



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
راغب بن خدیج رضی اللہ عنہ نے فرمادے ہیں کہ میں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا، آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا تھا کہ بخار جہنم کے جو شہادت کے اثر سے ہوتا ہے اس لیے اسے پانی سے دھو کر لیا کرو۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3262)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Tests & trials make stronger, more resolute: Maryam

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz says tests and trials have made her stronger and more resolute in 23 years. 1999! Still stood against oppression and persecution then and still do 23 years later. Singling MNS out for cruel and unjust treatment has not seen an end since. Will not give up, Insha'Allah.



Everyone has to save the country: Sh Rashid

Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid says whatever kind of intervention is happening; everyone has to save the country together. Pakistan is in danger of bankruptcy if the country will not receive bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) soon. The country is going through worst economic and political crisis, foreign exchange reserves have dwindled to alarming levels.

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Assessment

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrives in Jacobabad to commence his one day visit of flood hit areas of Balochistan. Jacobabad, Saturday.



Photo: PID

COAS, Centcom chief discuss defence coop

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and US Central Command General Michael Erik Kurilla exchanged views on mutual interests, including regional stability, defence and security cooperation. In a telephonic conversation, COAS Bajwa said that Pakistan values its relations with the US and earnestly looked forward to "enhancing mutually benefi-

cial multi-domain ties based on common interests," according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Both reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all fields, the statement added. As for his part, General Kurilla acknowledged the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability. He pledged to play his role in further improving cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Rs7 per liter

Federal cabinet nods POL price hike

Also lifts ban on luxury items' import

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The government has further burdened the masses, who are already concerned due to whooping inflation as the federal cabinet on Saturday approved increasing dealers' margin on petrol and diesel by Rs7 per litre. According to details, the government has approved an increase in dealer margin on diesel by Rs2.87. While the dealer margin on petrol has been increased by Rs 2.10 per litre. The increase in dealers' margin will be effective from August 1.

Sources privy to the matter said that the prices of POL products are likely to increase further. It merits mention here that a nationwide strike was called by the petroleum dealers on July 18. The federal cabinet on Saturday approved the Economic Coordination Committee's (ECC) decision to lift the ban on the import of luxury items.

According to details, the federal cabinet has approved the ECC's decision to unban the import of luxury items such as cigarettes, chocolate

and juices. According to the ECC's decision import ban on items such as cosmetics, tissue papers, pet food, fish, footwear, fruits and dry fruits has been lifted. Furniture, ice creams, jams and jellies, leather jackets, shampoo, sunglasses, ketchup, arms and ammunition, pasta, musical instruments, frozen meat, door and window frames, decoration articles, travel bags, suitcases, crockery and corn flakes can also be imported after the lifting of the ban.

The government decided to ban the import of luxury items due to an alarmingly high trade deficit.

The Ministry of Commerce on May 20 notified a ban on the import of 38 non-essential luxury items under an "emergency economic plan". Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a Twitter message, "My decision to ban the import of luxury items will save the country precious foreign exchange. We will practice austerity & financially stronger people must lead in this effort so that the less privileged among us do not have to bear this burden inflicted on them by the PTI govt."

Another

NEPRA decides power tariff hike

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has issued a decision to increase the power tariff once again. As per NEPRA's decision, power tariff was increased by 50 paise per unit. The approval was given by NEPRA for the third quarter of the financial year 2021-22. According to the decision, the increase will impose an additional burden of Rs12.76 billion on the electricity consumers, the increase will come into effect for three months from September 1.

The increase will not be applicable to the lifeline and K-Electric customers. NEPRA sent the decision to the federal government for its notification.

Flash floods

PM announces financial aid for rain affectees

PM visits flood-hit Balochistan and Sindh, announces compensation

JACOBABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday announced a compensation of Rs1 million each to the heirs of deceased persons. He further announced Rs500,000 each for fully damaged and Rs200,000 for partially damaged houses in the flood-hit areas.

He said he came to Balochistan to assess losses in affected areas including Quetta, Zhob, Chaman, Killa Saifullah, Loralai and Lasbella. The Prime Minister had held a meeting with the chief ministers and chief secretaries of provinces a few days ago in Islamabad and decided about the relief measures.

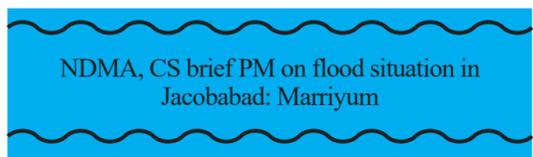
Shehbaz Sharif said 300 people including 124 in Balochistan lost their lives in the flood affected areas, adding the government would give Rs one million each to the families

of those who lost their lives. The provincial government would also give Rs one million to the families of the victims. He said the government would be further reviewed.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday visited the flood-hit areas of Balochistan

The prime minister took an aerial view of Goth Ali Mardan Shambani in district Jhal Magsi and other affected areas to assess the losses and the chief secretary Balochistan during the flight gave details about the flood situation and the relief operations. He stopped at the Shambani village and met with the people affected by the floods.

The Prime Minister directed for establishing of a medical camp and provision of medicines for the affected village. He also ordered posting of a veterinary doctor for the livestock and asked the authorities to immediately arrange two boats and ration for the villages and speed up the relief activities for the affectees. Chief Secretary Balochistan immediately sent additional teams for relief activities in the flood affected areas.



ment would also give Rs 500,000 each for totally damaged houses and Rs 200,000 for partially damaged houses. He said he had constituted four committees which would hold consultation with the provinces to assess the losses of livestock and damage to the crops, adding in the next meeting in Islamabad on August 3, the situation after floods

to review rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) officers, chief secretary Balochistan and NDMA Chairman Lt. General Akhtar Nawaz briefed the prime minister about the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts in the flood-affected areas of the province, PM Office Media Wing said.

Incompetent govt responsible for inflation: Imran

Decides to file judicial reference against CEC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has slammed the 'incompetent' government over rupee depreciation and the rise in the inflation rate.

Imran Khan said in a Twitter message that the US dollar stood at Rs178 on March 8, 2022, when the vote of no-confidence was tabled. He said that US dollar has reached Rs250 under the incumbent government.

The former prime minister said that the inflation stood at 16.5% on March 8, 2022 but it has spiralled to 38%. Criticising the current rulers, Khan said, "Not only is this imported govt made up of crooks but it is thoroughly incompetent too. Question is who is responsible for this mess?" Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Saturday decided to file a judicial reference against Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja.



against CEC Sikandar Sultan will be brought against the Election Commission in two provincial assemblies (Punjab and KP).

The sources said that the PTI chairman has given approval to the legal experts to initiate the case. Taking a swipe at Sultan Sikandar Raja, senior PTI leaders said the CEC had violated the election code of conduct. According to sources, PTI Chairman Imran Khan presided over

an important meeting of the party leadership, where the meeting of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) members with the government alliance delegation was discussed. Sources privy to the matter said the PTI leadership has expressed concern over the meeting of the ECP members with the government delegation in the prohibited funding case. While the role of the ECP in the PTI prohibited funding case has also been reviewed.

PML-N advises Nawaz to return to home

ISLAMABAD: Senior leadership of the PML-N has advised party supreme Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan to take control of the matters as the party

faced a blowback after losing control of Punjab province to rival PTI. According to sources having knowledge of discussions within the party, the senior PML-N leadership have made contact with Nawaz Sharif and mulled over ways to restore the standing of the party in the country, especially in Punjab province.

"The senior leaders advised Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan and lead the party," they said, adding the meeting reached a consensus that the party lost in by-polls owing to worst economic conditions and inflation. Moreover, the performance of the PML-N federal ministers was also reviewed during the meeting and Nawaz Sharif directed the leadership to stay connected to party leaders and activists.

Recently during a meeting of the PDM, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif lambasted Finance Minister Miftah Ismail due to the ongoing economic turmoil in the country.

Coalition govt won't become anyone's slave: Fazl

Laments false cases lodged against PDM leaders by using institutions

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Democratic Movement chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has alleged that false cases were made against PDM leaders by using the country's institutions. Addressing a press conference in Peshawar, the JUI-F chief noted that the alliance was not scared of anyone, no matter how much they are powerful or are a part of any organisation. Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the allied parties will fight a political and constitutional war instead of surrendering. "If the institutions form cases against us, we will respond strongly against them," warned Fazl.



the judge becomes controversial by his behaviour and facilitates one side. Fazl also asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce the verdict in PTI's prohibited funding case "without any fear".

Grievances may be with some individuals and not with institutions

Speaking about the foreign funding case, Fazl said former prime minister Imran Khan-led PTI rose to power under "international conspiracy". "A US consulate has been paying the rent of Imran Khan's house for nine years and money was taken by India and Israel in the foreign funding case," he alleged. He also criticised the Supreme Court's decision on Punjab chief minister's election, saying that the state gets destroyed if

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that there may be grievances from some individuals but not with institutions. The JUI-F chief said, "Our demand was that the establishment should be neutral."

Maulana Fazlur Rehman said, "Will all the decisions will be made by the three-member bench?" JUI-F supreme said that the Prime Minister is working together with all his

subordinate institutions. Attacking the PTI chairman, Maulana Fazl said that Imran Khan used to say that he was ousted by a foreign power. Imran was not ousted but brought in by global power, the JUI-F chief said.

Maulana Fazl criticized the former prime minister and said that it is not enough to remove him from power but it is also necessary to undone his entity. The PDM chief said that fighting a political and constitutional battle is the need of the hour. He further said that if any force works to destroy the morals of the youth, then the responsibility lies with the religious scholars. "Respect for the judiciary is important to us," Fazl said. But if a judge becomes controversial and gives protection to one party, this could have long-term consequences, the JUI-F supreme said.

Maulana Fazl lambasted Imran Khan and said that the one who asked for votes in favor of the Israeli candidate in Britain, speaks of freedom and education to the new generation. Maulana alleged that the US Consulate continued to pay house rent to Imran Khan and the former prime minister also received foreign funding from Israel and India. "We have to save the country and will fight the by-elections like one party," the JUI-F chief said. Fazl claimed that the entire assembly of Kashmir has been bought by one person.

Brotherhood

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki are holding a meeting here on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Pak-Saudi security coop to further be enhanced: Sanaullah

Says foolproof security plan devised for Muharram

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Saturday said that security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would further be enhanced. The minister expressed these views during a meeting with Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki who called on him here, said a press release.

Sanaullah said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia would jointly face all internal and regional security challenges. Expressing gratitude to Saudi Arabia for the successful organization of Road to Makkah project to facilitate Pakistani Hajj pilgrims, he said Saudi always helped Pakistan in odd hour. Relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were based on brotherly, long-standing and historical roots, he added.

The minister congratulated Custodian of the

Two Holy Mosques and Saudi government for making excellent arrangements for Hajj. Pakistani people have special love and reverence to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

Over 80,000 Pakistani benefited from Road to Makkah project this year: Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki

he added. He also thanked the Saudi government and embassy for facilitating Pakistani Hujjaj and making special arrangements for them. The ambassador said that over 80,000 Pakistani took benefit from Road to Makkah

project this year.

Rana Sanaullah said that the government will ensure foolproof security during the month of Muharram. The minister, taking to his Twitter account, announced that the government has decided to establish a control room for surveillance and monitoring of security arrangements across the country. "Special security teams will be formed to provide foolproof security to the processions and majalis."

