was given about the revenue of sports venues, parking stand and Punjab International Swimming Pool canteen during the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi said that the income of Sports Board Punjab will have to be increased to further improve the sports infrastructure across the province. "After increasing our income, we will be able to provide top standard sports facilities to our players," he maintained.

Director General Sports Punjab Mohammad Tariq Qureshi further said that Sports Board Punjab will have to involve mode of public-private partnership to achieve durable financial self-reliance. "After achieving financial self-reliance, Sports Board Punjab will be able to promote true sports culture throughout the province and provide best sports facilities to all talented male and female athletes of the province," he added.

Garena Free Fire enters into strategic collaboration to promote esports



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Garena Free Fire, together with Sports Board Punjab and the Directorate General Sports and Youth Affairs, entered into a strategic collaboration aimed at strengthening the esports landscape in Pakistan.

This initiative will seek to enable and equip the growth of a new tide of young esports professional players throughout the country.

Free Fire Pakistan recently announced its new flagship national tournament, the Soobai Series, which is set to induct new professional esports players into the Pakistan ecosystem, having placed participation restrictions on the top 9 teams from this year's FFPL III and including placeholder positions for winners of the Soobai Series in FFPL IV. This initiative helps to extend more opportunities to players from Free Fire's evolving community to pursue esports as a career. The Grand Final of the Soobai Series is scheduled to be held on the 31st of July, at the iconic premises in Nishtar Park Sports Complex, courtesy of the Punjab Sports Board.

The Free Fire Soobai Series will have a total prize pool valued at PKR 4 Million.

Commenting on the occasion, Sports & Youth Affairs Secretary Punjab, Asadullah Faiz said "We're delighted to join hands in this strategic collaboration with Garena Free Fire. With the launch of this initiative we will seek to elevate the esports landscape in Pakistan, while engaging the youth and providing professional opportunities in the field of esports. Punjab Sports Board is proud to be joining the esports revolution and is committed to progressing the field as any other sport in the country"

US mulls more events after worlds success

EUGENE: As a metaphor for a sport with lofty ambitions, Armand Duplantis soaring to a pole vault world record was the perfectly scripted final act that a thrilling World Athletics Championships deserved.

The Swedish star brought the curtain down on the 10-day track and field extravaganza in Eugene on Sunday with a jaw-dropping leap of 6.21m, sailing over the bar with ease to electrify Hayward Field. Duplantis – routinely referred to as a "rock star" by World Athletics Chief Sebastian Coe – is part of a golden generation of athletes who lit up the 10-day championships in Oregon.

A slew of other athletes also grabbed the spotlight during the championships, with 400m hurdler Sydney McLaughlin delivering a dazzling world record run and the charismatic Noah Lyles

racing to gold in the 200m. Those kind of compelling performances delighted both Coe and United States Track and Field (USATF), who are desperate to boost the profile of the sport in the country after years where it has languished out of the spotlight. In pursuit of that goal, more major track and field events in the United States are a certainty. In 2023, Eugene will host the finale of the Diamond League season – the first time in history that the meeting has been held outside of Europe.

Others have even wondered whether Los Angeles could be a contender to host the World Championships in 2027, a year ahead of the Olympics in 2028 in the city. Asked about that possibility on Sunday, USATF chief executive Max Siegel did not rule it out. "As far as hosting other events we'd love to continue to host events,"

Siegel told reporters when asked about 2027. "The more that we can support and give visibility to the sport is great for all of us.

The timetable is something that we would have to work through. "But we look forward to working with World Athletics and hosting more events here." Coe meanwhile said the championships had drawn an additional 400,000 new followers to World Athletics social media platforms with seven million engagements. Videos posted by World Athletics drew 41 million views. Siegel says US officials will continue to work with World Athletics to determine how best to exploit those numbers. "Anecdotally I've had more people who are not traditional track fans reach out to me," Siegel said. "There's a huge awareness because of the World Championships.

"We're working in partnership with World Athletics to get both quantitative and qualitative data as to where the sport sits, with tons of strategies to reposition the sport and the brand and to tell the stories of the athletes. We have a pretty robust plan leading up to LA 2028. "We're going to capitalize on this event and use it as a catalyst to reposition the sport."

Athletics will also benefit from a schedule over the next six year that will mean the sport is more or less permanently in the global spotlight. A consequence of the Tokyo Olympics' postponement by a year – and the knock-on decision to reschedule the Eugene championships to 2022 – means that the sport will now have a global championship in seven of eight years between 2021 and 2028. Next year's World Championships in Budapest are followed by



the 2024 Paris Olympics, before Tokyo hosts the World Championships in 2025.

A lone fallow year in 2026 is followed by the 2027 World Championships and the 2028 Olympics. "If you look at the next six or seven years we have athletics absolutely centre stage in northern hemisphere terms in the most

broadcastable part of the year," Coe said. "I'm really pleased we've got the opportunity to showcase athletics, but I don't minimize the challenges some athletes are going to face."

While the likes of McLaughlin, Lyles and 800m star Athing Mu were the figureheads of a successful US team, the global spread of

talent in Eugene was also notable. The evergreen Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce bagged a fifth world 100m crown, while compatriot Shericka Jackson blitzed to victory in the 200m in 21.45sec, the second fastest time in history.

On Sunday, Nigeria's Tobi Amusan delivered arguably the most stunning world record of the championships, scorching to 12.12secs before going on to win gold in the women's 100m hurdles. Those performances encourage Coe to believe that the sport has a range of stars to market itself around in the post-Usain Bolt era. "We recognize the unique nature of what Usain Bolt brought to our sport," Coe said on Sunday. "But I'm probably more optimistic about the bandwidth of talent that is coming through... We've got a whole group of young athletes that are there or thereabouts."