He added that the online platforms would be strictly monitored to curb religious hatred. According to Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony, Youm-e-Ashura will be observed on August 9 and the first of Muharram will be Sunday. Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Moulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad presided over the meeting, which took place at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Quetta.

Treason & vandalism

Imran Khan gets bails in 10 cases

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan's pre-arrest bail was confirmed on Saturday in 10 cases registered against him over vandalism during the party's May 25 "Azadi March". The former premier appeared in District and Session Judge Kamran Basharat Mufti's court to request bail in 11 cases. Bail was granted in 10 against surety bonds of Rs5,000 each. It should be noted that after the long march, at least 15 cases were registered in different police stations against the former prime minister.

On July 21, the district and sessions court extended the interim bail of the PTI chairman till July 30 in the 10 cases. Judge Mufti had approved a plea by his lawyer seeking an exemption from personal appearance that day. During the course of the proceedings that day, the counsel pleaded with the court to also grant his client interim bail in a case registered at the Kohsar police station.

At this, the judge remarked that since he was seeking fresh bail in

the case, personal appearance of the suspect is necessary, which is why Khan had to appear in court today. The court has yet to announce its decision on a bail plea in the case registered at Kohsar police station. It is pertinent to mention here that Imran Khan's bail in five other cases had already been confirmed by judge Abdul Ghafoor Kakar.

On May 28, the Islamabad police registered cases against PTI Chairman Imran Khan and other senior leaders, including Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Asad Umar, following riots in the federal capital during the march. Apart from the top brass, Shireen Mazari, Zartaj Gul, Ali Amin Gandapur and Raja Khurram Nawaz have also been named in the first information reports (FIRs).

The cases were registered over blocking of roads, disrupting state affairs, attacking police personnel and damaging property. The police had registered cases at the Aabpara, Kohsar, Tarnol, Lohi Bhir, Rama, Bhara Kahu and the Secretariat police stations.

\$250m

Imran Khan 'abettor' in money-laundering: Musadik

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Saturday said PTI chairman Imran Khan was the 'abettor' in a \$250 million money-laundering case and the 'guarantor' of Arif Naqvi, Chief Executive of the Abraj Capital and Investment Company, indicted by the US courts in a range of cases and could get up to 290-year jail.

"How a person [Imran Khan], who is the abettor and protector of the \$250 million money-laundering [Bahria Town case]; and the guarantor of an accused [Arif Naqvi] whom the US courts hint at awarding 290 years jail, can be the upright and truthful," the minister questioned while addressing a news conference in response to a presser of PTI leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain.

Unopposed

PTI's Wasiq elected as PA Deputy Speaker

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PTI's Wasiq Qayyum, who was a joint candidate of his party and the PML-Q, was elected as Punjab Assembly's deputy speaker unopposed on Saturday after the Opposition announced a boycott of the polls. The Punjab Assembly deputy speaker's seat fell vacant after Dost Muhammad Mazari was removed through a no-confidence motion submitted by the PTI after his ties deteriorated with the party.

The PTI's candidate won after the Opposition did not submit their candidate Ali Haider Gilani's nomination papers before the 5:00pm deadline. Speaking with the media persons, Gilani said that the Opposition has boycotted the elections as they are not "clean and transparent". "We had strong objections regarding the election process," said the candidate.

PML-N challenges PA speaker's election

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PML-N on Saturday challenged the election of Speaker Punjab Assembly held a day earlier, in the Lahore High Court, naming newly-elected speaker Sibtain Khan, and others as respondents in the petition. The petition was filed in the Lahore High Court through Mansoor Usman Awan. It states that "legal requirements were not fulfilled" during the elections. Later the petition was fixed for hearing and it was noted that a two-member bench will hear the case on Monday (August 1).

The Punjab Assembly elected PTI's Sibtain Khan, who was a joint candidate of his party and the PML-Q, as the new speaker on Friday after the seat fell vacant following former office bearer Pervez Elahi being elected as the chief minister of Punjab on July 26. Sibtain won the election after securing 185 votes against the 175 votes obtained by PML-N's Saif ul Malook Khokhar, who was the Opposition's joint candidate.

The petition filed today challenging the election stated that the process should be conducted by secret ballot and that mentioning serial numbers on ballot papers is a "violation of the Constitution".

The petitioner demanded a re-election of the speaker of the provincial assembly, declaring yesterday's polling "null and void". PML-N leader Atta Tarar reiterated the petitioner's demand for a re-election.

Meanwhile, MPA Rana Mashood said the party has turned in a request to the Panel of Chair to not accept the election.

I retain Punjab's usurped mandate democratically: Elahi

Announces to further expand health card scheme

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The newly elected Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi on Saturday said that winning the election of Punjab Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker's no-motion movement is the victory of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's narrative. He said that PTI has taken back usurped mandate of Punjab in a democratic way. CM Pervaiz Elahi said that fascism has been ended in Punjab. He went on to say that the process of service will start from the point it was stopped. While he also said that the develops with a true mandate, not an illegal mandate.

CM said that the opposition must brace themselves for surprises in the future. Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi has decided



to further expand health card scheme, launched by former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. According to details, the decision was taken during a meeting held under the chairmanship

of newly-appointed Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi.

During the meeting, the chief minister approved the upgrading of emergency wards of all hospitals in Punjab including Wazirabad Institute of Cardiology. He also directed the officials to end the shortage of doctors and staff in Wazirabad Institute. Speaking on the occasion, CM Pervaiz Elahi has directed the concerned authorities to provide best health facilities to the citizens. "All medicines will be provided free of charge to the patients in the emergency wards," he added. He said that the number of beds in Wazirabad Institute of Cardiology will be increased from 100 to 200. "In the second phase, the number of beds in the institution will be increased to 400," the provincial chief executive added.

Money laundering

Court to indict PM, Hamza on Sept 7

Bureau Report

LAHORE: A special court in Lahore on Saturday fixed September 7 for the indictment of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, his son Hamza Shahbaz, and others, for their alleged involvement in money laundering of Rs16 billion in the sugar scam case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) booked Shehbaz and his sons Hamza and Suleman in November 2021 under sections 419, 420, 468, 471, 34 and 109 of the Prevention of Corruption Act and r/w 3/4 of the Anti Money Laundering Act. Suleman Shehbaz is absconding in the UK. During the hearing today, property details of Suleman, who was declared a proclaimed offender in the multi-billion-rupee money laundering case, were submitted in the court.

SCO conference

No bilateral meeting with India planned: FM

Terms Indian statements on Islamophobia as hurdles in talks

TASHKENT: Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, who is currently attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting, asserted that Pakistan has no plans of holding any bilateral meeting with India. Bilawal held six bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of Central Asian countries on the sidelines of the conference which is being held in connection with preparations for the SCO Heads of State meeting scheduled to be held in September.

Bilawal held meetings with his counterparts from Afghanistan, China, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. "There



are no plans of any meetings between Indian and Pakistani prime ministers in September," Bilawal said, adding that both India and Pakistan are part of the SCO and the two countries are only engaged in the context of the broad-based activities of the organisation.

The foreign minister said: "India is our neighbouring country. While one can decide on a lot of things, one

cannot choose its neighbours, therefore, we should get used to living with them." Bilawal recalled that after 2019, constructive dialogue with India became difficult, while statements based on Islamophobia by Indian officials are further creating hurdles in dialogue.

The foreign minister maintained: "We are trying to find economic opportunities for our people".

Country heading towards general elections: Fawad

Says ruling coalition's hatred towards expats beyond understanding

ISLAMABAD: Former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry Saturday said that the PTI was mulling over to bring a reference against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja against meeting leaders from ruling coalition and assuring them of an early decision in prohibited funding case. Addressing a presser, Fawad Chaudhry said that leaders of ruling coalition met CEC and discussed prohibited funding case which is against the judges' code of conduct which also applies on Sikandar Sultan.

"How members of the ECP

could meet people who are party to a case," he said, adding CEC and members of the ECP violated their code of conduct of the judiciary. He claimed that the ECP has assured the ruling coalition of early decision in the case. "We are consulting our legal team for a reference against them in judicial commission," he said and demanded that they should be removed from their slots. While defending funding to PTI from foreign donors, he said that they were overseas Pakistanis and the only thing party determines is to check if the money is sent through legal means.

"We cannot check the source of income of a donor," he said and asked how they could go after every donor to ascertain their sources of income. He lamented that the crisis faced by the country was due to the ECP that refused to hold general elections in the country before the Supreme Court.

"Shehbaz Sharif has played a role in the economy's meltdown," he said and lamented that if ECP had not refused to hold polls before the SC, the country would have had a stable government by now. He added that the economy is facing such a grave threat

that COAS Qamar Bajwa has to talk to the US for the release of a US\$1.17 billion IMF tranche.

Fawad Chaudhry said that the country is heading towards general elections before the by-polls on 11 seats that are vacated after accepting resignations of PTI lawmakers in National Assembly. "Only fear of Imran Khan's return is forcing them to delay the polls," he said. Speaking on Nawaz Sharif's return, he said that the PML-N supremo is a Pakistani citizen and has the right to return to the country, however, he would land in jail upon his return. "Nawaz Sharif will have

to face cases filed against him," Fawad Chaudhry said.

Responding to a question regarding Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's entry into Punjab, Fawad Chaudhry said that he could come to Punjab but they could not guarantee his return. "Cases are registered against Rana Sanaullah and he should face them," he said. Fawad Chaudhry said that hatred of ruling coalition government towards overseas Pakistanis is beyond understanding. Fawad Chaudhry, in a statement, said that expats are backbone of Pakistan's economy but government has stripped

them of their voting rights.

Former Information Minister further said that PTI does not rely on mafias for funding and demanded Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to announce verdict of funding cases of three major parties at the same time so that people can compare. On the other hand, PTI leader Asad Umar criticized the ruling coalition as inflation soars to 37 percent. Asad Umar said that inflation rose by 3.68% in one week which is highest in history of the country. He added that 'imported' government has shattered all record of inflation.

12 dead, 17 injured in rain, flood related incidents in KP

Chief Minister announces to send relief materials to flood victims

PESHAWAR: At least twelve people died and 17 were injured in rain and flood related incidents during the last 36 hours in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release issued here by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) here on Saturday.

It said that 99 houses were fully damaged, while 188 others were partially damaged. The authority had distributed relief goods among flood affectees of Khyber, Manshara, Dir Lower and Buner districts.

Regarding flood position in rivers, the PDMA said that high level flood was recorded in River Kabul at Nowshera and in River Jindi at Charsadda.

Quoting Deputy Commissioner (DC) D.I. Khan, it said that all possible measures had been taken to stop the flow of the flood water towards populated areas in Band Koi, Tehsil Paharpur of D.I. Khan district.

The district administration in the



rain and flood affected districts were making efforts for the rehabilitation of rain-damaged roads, and were directed to carry out an estimation of losses in their respective districts, the press release said.

On the other hand, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan Saturday issued instructions to ensure the supply of 32 trucks relief goods to the flood victims of Balochistan province in the next 24

hours.

In a statement issued here the Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has announced to send relief materials to the flood victims.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government would send relief goods including 1,000 tents, 2,000 blankets and 1,000 meters, one thousand hygiene kits, one thousand mosquito nets and other essential items are also included in the aid package.

1000 packages of food items, medicines and dewatering pumps would also be sent by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. The Chief Minister said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will not leave people of Balochistan alone at this hour.

He said that we not only share the grief with the affected people but actually stand with them to provide maximum relief to the people of Balochistan. Agencies

Young Leadership Conference discusses leadership skills

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Young Leadership Conference on developmental and leadership skills is about to conclude on high notes where lots of inquisitive individuals got themselves flourished with strategic skills, knowledge and new experiences. The conference has only one day remaining but yet it has a lot to serve to the participants.

With this year's theme "Pehchaan" our honorable speakers had already addressed from "Realization & Personal Leadership" to "History, Politics & Religion" where we aim to embark on a journey of finding ourselves and pushing ourselves to unlearn the complexities, focused on how to be set free from the chains of stereotypes and taboos. We also explored how art is regardless and plays a significant role in bringing people together and how to avail opportunities whenever there is a problem.

YLC 2022—the agenda of day 05 was "Rethink – History, Politics & Religion" the objective of the day was to encourage participants to reflect on these particular issues while having a thorough understanding and exploration that will further empower them with a constructive approach while Shireen Naqvi served her duties as the day champ!

After the participants were given the time to get ready and have breakfast and



day brief by Shireen Naqvi, the fifth day started with a session by Moiz Khan on How Factual is the History where he defined the majority of people think of history as "a collection of facts about the past" or making claims about the past based on what people at the time recorded but what history is actually all about. Since we are more likely to have sources written by "winners" designed to highlight why they were heroic in their victories. Sometimes what we hear or read is not entirely factual; the business needs to be recognized to escape the trap we are setting for ourselves.

The day champ Shireen Naqvi then in her session Formation of Narratives – Construction and Deconstruction engaged participants in an activity that makes them understand what narratives are, how they are formed and how they can be deconstructed

Followed by a session Tameer se Takmeel Tak conducted by Javed Jabbar where he explained we often argue or disagree over why Pakistan was founded or what the Quaid's Pakistan was like, but is this argument still valid today? Or the conversation right now should be more practical. The reality is, Pakistan does exist, and we all call it home. Now it's up to us to decide if we want to continue living the way we already do or find some common ground to live together peacefully and develop as a nation.

Later, Ali Hameed in his session Clash of Civilizations & Pakistani Youth explained that The Clash of Civilizations is a theory that claims that in the post-Cold War world, conflicts will mostly arise from people's cultural and religious identities and how we as responsible individuals might overcome this conflict without contributing to it.

Theatre Festival concludes At Alhamra

LAHORE: Alhamra's 25th eight-day-long Alhamra Theater Festival concluded with Ajoka's famous play 'Toba Tek Singh' at Alhamra Arts Centre, here on Saturday.

Renowned artist Rashid Mehmood attended the closing ceremony as the chief guest. Executive Director Alhamra Farhat Jabeen also witnessed the last-day performances at the festival and distributed certificates among artistes with Rashid Mehmood and Deputy Director Alhamra Naveed-ul-Hassan.

The deputy director thanked the participants, and said that Alhamra would continue to organise such festivals in future also.

The executive director Alhamra congratulated and thanked all theatre groups and said that artistes were glad to see that people showed interest in their performances. She said that Alhamra wanted to revive theatre and bring people back to serious and quality plays. Alhamra had always been a big supporter of the rich art and culture of Punjab, she added. APP

PUCAR organises national songs show

SARGODHA: Punjab Council of the Arts Sargodha division organised a 'National Songs' show here on Saturday, the for local singers, in connection with the 75th Independence Day celebrations of Pakistan.

Commissioner Sargodha Dr Irshad Ahmed was the chief guest at the event, while local artists, council officers and a large number of citizens also attended it. The commissioner said that freedom is a great blessing of Allah, and it is very important to value it in every way.

He said that creative thinking plays a key role in promoting positive thinking in society for which it is very important that people attached with art and culture are made part of social activities.

Arts Council Director Mughees bin Aziz said that the exhibition was organised to make the young generation aware of the events that took place and the personalities who participated in the Pakistan Movement. Later, the commissioner also witnessed a photo exhibition, titled 'Roshni Ka Safar', on the freedom struggle at the Arts Council Complex and evinced keen interest in it. APP

Commissioner inaugurates tree plantation campaign

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain inaugurated tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling in the lawns of his office, here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) had prepared nursery of various trees which would be planted in different parts, green-belts and other available spaces in Faisalabad during the current monsoon season.

He said that trees were imperative to arrest environmental pollution, in addition to combating climate change. Therefore, the nation should take part actively in the tree plantation campaign to plant maximum trees in greater national interest, he added.

Defence Minister inaugurates NADRA Executive Centre

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khwaja Muhammad Asif inaugurated the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Executive Centre, here on Saturday.

The center, located at Defence Road, has the ability to provide facilities to thousands of citizens.

More than 2,000 people will be able to benefit daily at the NADRA Centre, the minister was informed.

NADRA Director General Punjab Major (ret'd) Saqlain Abbas Bukhari gave a briefing to the federal minister about different departments.

Kh Asif reviewed all facilities at the NADRA Centre and appreciated the completion of the project in a short period of time. APP

Flood threats loom over Oveerlasht Valley

CHITRAL: The most scenic valley of Oveer Lasht is always in danger of Glacial Lake outburst flood and residents of the area appealed to the government to announce construction of protection wall to save this green valley from possible flood havoc.

During a visit to the area, people of this scenic valley Arkari in Chitral and Oveerlasht while narrating their fear said that they could not sleep peacefully at the night because of the possible flood water that every year hit the valley and a constant threat to human lives.

The people of the area said that they were always worried about the avalanche and flood water. They said that the centuries-old glacier lying on the mountains at Mumi in the same valley always caused a devastating



flood in which many people died earlier on.

"We cannot prevent natural calamities, but we can minimize the rate of damage with better strategies and that is why we have appealed to the government to construct a protection wall to address this long standing threat to human lives.

"A protection wall should be built on both sides of flood nullahs so that this area can be saved from any possible flood damage. It should be noted that OveerLasht and

its suburbs have a population of 4,000 people, where there is neither a hospital nor a Primary school for girls. There is a mountain range on top of which there are centuries-old icebergs i.e. glaciers which can burst at any time and cause a big flood.

The people have appealed to the provincial and Federal government as well as the international organizations to save their beautiful valley from possible flood damage where there is a danger of flood all the time. APP

AC Wana inaugurates plantation campaign

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the tribal district of South Waziristan, Assistant Commissioner Wana Basheer Khan inaugurated the Monsoon Plantation Campaign planted plants in the scouts camp Wana and plants were also distributed among the common people.

On this occasion, along with Assistant Commissioner Wana Basheer Khan, the officers of the Forest Department were also present and emphasized on planting more plants in Wana.



Talking to the common people, he said that planting trees is an ongoing charity, and make Waziristan lush and green,

Planting trees not only increases the beauty of the area but also cleans the air pollution.

Later Assistant Commis-

sioner Wana told the media that the people of Waziristan Wana should plant more trees to increase the beauty and greenery of the area and the people of Wana should actively participate in this plantation campaign.

He further said that Monsoon Plantation Campaign is going on in the whole province and people are planting more and more different types of trees, so the people of Wana should be part of this campaign and focus on planting more and more trees.

AJK PM pays tribute to Ghazi-e-Millat

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has paid great tributes to the founding president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Ghazi Millat Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan.

In his special message on the occasion of his death anniversary, the PM said, "Ghazi Millat Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan's indomitable role in the liberation struggle of Kashmir remains to be the most inspiring and glorious chapter in the Kashmir's resistance history". He said that the courage and enthusiasm with which he performed his duty as a true national leader and spearheaded the movement through his active participation was highly remarkable.

The founding president not only took part in the movement physically but also fought endlessly at the diplomatic front to get the Kashmir issue solved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

He said that Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan played an unforgettable role in strengthening the relationship with Pakistan. The deceased leader, he said, was a true Kashmiri who loved Pakistani more than anything else. "Ghazi-e-Millat was a principled politician, his political life is a beacon of light for everyone", the PM said.

Ulema urged to play role in promoting peace

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: DC Attock has said that Muharam is a sacred month and during this month religious harmony and brethrenhood be maintained

He said this during his visit to Imam Bargah Punjtani. AC Attock Samman Abbas and President of the Imambargah Syed Raza Haidar Naqvi was present. DC said all the religious scholars must play their role in maintaining religious harmony, promote love and shun hatred. He said street lights must be kept on during night and directed AC Samman Abbas to remain in close contact with Syed Raza Naqvi. DC also visited the routes of the procession.

PAF's relief operation continues in flood-hit areas

Staff Reporter

QUETTA: On the special instructions of Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, PAF personnel and helicopter fleet are actively engaged in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support to the people stranded in flash floods affected areas of Balochistan.

The PAF helicopters have distributed 4,200 kilogrammes (kgs) ration comprising flour, ghee, sugar, daal, tea in the calamity hit areas during the last two days, a PAF media release said.

Additionally, several families have been evacuated from land locked areas to safer place. The relief operation in Balochistan is a practical manifestation of Pakistan Air Force's resolve to extend all out support to fellow countrymen in the hour of need.

Rescue 1122 devises plan for Muharram

FAISALABAD: The Punjab Emergency Services (Rescue-1122) has devised a comprehensive duty plan to deal with any emergency situation during the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During a meeting here on Saturday, District Emergency Officer Rescue-1122 Ehtisham Wahla checked duty plan and said that entire rescue staff had been out on alert in addition to canceling their leaves to deal with emergencies during Muharram, especially on Ashura day. He said that 52 rescue posts had been established in different parts of the city on the routes of mourning processions and near the sites of Muharram Majalis.

More than 700 rescuers would perform duty during the first Ashra (ten days) of Muharram-ul-Haram, whereas ambulances, fire vehicles, mobile-bike ambulances and other vehicles would also remain available round-the-clock for any rescue operation, he added. Agencies

15000kg of spurious edible goods seized in Lower Dir

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Authority Saturday incinerated more than 15000 kg of sub-standard and spurious edible goods seized during the last six months in Lower Dir District.

The incineration took place with the assistance of Town Municipal Administration (TMA) Lower Dir, say a press release issued here.

The discarded goods included sub-standard cooking oil, fake spices, drinks, artificial China Salt, tea, beetle nuts etc. Assistant Commissioner Lower Dir, Shakeel Ahmad on this occasion thanked staff of TMA for extending cooperation in the operation.

Complainants get Rs25.25m relief on Ombudsman's orders

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has interacted to provide a cumulative financial relief worth Rs.25.25 million to 15 complainants of different districts who approached this office for the solution of their issues pertaining to provincial government departments.

In a statement issued, the spokesman explained that the involvement of the ombudsman office on complaints of non-payment of pensions and employment dues has resulted in the payment of Rs.931,224 by the higher education department to Manzoor Ahmed of Lahore and Rs.1,993,945 to Muhammad Hameed of Bahawalpur. Similarly, Rs.1,259,784 are paid to Rawalpindi's Muhammad Bashir by the executive engineer buildings division, Rs.1,631,632 to Shafqat Irshad of Rahim Yar Khan by the district education authority and Rs.2,049,909 to Muhammad Ashraf by district health authority Muzaffargarh, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, an amount of Rs.2,310,429 is given to Zaib Mai along with the creation of an OSD post and employment dues worth Rs.1,523,028 of a deceased govern-

ment employee are also paid to her husband namely Muhammad Ashiq from Sheikhupura, the spokesman noted. As a result of the involvement of the ombudsman office, Sabir Bibi of Nankana Sahib district succeeded in getting her pension dues amounting to 1,984,799 rupees, the spokesman added.

The spokesman further explained that the irrigation department has paid Rs.16 lakh each to Naseem Akhtar and Samina Mukhtar of Sheikhupura while the local government and community development department Faisalabad provided 16 lakh to Sumaira Shahid and paid 22 lakh each to Naheed Zafar and Amtal Jannat.

In a related development, the directorate of land record has disbursed Rs.19 lakh to Zargham Farooq of DG Khan as dues of his deceased father's employment after the involvement of the ombudsman office that interacted on his application for the provision of financial aid. Similarly, the agriculture department has paid salary dues of 867,791 rupees to Razia Sultana of Raiwind along with the creation of an OSD post, the spokesman concluded.

The complainants have thanked the ombudsman office for providing legal relief to them.



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:42 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:07 pm
Maghrib 7:10 pm
Isha 8:46 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Enquiry 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

81 professional beggars arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police, during an ongoing operation against professional beggars arrested 81 during last two days to purge the society from the menace of beggary.

According to a police spokesman, the anti-beggary squads on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi, Waseem Riaz conducted raids in different areas and took action against professional beggars and detained them in different police stations of the city.

Waseem Riaz said that special anti-beggary squads were working hard to overcome the increasing number of professional beggars.

"The professional beggars stand on various highways and squares of Rawalpindi city and not only affect the flow of traffic but also increase risk of accidents. Therefore, the public is requested not to serve alms to them, as discouraging such factors will not only improve the society, but also the flow of traffic," he said.

Security arrangements for Muharram reviewed

RAWALPINDI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Waseem Riaz Khan on Saturday reviewed security arrangements for the routes of various processions in Chundra during Muharram ul Haram.

SP Saddar Zunair Cheema and other officers were also accompanied by SSP Operations, said the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson. SSP Operations Waseem Riaz Khan reviewed the routes and gave instructions regarding the security arrangements to the Police officials concerned.

"Foolproof security arrangements will be ensured for Muharram processions. Safety of life and property of citizens is the top priority for which all possible steps are being taken," SSP Operations Waseem Riaz Khan said.

Pakistan committed to combat human trafficking: President

Efforts of federal, provincial governments and all stakeholders appreciated

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday said that Pakistan was committed to combating the menace of human trafficking by establishing an effective coordination infrastructure to prosecute traffickers and protect victims.

"Pakistan has embarked upon stringent anti-trafficking measures to enforce legal frameworks in line with international standards. Pakistan has enacted the Trafficking in Person Act 2018 to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

This law prescribes imprisonment of up to ten years for the perpetrators of such illegal acts," the president said in a message on the occasion of 'World Day against Human Trafficking' being observed on July 30.

The president further said the National Coordination Committee on Human Trafficking had been constituted under the chair of the minister



for interior.

"The Committee is responsible for steering national efforts in the fight against all forms of human trafficking, including bonded labour and sex trafficking," he said.

All relevant departments at the provincial level including social welfare, labour, police, child protection and NGOs are made part of provincial and district anti-human trafficking

committees for close coordination to effectively identify and protect victims of human trafficking, he added.

The president said the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), had prepared National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (2021-2025).

The action plan highlighted the roles of different stakeholders and provides a holistic framework for the national response, he observed.

The president said the day against trafficking in persons was observed annually on the 30th of July to raise awareness regarding the plight of victims of human trafficking and to promote and protect their rights. The day was being observed to bring attention to a crime that leaves a lasting toll on human lives and society as a whole.

"It is one of the most serious human rights violations that brings high profits to traffickers through the exploitation of human beings by illegal means such as force, fraud, or deception," he added.

The president also appreciated and acknowledged the efforts of the federal and provincial governments and all other relevant stakeholders who came together to fight this crime.

Beautification

ISLAMABAD: Workers busy in gardening on a green belt alongside a road at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Expose Indian brutalities, President AJK urges expatriates

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Kashmiri diaspora community settled in the UN and other parts of the world should play their role to expose Indian brutalities in Kashmir and the ill treatment meted out to Kashmiri prisoners languishing in Indian jails.

The AJK president expressed these views during his meeting with Barrister Karamat Hussain, president Kashmir Peace Forum International UK, at the presidency on Saturday.



Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the IOK, the president said that it was high time

that Kashmiri expatriates should rise above their political and social affiliations and get united under the banner of Kashmir Peace Forum International to highlight the Kashmir issue effectively. Barrister Chaudhry said that during his recent trip to the UK and Brussels, he had raised his voice on the plight of Kashmiris at every important forum. He said that a committee consisting of senior barristers was formed, which would provide legal support for the release of Yasin Malik.

He said that India has broken all records of barbarism and brutality in Occupied

Met Office forecasts more rains

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Met Office has forecast more rain-wind/thundershower is expected in Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, north and eastern Balochistan, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Isolated heavy falls are also expected in Kashmir, upper and central Punjab, Islamabad, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and north and eastern Balochistan.

Monsoon currents were penetrating in the upper and central parts of the country. A westerly wave was also affecting western parts of the country. Heavy rains may generate urban flooding and flash flooding in local Nullahs of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Kasur, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Manshehra,



Abbottabad, Haripur, Dir, Swat, Peshawar, Mardan, Malakand, Bajaur, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Tank, Khuzdar, Zhob, Barkhan, Kohlu, Musa Khel, Sherani, Sibbi and Bolan during the period. The rainfall may trigger

landslides in Kashmir, Galiyat, Murree, Abbottabad, Manshehra, Chillas, Diamir, Gilgit, Hunza, Astore and Skardu during the forecast period.

Travelers and tourists are advised to remain more

cautious during the forecast period.

Rain-wind/thundershower occurred in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Kashmir, Balochistan, lower Sindh and Gilgit Baltistan on Saturday.

Health Corner

Immune system can help diagnose cancer

ISLAMABAD: One of the deadliest forms of cancer is biliary tract cancer. Only one in three patients diagnosed with the disease is operable. The rest must settle for life-sustaining treatment.

The reason why this cancer is so deadly is that it is difficult to diagnose, and therefore, most patients are not diagnosed with the disease until after the cancer has had time to spread.

Nevertheless, new research from the University of Copenhagen can pave the way for early detection of biliary tract cancer and other serious cancers.

"Our study shows that biliary tract cancer causes the immune cells to change behaviour, resulting in a unique expression of microRNA molecules in the patient's blood. These changes enable us to diagnose biliary tract cancer much earlier than with existing tests," says Associate Professor Jesper Boje Andersen. He is head of the group of researchers from the Biotech Research & Innovation Centre at the University of Copenhagen who are responsible for the new study.

"Sometimes tumours, including the ones you find in the biliary tract, differ considerably, and developing a comprehensive measure for these tumours can therefore be difficult. But one thing all cancers have in common is the fact that they affect the immune system," says PhD Dan Høgdall, who is first author of the study and a doctor at the Department of Oncology at Herlev and Gentofte Hospital. He adds:

"We need to focus attention on how cancer affects the body as a whole instead of focussing solely on the cancer cells. Among other things, such a broad approach has paved the way for brand new treatments involving immunotherapy, which is targeted at the immune cells instead of the cancer cells. Adopting a broad approach can also provide us with important knowledge about early diagnostics."

The researchers have examined more than 200 blood samples from people with and without biliary tract cancer. They have analysed the cells in the blood, a large part of which were immune cells. More specifically, they have conducted microRNA analyses. MicroRNA is a group of genes, which play a key part in the complex development of the human genome.

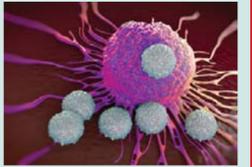
"By comparing the different levels of microRNA in the blood, we identified four microRNAs, and this enabled us to distinguish patients with biliary tract cancer from healthy participants. Other types of blood analyses were unable to do that. All in all, the data indicates that microRNAs change in patients with biliary tract cancer," says Jesper Boje Andersen.

The new study is not the first to research cancer and the immune system, but it is the first to do so in relation to biliary tract cancer.

"The research method is also new. We look at the blood as a whole and thus at all the cells, which largely consist of immune cells. A lot of research seeks to identify methods for early detection of cancer. But it is like looking for a needle in a haystack, as the goal is to find the tumours while they are still very small. The idea behind this approach is to look not for the needle, but for small changes in the haystack," explains Dan Høgdall.

Even though the researchers have completed the study, it will be a while before the new method can be used to diagnose patients.

"This is basic research, which means that it will take some time. But it does suggest that it makes sense to look at the systemic impact of cancer. It will require more in-depth research, though," he says. Courtesy Science Daily



Prof Muhammad Jameel defends PhD thesis

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Punjab Group of Colleges Professor Muhammad Jameel Ahmed Barvi successfully defended the thematic study of Pakistan Television's printed Urdu dramas. This Oral Examination for Ph. D took place in the department of Urdu of Federal Urdu University.

Prof. Muhammad Jameel Ahmed Barvi successfully defended his thesis on the thematic study of Pakistan Television's published dramas which he completed under the supervision of Dr. Fahmida Tabasim, Chairperson Wafaqi Urdu University. Professor Dr. Abid Syal Chairman Department of Linguistics University at NUML, Islamabad conducted the aforesaid Oral exam.

This exam was organized under the management of Dr Fahmeeda Tabussam, Head Department of Urdu and under the kind supervision of Former Acting Shaikh Ul Jamea Raees kulya and fanoon Prof Dr Muhammad Ziaul Din. The exam was opened and staged by Dr Waseem Anjum. The Professors and students of M. Phil and Ph. D participated in the public defence oral exam.

Muhammad Jameel Ahmed Barvi, the son of a well-known educationists, Ghulam Hussain, retired Senior headmaster of Layyah district, attributed his success to the prayers of his parents and the hard work of his teachers. Literally circles have appreciated his efforts.

Bids to smuggle wheat, flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Saturday foiled four bids to smuggle wheat and flour besides seizing 3755 bags.

According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad police confiscated four vehicles loaded with 3360 flour, 300 super wheat flour bags, 80 fine flour and 15 bags of refined wheat flour.

Four drivers namely Babar, Wajid, Ubaid and Ahsan were also sent behind the bars while police impounded four vehicles, he added.

The authorities concerned had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq had instructed the authorities to strictly monitor the movement of wheat and flour and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. Agencies

MOHR to complete national child labour survey in Dec 22

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights (MOHR) is likely to complete national child labor survey in December 2022, initiated in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The findings of the study would provide information for enacting evidence-based policies, along with legislative and programmatic measures for eradication of child labor, said an official of National Commission on the Child Rights (NCRC).

She added that the National Commission on the Child Rights has issued guidelines to provincial Labor Departments for the implementation of Provincial Coordination Committee's suggestions on Child Labour, formation and activation of district vigilance committees under Bonded Labour System Abolition Act of 2015.

She also added that the child labour survey was being conducted to look after and monitor the children's rights.

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The challenge of national integration

Analysis



Deedar Ali Bangwar

Pakistan has been tackling the dilemma of national integration since its inception. The scarcity of national integration is a huge issue. Due to the lack of national integration, Pakistan has been pushed into an awful orbit. It has made Pakistan a sorry state of affairs and made Pakistan the centre of terrorist exercises. Owing to this hardship, Pakistan become a fragile and vulnerable state and has an absolute deterioration

of state machinery. This was not the difficulty at first. Pakistan was the outcome of integration based on Islam.

Unfortunately, after the demise of Quaid-e-Azam, the country was isolated. National integration confronted several dilemmas. At this rate, income imbalances, social injustice, political collision, blows and other evils raised their heads. All of these made national integration fragile. There is a dearth of consensus on crucial national problems in Pakistan. For that reason, the provinces loathe each other. There are numerous obstacles and tensions in the path of the national integration of Pakistan. It is essential to evaporate the sentiments of regionalism or provincialism linguistics or communalism and many more.

There is a huge bridge between rich and poor. The system of Pakistan has been

structured such that the gap between the poor and the rich become widens with every passing day. Rich become richer and the poor become poorer and poorer. It enhances the upper and privileged class of the community. It never looks after the lower class of the nation. Therefore the economic unevenness led to the weakness of the national integration. Moreover, the scarcity of social justice and provincial biases are posing a danger to the fundamental existence of the country. It leads to the destabilization of the state and shakes the basis of the national integration of the country.

The smaller provinces have heightened a sense of deprivation. They feel that they have been deprived of their just share in the national exchequer and their sovereignty. It has developed age-old animosities among the provinces. Social

justice is the only antidote to national integration in Pakistan. The water conflict existed among the provinces. It has posed the main danger to national integration. The provinces have objections to the building of the Kala Bagh dam which has detracted the dignity and oneness of the country.

There is a trend of improving personal interest, class interest, group interest and faction and regional interest rather than national interest. Almost all parties are discussing Baluchies, Pukhtoons, Punjabies and other minor parties. There is no conversation about Pakistan. This politics of regionalism has broadened the gap between various categories of nations. It has shaken the basis of the national integration of Pakistan.

Political stability is the most significant prerequisite for enhancing national integra-

tion. Sadly, Pakistan is requiring this condition for an extremely extended time. The political unsteadiness has enlarged the chasm between the ruling class and the ruled class. It has transformed the portrait of Pakistan and made it retrogressive in all spheres. Political fluctuation has posed a great danger to national unity and integrity.

The deficit of oneness and integration has pushed behind the goals for which Pakistan was established. It has too a rhythm of national improvement. In conclusion, the nation has become hallow from within in terms of national integration. It is the need of the day that the intellectuals must discuss this difficulty seriously. Media is a means that can be utilized for positive intentions very fruitfully.

The writer is a freelance columnist, based in Kandhkot, Sindh.

Russia-West gas war

Natural gas has emerged as a weapon of war between Russia and Europe since Moscow's February 24 invasion of Ukraine. In a latest development, Russia has suspended gas supplies to Latvia following tensions between Moscow and the West over the conflict in Ukraine and sweeping European and US sanctions against Russia. The declaration came a day after Moscow and Kyiv accused each other of bombing a jail holding Ukrainian prisoners of war in Russian-held territory.

Gazprom drastically cut gas deliveries to Europe via the Nord Stream pipeline on Wednesday to about 20 percent of its capacity. The Russian state-run company had earlier announced it would choke supply to 33 million cubic metres a day half the amount it has been delivering since service resumed last week after 10 days of maintenance work.

EU states have accused Russia of squeezing supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions over Moscow's intervention in Ukraine. Gazprom cited the halted operation of one of the last two operating turbines for the pipeline due to the technical condition of the engine. Kremlin has blamed EU sanctions for the limited supply.

The stand-off developed started on February 22 German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says he is suspending the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project with Russia in response to Moscow's recognition of two breakaway regions in Ukraine. The project has long been a source of tension with Berlin's allies in the United States and Europe, who worry it would increase Germany's energy dependence on Russia. Ukraine also fears it will lose revenues from gas transit if Nord Stream 2, which would deliver Russian gas to Germany via the Baltic Sea, goes ahead.

On February 24, Russia invades Ukraine. Gas and oil prices soar on fears of possible cuts in supplies. On March 2, the European Union cuts seven Russian banks off from the SWIFT banking transfer system. But it spares two major lenders with strong ties to the energy sector, reflecting the dependence of several EU states on Russian gas. On March 8, President Joe Biden bans US imports of Russian gas and oil. The EU says it will cut its imports of Russian gas by two-thirds this year and Britain says it will phase out its Russian energy imports by the end of 2022.

On March 23, Russian President Vladimir Putin bans European gas customers from paying their bills in dollars and euros, in response to the freezing of some \$300 billion in currency reserves held by Russia overseas. He announces that Moscow will now only accept payment in rubles from "unfriendly" countries, including EU nations. The European Commission warns EU members that by paying in rubles they would be violating international sanctions against Moscow.

Washington agrees to provide Europe with an extra 15 billion cubic metres of liquefied natural gas this year. On April 27, Russian giant Gazprom cuts off gas supplies to Bulgaria and Poland, in a move European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen describes as blackmail. She says the two EU and NATO members are now receiving gas from their EU neighbours. On May 21, Russia cuts gas to neighbouring Finland, which has refused to pay in rubles and angered Moscow by asking to join NATO. The Netherlands and Denmark are also cut off after refusing to pay in rubles.

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My Words My Talk

Muhammad Rafi will look for you

Mudassar Qadeer

Muhammad Rafi was born on 24 December 1924 in the village of Kotla Sultan Singh in the Punjab province of British India. He was the fifth among the six sons of Haji Ali Muhammad and Allah Rakhi Bai. Rafi showed musical inclination from a very young age and his talent was recognized by his elder brother's friend Abdul Hameed and convinced his family to nurture his musical talent. Muhammad Rafi began learning Indian classical music from Pandit Jeevan Lal Mattu who taught him the intricacies of Raag Shashtra and Punjabi folk rags Pahari, Bhairavi, Basant and Malhar. He was also trained by Ustad Badi Ghulam Ali Khan and musician Feroze Nizami.

Muhammad Rafi was a fan of Kundanlal Sehgal and initially sang under him, he did his first stage show at the age of 13 in Lahore. And started singing for All India Radio Lahore in Lahore from 1941. In the same year, he recorded his first duet Sonye Ni, Hariyaye with singer Zeenat Begum for the Punjabi film Gul Baloch, which was released in 1944. Musician Shyam Sunder was closely related to Muhammad Rafi's artistic life. He first gave Muhammad Rafi an opportunity to sing in Lahore and when Muhammad Rafi reached Bombay, Shyam Sunder came to his aid here too and he took Muhammad Rafi to Bombay and introduced to the film world and sang a solo song in the film Gaon Ki Gori with his own music.

Noor Jahan played the main role of this film and this film was released in 1945, while the film was made in 1944 with musicians Nausaad and Muhammad Rafi. Earlier, Aap Se Hua was directed by AR Kardar, but in 1946, Director Mehboob Khan's film Anmul Ghari Ka Geet Tera Khluna Tota Balak is considered the first solo song of this duo. Noor Jahan played the lead role in the film while The song was written by Tanveer Naqvi. The song that gave Muhammad Rafi the fame of Muhammad Rafi was found in director Shaikat Hussain Rizvi's film Jaganu Ke Dogana Hid Badla Wafa Ka Bewafai Ke Sawa Kya Hai, which he recorded with Noor Jahan and this film. Released in 1947. After the partition of India, Muhammad Rafi decided to stay in Bombay and then came the year 1948, after which Muhammad Rafi became the name of Indian film music.

The 1950s and 1960s were the era of the rise of film music. Nausaad, Shankar Jay Kishan, SD Burman, C Ramachandra, Anil Biswas, Salil Choudhary, Madan Mohan, Koshan, Ravi, Kalyanji Anandji, RD Burman, Lakshmi Kant Pearlal and Saru Ke Javardgar OP, Nair were there. On the other hand there was only one voice

Muhammad Rafi. Muhammad Rafi was the first film singer who realized that singing for a concert and record is one thing but singing for a film is another. Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Rajand Kumar, and Rajkumar are singing that is, the rendering and composition of their voice should be in such a way that it blends with the style of the hero, and this quality comes first in the art of Muhammad Rafi. Wala Geet is for a particular character. The film has its own special situation.

Each actor has his own look and feel, lisp and voice, and a sense of voice that sets him apart from the rest. Rafi Sahib not only fulfilled all these details while singing the film song, but also made the difference in the voice, movements and style of each hero on screen clear. Examples of this are Radhika's Nache Re Aur Hoy Hum Jin Li Babard in Dilip Kumar's Geet Madhu Bin, Dev Anand's Geet Mein Zindagi Ka Saath Nabata Chal Gaya, Khoya Khoya Chand, Raj Kapoor's own film Barsaat Ka Geet Mein Zindane Mein Damm Rota Hai Raha Hain. The song filmed on Rajendra Kumar is like the days gone by, in which you will know that Rafi Sahib used to blend his voice with every hero while singing and the viewer felt that way.

It used to be that the hero was singing the song and sometimes it also happened that the other actor of the film i.e. the side hero and the comedian also had to film the song, even then Muhammad Rafi used to sing the song like the song Sir Jo Tera Chakraye was filmed on Johnnie Walker. Mahmood filmed song Hum Kale Hain To Kya Ho Adal Wale Hain, song sung in movie CID Le Ke Pehla Pahl Pyaar, Bun Ke Aayni Mein Khamar, Movie Zanjire Ka Dewane Hai Dewanon Ko Nazar Bhagai Yaan then Movie Apna Pin Ka Watch Geet Aadmi Musafar Hai, then you will feel that the actor who is actually being filmed is singing it. The magic of art is that as soon as the actor changes, the pitch and rendering of his voice changes. Rafi has sung numerous songs for famous Bollywood actors. He sang a total of 75 songs for Dilip Kumar which gained immense popularity.

Mohammad Rafi has sung 97 songs for actor Dev Anand, who is his example. For the Kapoor family, Mohammad Rafi has sung for Raj Kapoor, Shami Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor and Rishi Kapoor. He sang 32 songs for Raj Kapoor, which is a great document of the film history of the subcontinent. Muhammad Rafi sang about 180 songs keeping in mind Shami Kapoor's body language, dance and acting style which is a fine example of harmony between playback music and acting. He sang 121 songs for Shashi Kapoor. Muhammad Rafi He sang 124 songs for the hero Rajendra Kumar called Jubilee Kumar. He sang 104 songs for the dancing hero Jitendra.

Character actor and renowned comedian Mehmood

played twenty unique roles in his career for which Muhammad Rafi sang more than 85 songs. Guru Dutt's cinema was somewhat different from the Indian mainstream and Muhammad Rafi sang 25 songs for him. In which his style and voice are heard separately. He sang 104 songs for Dharmendra. Apart from this, Mohammad Rafi sang 38 songs for Rajkumar and the pairing of the two was also unparalleled. Muhammad Rafi lent his voice to every notable hero, character actor, comedian and other characters of his era. I will not stop writing on the art of Mohammad Rafi, but here I would like to say one thing. Rafi was involved in controversies twice and both times his opponent was of the same importance as Lata Mangeshkar.

It happened during Teri Dil Mein, which became so intense that both the legends did not make any double records together for 6 years. During that time, their songs used to be in the films released, but they were not duplicates, and the fact is that this dispute Both of them were not harmed. Meera and Aap Ka Ho were deprived of listening to Jawan's songs, but later this problem was resolved and Kalyanji Anandji's song in Bebhodi got to be heard by Sanam music fans. The second controversy is the most it happened regarding the singing of the song for which Guinness added the objections of both of them, but later they removed the name of both in this regard and made Asha Bhonsle's name a part of his record for singing the most number of songs, which is still standing.

One of the greatest playback singers born in India, Muhammad Rafi is considered to be nothing less than a genius when it comes to different styles of music. This great singer had the perfect blend of melody, emotion and energy, resulting in thousands of soulful songs. Be it the classically inclined songs of Biju Bwara or the foot tapping songs of Kashmir Ki Kali, Muhammad Rafi gave every song the treatment it deserved. His contribution to the Hindi film industry has been outstanding and perhaps no singer till date has managed to capture the hearts of fans the way Muhammad Rafi has. Rafi was known for his versatility as he lent his voice to classical numbers to patriotic songs, sad songs to romantic numbers, qawwalis to ghazals and bhajans. Received the Fair Award and was awarded the National Film Award once. Apart from Hindi, he sang in several Indian languages including Konkani, Bhojpuri, Bengali, Odia, Punjabi, Marathi, Sindhi, Telugu, Kannada, Maithili, Gujarati, Magahi, and Urdu. Apart from Indian languages, he lent his melodious voice to songs in English, Arabic, Persian Sinhalese, Creole and Dutch languages.

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Gul Ji Ki Batein - Discrimination

We see and hear Discrimination everywhere, commonly among different communities of colors, religions, regions and races. But if we pay close attention, discrimination is bidders and huge than this, it's in our homes, within our families and friends also. We discriminate our family member or friend based on physical disability, mental illness, death divorce, financial status and gender. During this pandemic people with Covid were abandoned by their families. Majority of Mentally ill are labeled as Crazy, Nuts and violent. Divorced and widow ladies are not given the equal chances to re-marry, the poor are not treated the same as our rich relatives or friend, orphans don't get opportunities to go to the best schools, person with born physical disability is considered useless and burden on the society, women are treated as 2nd grade citizens, and even daughters are treated differently than sons.

This all seems normal to us and we don't think we are doing wrong because that's how the society and culture is. But actually this is Discrimination. We are concerned and very sensitive about international discrimination on religion, region, race, color and language, when we know it's beyond our control. But the issues and discriminations facing our families and friends due to so called Norm culture and society are ignored and we don't try to work on them when it's in our control and we can avoid to happen or at least lessen them, because we are society and form the cultural norm. We should try to educate ourselves about physical and mental disabilities and treat our disable loved ones with dignity and respect, do not label them with names, uplift them morally, provide

them opportunities to participate and function in our communities and make them feel the valuable member of society.

We have to change our mindset towards the divorcee and widows, do not eliminate them from eligibility of marriage and give them chance to re-marry, accept them with open arms and stop thinking that they are divorced, characterless, ugly or old. We should not place the orphans in the orphanage houses and forget them, close doors to their bright future, we have to give them access to higher education and skills based on their abilities and place them back into the active community and make them feel proud of them. Money doesn't make

a person of good character and should not be the criteria of friendship or relationship; we need to treat the person based on his or her qualities and behavior towards us and not by financial status.

We must not look down upon poor and make them feel unfortunate and less worthy.

Women are made physically less stronger than men but they are more mature emotionally and handle many day to day life issues better than men, they give birth to a child and raise him, they are home makers and also part of every profession, they multi task and balance between family and professional life very well and know how to maintain relationships they are as equally important and valuable as men and not to be considered 2nd grade citizen.

Gender should not play the role in value of a girl or a boy in society, and need to be treated as same human being, only preferences should be made by intelligence, character, behavior and qualities when it comes to any opportunity, event, or decision of life.

Stay blessed, and safe. Jazakumallah Khair

Analysis



Gulnaz Ahmed

US mulls designating Russia as terrorism sponsoring: White House

Says Blinken has no plans to request for Lavrov meeting

WASHINGTON: The US administration is looking into the possibility of including Russia into the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre has told reporters. She reiterated that the matter was up to the US Department of State to decide. "This requires a determination by the Department of State on specific criteria in congressional statute. So we're looking into it along with a range of other proposals to impose further costs on Russia," the press secretary said. She did not elaborate on other possible anti-Russian measures currently under consideration by the Joe Biden administration.



Earlier, Kiev pressed Washington to put Russia on this list. Similar statements were echoed by a number of Congressmen. Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova earlier castigated Washington over its 'idiotic' gamble to brand Russia as a sponsor of terrorism and warned that this move won't go unanswered. The 'state sponsor of terrorism' designation

is applied by Washington to countries that have allegedly "repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism".

The American government has broad authority to impose sanctions against those on the list. The US Department of Treasury can take action against those entities and indi-

viduals, as well as states that trade with countries on the list. The listing of a state can have significant consequences in terms of further restrictive measures. Since 1979, Washington has added only a handful of countries to its list, and these are rogue states where American interests are limited, the Washington Post explained earlier.

Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Syria are currently on the list. On Wednesday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the Biden administration did not see much practical effect from a possible inclusion of Russia on the US list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has no plans to request a bilateral meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of international events in Cambodia in early August, Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price has told reporters. "We have no plans to meet with Foreign Minister Lavrov when they are in Cambodia," he said when asked whether the Russian and US top diplomats may meet in Phnom Penh soon. On August 3-5, Blinken will visit Phnom Penh to participate in three separate ministerials hosted by Cambodia as the chair of ASEAN: the US-ASEAN meeting, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on security. Lavrov will be visiting the Cambodian capital on August 4-5.

Azerbaijan alerts army to suppress border provocations



BAKU: Azerbaijani Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov ordered army units to be ready to immediately suppress any provocations on the border with Armenia and in Karabakh, the ministry's press service reported on Saturday. "The minister thoroughly analyzed the operational situation and the current situation on the Azerbaijani-Armenian state border, as well as in the Karabakh economic zone, where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is temporarily deployed, and gave an order to be ready for the immediate and decisive suppression of any possible enemy provocations," the report said.

Earlier on Saturday, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported that the positions of the armed forces of the republic on the border of the two countries were shelled from the territory of Armenia. According to the department, the fire was suppressed as a result of "adequate response measures". The situation around Nagorno-Karabakh escalated on September 27, 2020, with the start of active hostilities.

On November 9, a tripartite statement was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, which made it possible to achieve a cessation of hostilities in the conflict zone. The Azerbaijani and Armenian sides stopped at their positions, a number of regions came under the control of Baku, and Russian peacekeepers were deployed along the line of contact and in the Lachin corridor.

High temp unleash marine heatwave in Mediterranean Sea

LISBON: High temperatures across Europe this month have unleashed a prolonged marine heatwave in the Mediterranean Sea that could ravage ecosystems and kill off several species in the coming weeks, scientists have warned. The extreme heat in recent weeks has already sparked wildfires and led to thousands of heat-related deaths in Europe, but that warmth has not been limited to the land. The warmer air, along with shifting ocean currents and a stable sea surface, have warmed coastal Mediterranean waters several degrees Celsius beyond the average temperature of 24 deg C to 26 deg C for this time of year.



Waters between Spain's Balearic Islands and the Italian coast were up to 5 deg C warmer than at the same time last year, Spain's Amet weather agency said Friday (July 29). It also warned that temperatures around the Spanish coast would be 3 deg C to 4 deg C higher until at least mid-August. Spain's ports' authority said in a statement that the water in Cabo de Gata, in the country's south-eastern corner, registered a 10-year temperature record of nearly 28 deg C on Monday (July 25).

Marine heatwaves, which are far less researched than heatwaves on land, are becoming more frequent due to climate change, adding pressure to ecosystems already struggling from over-fishing and plastic pollution. Ocean scientist Jean-Pierre Gattuso told Reuters that water near the French coastal city of Nice was measured at 29.2 deg C on July 25—around 3.5 deg C higher compared to the same day last year. "This is an absolute record since at least 1994 and very likely earlier," he said. "The ocean and sea are kind of a sponge for the heat," Dr Gattuso explained. Marine heatwaves also struck the Mediterranean in 2015 to 2019, leading to mass die-offs of marine life, according to a study this week from Spain's Institute of Marine Sciences. This year's heatwave is worse.

Nuclear gains winning card in talks: Iran

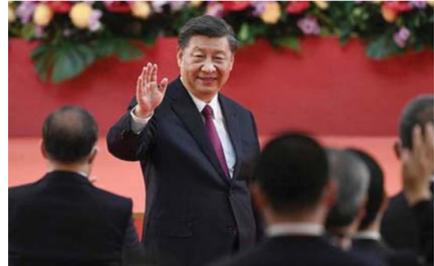
TEHRAN: Iran's achievements in the nuclear industry is a leverage for the Iranian negotiators in the talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, Pejman Shirmardi, deputy of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Saturday. The achievements of the AEOI, including the production of 60-percent enriched uranium and the launch of IR-6 centrifuges, are the "winning card" of the Iranian negotiating team, Shirmardi told the official news agency.



The biggest fear of the West is the indigenization of nuclear science in Iran, he said, warning that "any immature actions" against Iran's nuclear industry will be responded to by the Islamic republic. The withdrawal of Washington from the nuclear pact, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and reimposition of unilateral sanctions on Iran, and the latter's retaliatory moves, drove the deal almost to the brink of collapse. Talks to revive the deal began in April 2021 in the Austrian capital Vienna but were suspended in March this year because of political differences between Tehran and Washington.

China announces military drills opposite Taiwan

BELJING: China said it was conducting military exercises Saturday off its coast opposite Taiwan after warning Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the US House of Representatives to scrap possible plans to visit the island democracy, which Beijing claims as part of its territory. The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, was conducting "live-fire exercises" near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., the official said. The Maritime Safety Administration warned ships to avoid the area.



Such exercises usually involve artillery. The one-sentence announcement gave no indication whether Saturday's exercise also

might include missiles, fighter planes or other weapons. Pelosi, who would be the highest-ranking American elected official to visit Taiwan since 1997, has yet to confirm whether she will go. President Xi Jinping warned his US counterpart, Joe Biden, in a phone call Thursday against "external interference"

in Beijing's dealings with the island.

China says Taiwan has no right to conduct foreign relations. It sees visits by American officials as encouragement for the island to make its decades-old de facto independence official. The Ministry of Defense warned Washington this week not to allow

Pelosi, who is Biden's equal in rank as leader of one of three branches of government, to visit Taiwan. A spokesman said the PLA would take unspecified "strong measures" to stop pro-independence activity.

The PLA has flown growing numbers of fighter planes and bombers near Taiwan and has in the past fired missiles into shipping lanes to the island. Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with a communist victory on the mainland. The two governments say they are one country but disagree over which is entitled to national leadership. They have no official relations but are linked by billions of dollars in trade and investment.

Iraqi protesters occupy parliament

BAGHDAD: Supporters of powerful Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr on Saturday stormed the parliament building inside Baghdad's heavily fortified "Green Zone" for the second time in three days. It is the second time in days Sadr supporters have forced their way in to the legislative chamber, months after elections that failed to lead to formation of a government. Demonstrators waved Iraqi flags and pictures of the cleric inside the legislature.

They entered after thousands of protesters had massed at the end of a bridge leading to the Green Zone before dozens tore down concrete barriers protecting it and ran inside, the photographer reported. Security forces had fired tear gas near an entrance to the district, home to foreign embassies and other government buildings as well as parliament. Some protesters on the bridge were injured and carried off by their fellow demonstrators.

"All the people are with you Sayyed Moqtada," the protesters chanted, using his title as a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. Sadr's bloc emerged from elections in October as the biggest parliamentary faction, but was still far short of a majority and, 10 months on, deadlock persists over the establishment of a new government. Supporters of the populist Shiite cleric oppose the recently announced candidacy of Mohammed al-Sudani, a former minister and ex-provincial governor, who is the pro-Iran Coordination Framework's pick for premier.

The protests are the latest challenge for oil-rich Iraq, which remains mired in a political and a socio-economic crisis despite elevated global crude prices. Saturday's demonstration comes three days after crowds of Sadr supporters breached the Green Zone despite volleys of tear gas fire from the police. They occupied the parliament building, singing, dancing and taking selfies before leaving two hours later but only after Sadr told them to leave. On Saturday, security forces shut off roads in the capital leading to the Green Zone with massive blocks of concrete.

By convention, the post of prime minister goes to a leader from Iraq's Shiite majority.

War

Russia repels Ukraine's attack on Kherson

Ukraine says scores of Russians killed in Kherson

KHERSON/ODESA/KYIV: On the night of Saturday, the Armed Forces of Ukraine attempted to shell Kherson, the targets were destroyed by Russian air defense systems, and there was no damage, press service of the military-civilian administration of the Kherson region said. "Everything from the Ukrainian side was shot down by Russian [air defense] forces, everything is fine," the press service said. According to preliminary data, there was no damage, the press service added. Russian armed forces destroyed two US M777 howitzers near Stepnogorsk, Zaporozhye region, official representative of the Russian Defense Ministry, Lieutenant-General Igor Konashenkov said on Saturday.

"Two American M777 howitzers were destroyed in the area of Stepnogorsk, Zaporozhye region. A battery of Uragan multiple launch rocket systems around the settlement of Kurdyumovka and two artillery batteries of Giatsint-B howitzers were hit," he said. According to Konashenkov, the Russian Armed Forces also suppressed six platoons of multiple launch rocket systems Grad, two batteries of self-propelled artillery systems Gvozdika, and seven artillery platoons of D-20 and D-30 guns. The Ukrainian military said on Saturday it had killed scores of Russian soldiers and destroyed two ammunition dumps in fighting in the Kherson region, the focus of Kyiv's counter-offensive in the south and a key

link in Moscow's supply lines.

Rail traffic to Kherson over the Dniro River had been cut, the military's southern command said, potentially further isolating Russian forces west of the river from supplies in occupied Crimea and the east. Ukraine has used Western-supplied long-range missile systems to badly damage three bridges across the Dniro in recent weeks, cutting off Kherson city and - in the assessment of British defence officials - leaving Russia's 49th Army stationed on the west bank of the river highly vulnerable. "As a result of fire establishing control over the main transport links in occupied territory, it has been established that traffic over the rail bridge crossing the Dniro is not possible," Ukraine's

southern command said in a statement.

It said more than 100 Russian soldiers and seven tanks had been destroyed in fighting on Friday in the Kherson region, the first major town captured by the Russians following their Feb 24 invasion. The first deputy head of the Kherson regional council, Yuri Sobolevsky, told residents to stay from away from Russian ammunition dumps. "The Ukrainian army is pouring it on against the Russians and this is only the beginning," Sobolevsky wrote on the Telegram app.

The pro-Ukrainian governor of Kherson region, Dmytro Butryy, said Berislav district was particularly hard hit. Berislav is across the river north-west of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant.

Tech should be used to check human trafficking: UN chief

UNITED NATIONS: Human trafficking is a horrific crime and "an all-out assault on people's rights, safety and dignity," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Saturday, marking World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. "Tragically, it is also a problem that is growing worse - especially for women and girls, who represent the majority of detected trafficked persons globally," he said in a message. Conflicts, forced displacement, climate change, inequality and poverty, have left tens of millions of people around the world destitute, isolated and vulnerable.

And the COVID-19 pandemic has separated children and young people in general from their friends and peers, pushing them into spending more time alone and online, Guterres said.

"Human traffickers are taking advantage of these vulnerabilities, using sophisticated technology to identify, track, control and exploit victims," the UN chief added. Often using the so-called "dark web," he said, online platforms allow criminals to recruit people with false promises. And technology anonymously allows dangerous and degrading content that fuels human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of children, the secretary-general said. "This year's theme - Use and Abuse of Technology - reminds everyone that while it can enable human trafficking, technology can also be a critical tool in fighting it". The Secretary-General underscored the need for governments, businesses and civil society to invest in policies, laws and technology-based solutions that can identify and support victims, locate and punish perpetrators, and ensure a safe, open and secure internet.

"As part of 2023's Summit of the Future, I have proposed a Global Digital Compact to rally the world around the need to bring good governance to

the digital space," he said, calling on the everyone to "give this issue the attention and action it deserves and work to end the scourge of human trafficking once and for all". In her message for the day, the head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ghada Waly, spoke more about the theme. Acknowledging that digital technology has been "a vital lifeline" during pandemic restrictions, she warned that they are "being increasingly exploited by criminals". The borderless nature of information and communications technologies (ICT) enable traffickers to expand their reach and profits with even greater impunity.

More than 60 per cent of known human trafficking victims over the last 15 years have been women and girls, most of them trafficked for sexual exploitation. And as conflicts and crises increase misery, countless others are in danger of being

targeted with false promises of opportunities, jobs, and a better life. To protect people, she added, digital spaces must be shielded from criminal abuse by harnessing technologies for good. "Partnerships with tech companies and the private sector can keep traffickers from preying on the vulnerable and stop the circulation of online content that amplifies the suffering of trafficking victims," Ms. Waly said. With the right support, law enforcement can use artificial intelligence, data mining and other tools to detect and investigate trafficking networks. "On this World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, let us commit to preventing online exploitation and promoting the power of tech to better protect children, women and men, and support victims", she concluded.

A group of UN-appointed independent human rights experts underscored that the international community must



"strengthen prevention and accountability for trafficking in persons in conflict situations". Women and girls, particularly those who are displaced, are disproportionately affected by trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced and child marriage, forced labour and domestic servitude. "These risks of exploitation, occurring in times of crisis, are not new. They are linked to and stem from existing, structural inequalities, often based

on intersectional identities, gender-based discrimination and violence, racism, poverty and weaknesses in child protection systems," the experts said in a joint statement.

Refugees, migrants, internally displaced and Stateless persons are particularly at risk of trafficking and abductions that lead to trafficking. And the dangers are increased by continued restrictions on protection and assistance, limited resettlement and family reunification, inadequate

labour safeguards and restrictive migration policies. "Such structural inequalities are exacerbated in the periods before, during and after conflicts, and disproportionately affect children," they added.

Despite links between armed group activities and human trafficking - particularly targeting children - accountability "remains low and prevention is weak," according to the UN experts.

Child trafficking - with schools often targeted - is "linked to the grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, including recruitment and use, abductions and sexual violence," they said. Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims, she said, adding the vast majority of those trafficking women and girls do so for purposes of sexual exploitation.

OGRA chairman inspects LPG Cylinder Production Units

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Chairman Masroor Ahmed Khan along with officials concerned visited Gujranwala and inspected the facilities producing Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders and equipment.

Officers of OGRA, Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan and third-party inspectors accompanied the chairman, according to a news release issued here on Saturday.

They inspected M/S Burhan Gas Company, manufacturing domestic as well as commercial LPG Composite cylinders of various sizes and export quality.

The cylinders are exported to various countries including Russia, Kenya and Mexico. The OGRA chairman also witnessed the LPG Composite cylinders' manufacturing process at the site and appreciated the quality work.

Eurozone inflation hits yet another record high after big jump

FRANKFURT: Eurozone inflation rose to another record high in July and its peak could still be months away, keeping pressure on the European Central Bank to opt for another big interest rate increase in September, according to Reuters.

Consumer price growth in the 19 countries sharing the euro currency accelerated to 8.9 percent in July from 8.6 percent a month earlier, far above expectations for 8.6 percent and well clear of the ECB's 2 percent target, data from Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, showed on Friday.

Inflation was initially driven by post-pandemic supply bottlenecks but more recently the fall-out of Russia's war in Ukraine has been the main culprit as it has pushed up energy, metals and food prices.

While high energy prices remain a major inflationary factor, processed food and services prices have also surged, suggesting that inflation is becoming increasingly broad.

Fearing that price growth is spiralling out of control, the ECB raised rates by 50 basis points this month, breaking its own guidance for a smaller move, and promised further rate hikes to prevent the onset of a hard-to-break wage-price spiral.

But inflation is also a dilemma for the bank. Sky high food and energy costs deplete savings and ultimately slow growth, possibly pushing the bloc into recession, in the worst case. Indeed, Germany, the euro zone's biggest economy, stagnated in the second quarter before what could be a difficult third quarter. The US economy meanwhile unexpectedly contracted in the second quarter.

Still, the ECB has made clear that inflation fears trump growth concerns, suggesting that policymakers are willing to lift rates even if that hurts growth, as inflation is now at risk of getting embedded.

Indeed, underlying inflation, which strips out volatile food and fuel prices, accelerated to 5.0 percent from 4.6 percent, more than twice the ECB's 2 percent target.

'U.S. chip act will distort global semiconductor supply chain'

HONG KONG: China's commerce ministry said on Friday that a major new chips act passed by the U.S. Congress will distort the global semiconductor supply chain and disrupt international trade.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the sweeping legislation on Thursday to subsidise the domestic semiconductor industry as it competes with Chinese and other foreign manufacturers. read more

China will continue to monitor the progress and implementation of the U.S. act and take measures to safeguard its legitimate rights when necessary, the ministry said in a statement.

Pakistan Auto Show hosts symposium on 'Pakistan Automotive Industry 2040'

Event focuses on Industry-Government-Academia Linkage

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The day-2 of Pakistan Auto Show hosted a symposium on "Pakistan Automotive Industry 2040" A Paradigm Shift".

The motive of the 2nd Edition of PAAPAM Symposium 2022 was to provide a platform for key stakeholders of the industry and the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), to come together and share their insights for sustainable growth and suggestions for policy realignments. The experts will also be creating solutions for the current challenges and opportunities in the Auto Engineering industry.

The Chief Organizer of this Symposium - Iftikhar Ahmed stated that: The Event will focus on the Industry-Government-Academia

Linkage, to engage the stakeholders, engineers, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), Auto-Parts Manufacturers (APM) and the end-users, to understand the evolving needs of this industry and devise more suitable policies for sustainable development of our sector and enhance its contributions to the national economy."

Chief guest Secretary Industries, Ahmed Javed Qazi, Guest of Honor Chairman PEC, Najib ullah Haroon, President and CEO of Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited - TAKAFUMI KOIKE, Chairman of Millat Tractors Limited - Sikandar Mustafa Khan, Mr. Haroon Sharif Institutional economist & former minister of state, Chairman of Engineering Development Board - Almas Hyder and Prof.

Dr. Shahid Munir, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission, were among the most prominent speakers at PAAPAM Symposium 2022.

The Pakistan Auto Show 2022 will attract over 100,000 visitors from 29th to 31st July. It is the largest exhibition of automobiles in the country, held at the Expo Centre in Lahore. This valuable initiative of the 'Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers' (PAAPAM), represents over 3000 large, medium & small industries from all over Pakistan. The theme of this year's event is; "MADE IN PAKISTAN".

The diverse categories of exhibitors will include; Passenger Cars, Trucks, buses, Tractors, Rickshaws, Motorcycles, Auto parts

Manufacturers, Services providers, Machinery makers, Tool-makers, Antique cars and Heavy motorbikes along with related service industries like accessories, Tracking & insurance, etc. It will feature fascinating innovations and technologies, while highlighting CSR, traffic-safety and public awareness campaigns. FREE Exhibitors' Directories are being distributed among the visitors.

The quantum of local parts used for domestic car-assembly has risen substantially over the last 10 years, raising Pakistan among the top 40 automobile-manufacturing countries. It contributes major revenues to the national exchequer, so the Government must ensure a conducive environment to nurture more investments and growth.

Inflation and wage data suggest US prices will keep climbing

WASHINGTON: Inflation surged in June and workers' average wages accelerated in the spring — signs that Americans won't likely feel any relief from rising prices anytime soon and that the Federal Reserve will feel compelled to further raise borrowing costs.

An inflation gauge closely tracked by the Fed jumped 6.8% in June from a year ago, the government said Friday, the biggest such jump in four decades. Much of the increase was driven by energy and food.

On a month-to-month basis, too, prices surged 1% in June, the biggest such rise since 2005. Even excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices climbed 0.6% from May to June.

Employees' wages, including government workers, jumped 1.6% in the April-June quarter, matching a record high reached

last fall. Higher wages tend to fuel inflation if companies pass their higher labor costs on to their customers, as they often do.

Friday's figures underscored the persistence of the inflation that is eroding Americans' purchasing power, dimming their confidence in the economy and threatening Democrats in Congress in the run-up to the November midterm elections.

Some signs indicate that certain categories of inflation may moderate in the coming months, though not by very much: Gas prices have fallen since mid-June from an average national peak of \$5 to \$4.26, according to AAA. Likewise, other commodity prices, for items such as wheat and copper, have slunged.

But more persistent drivers of inflation show little, if any, evidence of slowing. The wage

data released Friday — a measure known as the employment cost index — indicated that paychecks were still growing at a robust pace. That's good for workers, but it could raise concerns at the Fed about its effect on prices. Chair Jerome Powell specifically cited this measure during a news conference Wednesday as a source of concern for the the central bank's policymakers.

"This is a (report) that's going to keep Fed officials up at night," said Omair Sharif, president of Inflation Insights.

The government also reported Friday that consumer spending managed to just outpace inflation last month, rising 0.1% from May to June. Spending actually jumped, but most of the gain was wiped out by higher prices.

Rising consumer demand

for services, such as airline tickets, hotel rooms and restaurant meals, is still helping fuel inflation. Many retail and consumer goods chains, though, say inflation is squeezing shoppers and limiting how far their money goes — a sign that consumer spending could further weaken.

This week, Walmart said its profits would fall because its customers are spending more on pricier food and gas, leaving them less able to buy clothes and other discretionary items. Likewise, Best Buy downgraded its sales and profit forecasts because surging inflation has forced consumers to reduce their purchases of electronics appliances.

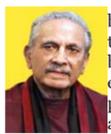
Inflation has been rising so fast that despite the pay raises many workers have received, most consumers are falling behind the rising cost-of-living.

Dollar damaging economy as efforts to stop fall of rupee futile

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said the statements of economic managers are not having a positive impact on the jittery market otherwise the value of the rupee would not have continued to decline.

IMF has no intention to release the tranche for the next twenty-five days, which will increase uncertainty while further affecting the economy, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that General Bajwa's efforts to get an IMF loan without further delay to save the country are laudable. He said that the country is going



bankrupt but taxes are not being collected as per the potential and there is no initiative to impose a tax on agricultural income. Non-developmental expenditure is being increased rather than reduced and there is zero progress towards putting the economy back on track. He said that the finance minister repeatedly claimed that the value of the rupee will improve soon, which the market is ignoring. Likewise, the public and the business community are not ready to trust the flowery statements of other economic managers and the acting governor of the State Bank.

Digital platforms most effective ways to connect with masses: CEO TPL Insurance

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: With an economic storm on the horizon, people in Pakistan are looking toward financial safety. While rising operational costs and competitive premium pricing are an ongoing struggle, customers can opt to insure themselves and their possessions from possible risks. TPL Insurance has disrupted the existing insurance ecosystem with initiatives that have enabled new industry benchmarks and instant claims processing, along with the focus on customer convenience and superior service standards. While there is so much economic insecurity in Pakistan, people can now choose general insurance, including Auto, Fire, Marine, Health, Home, Travel and Agriculture, with conventional and Takaful (Islamic insurance) solutions. As the world progresses in this field, Pakistan has still not fully accepted this segment. We spoke to the panelists for the upcoming Insurtech Summit on the 18th-19th of August, CEO of TPL Insurance, one of the leading Insurtech companies in Pakistan, said: "TPL Insurance continually innovates to utilize the digital paradigm to redefine insurance.

Government urged to facilitate business community

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Leaders belonging to political parties held a protest gathering along with the local people regarding the inclusion of Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda in the transit route, solving the problems faced by the business community and the local people in South Waziristan.

On this occasion, political leaders and local tribal elders discussed in detail about the problems faced by the people at Angoor Ada border.

Pak-Afghan border is 500 km less than all the borders of Pakistan to Central Asia and also 1400 km less than all the internal borders of Pakistan from Gwadar to Central Asia.

Therefore, the federal, provincial government and the military leadership took notice of this and took steps to solve the problems immediately.

Secretary General Maulana Rafiuddin Wazir from JUI, Ayaz Wazir from ANP, Imran Mukhalis Wazir from Pakistan Peoples Party, Ajab Gul Wazir from PTI, Saifur Rehman Wazir from Jamaat-e-Islami, Taj Wazir from the business community and the constituted of 24 members committee president Khan Malik Wazir said. That Angoor



Adda being the most important and nearest passage of trade with Central Asia, this border should be regarded with great importance.

Angoor Adda Border Terminal should be recognized as part of CPEC.

The speakers said that by transiting this border with the customs authorities, relevant facilities, wide roads, electricity, mobile network with 3G and 4G, DSL system and bank approval should be given, Then

Pakistan and Afghanistan open at Angoor Ada zero point a market should be created.

Addressing the protesters, the political leaders said that apart from the border issues, dysfunctional educational institutions should be functional, dysfunctional health centers should be functional and NADRA center should be established for the local residents so that the basic life problems faced by the people are solved.

The speakers said that Ahmed Zai Wazir tribals living on both sides of Angoor Ada border should be allowed to come and go in grief and joy along with food items at the gate to a limited extent.

The speakers further said that people belonging to Ahmadzai Wazir Nation should be allowed to carry house hold goods and market goods without customs clearance.

Since it was previously cleared by customs, it should be re-issued in the same old manner.

At the same time, the Ahmadzai Wazir tribals should be allowed to walk to the border under the national identity cards. So that the local ID card holders do not face any problem in crossing the border.

In the end, PPP leader Imran Mukhlis and ANP leader Ayaz Wazir said that the people of Angoor Adda will support whatever strategy they decide in the future to solve the problems they are facing in the border, and we will support them in every forum.

However, the two political leaders threatened and said that if the government does not end the problems faced by the people at the border, they will protest strongly and extend its scope to other cities of the country.

APTMA urges emergency measures to stabilize Pakistan's economy

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association has urged emergency measures to stabilize Pakistan's economy

In a statement, APTMA said Pakistan is currently on the brink of economic collapse. "With depleting foreign currency reserves, rising inflation, the exchange rate in free-fall and irrationally high interest rates, the country is headed towards a path similar to the economic downfall of Sri Lanka", the stamen added.

APTMA chairman said we at APTMA are pushing for all leaders and policymakers to develop a consensus on how to navigate from this situation of extreme distress and pull the economy out of this downward spiral. We recommend the following key areas for reform.

"The first is political stability. A lack of political stability is a serious impediment to economic progress. Not only does it shorten policymakers' horizons leading to suboptimal short term macroeconomic policies, but it is also the cause of frequent policy U-turns and leads to non-completion of ongoing projects. Stability and consistent

policy implementation are crucial for economic growth and for the export sector to thrive and contribute dollar earnings to stabilize the Balance of Payments for a sustainable economic outlook."

The chairman added: "The exchange rate is a major cause for concern. The ER instability has significant negative relationship with sectoral exports of Pakistan such as textile. A negative indication indicates that a rise in relative price is to blame for the decline in export demand. Pakistan has been under the grip of debilitating ER for quite some time now. The value of one dollar reached its highest point ever on 27th July 2022 when it hovered at around 237 Pakistani rupees. In the long run, the large devaluation of the rupee is worst for exporters especially textile exporters because it raises input costs, making exports less competitive."

It is time to abandon the widespread misconception that exporters welcome rupee devaluation. The central bank and government should concentrate on achieving an ER that is competitive in the market and achieves actual exchange parity. Dollars earned through exports are the most sustainable with the added benefit of no

compulsion to return them, no interest, and the cheapest with only 3-4% cost. Hence, focusing upon dollars generated through exports are far better option than bonds.

Moreover, the need for a long-term policy featuring lower interest rates cannot be underestimated, and its implications for a brighter economic future which generates foreign currency, jobs and international recognition cannot be denied. We need more investments in Pakistan, alongside holistic policy reforms that lend confidence to investors and the markets. This need cannot be met with an interest rate of 15%.

Roadblocks to entrepreneurship and innovation need to be mitigated so that we can empower our youth and our disenfranchised talent to bring about a grassroots level economic revolution. We must rid our policymaking of the economic formula whereby interest rates are raised in order to stabilize the economy, as this can only be effective in certain Highly Developed Economies: a title which Pakistan's economy is a long way off from attaining. The best mechanism is through supply-side interventions, bringing more individu-

als into the economy and increasing the labor supply - for which entrepreneurship and financial inclusion is critical.

The current account deficit increased by 517 percent in FY22 compared to FY21. To counter the dangers of our mounting debt, we must immediately take the following steps:

Reduce the import bill by at least \$ 5 billion, especially energy's, through ensuring energy efficiency.

Shockingly, petroleum imports increased by 50% in June 2022 in volume terms. Pakistan imported petroleum products worth \$24 billion last year. Gas needs to be used for productive purposes only. At present gas is being supplied to ceramics, steel and glass also.

Declare an energy emergency and introduce measures to conserve energy which can save Pakistan's economy in more ways than one:

Aggressive conservation - cuts import bills by more than 25% & saves \$6 Bn. Implement both Price & Administrative measures to curtail consumption. Curtail domestic gas supply to reduce consumption & waste by 18% UFG. Single point Energy supply to Domestic Gas. Fast track calibration of cooking burners

to save 200 MMCFD of Gas/RLNG. Improve documentation and inclusion of unbanked persons

Reduce external pressure 'hawala' from \$10 to \$5 billion by documentation as hawala can survive on undocumented sector only; introduce scheme whereby State Bank of Pakistan opens up bank accounts for those currently having no account with a pre-approved overdraft facility of PKR 10,000 that can be used as seed money for entrepreneurship.

Revamp and improve the export paradigm by ensuring competitive tariffs and improved facilitation.

Furthermore, we must take steps to add value in our exports and thereby improve global perceptions of Pakistan. This would require an environment that facilitates exporting industries to focus on quality improvement through new processes, thereby developing new products and entering fresh markets.

With a myopic focus on short staple fiber raw cotton, we rely on a shrinking market while neglecting the rapidly expanding market for MMF. The MMF tariff regime effectively prevents Pakistan from aligning its products in tandem with the rest of the world. The duty protection given to obsolete

plants in Pakistan is denying the Pakistani industry any chance to compete in this booming market, internationally or domestically. We must do away with such hurdles so that progress can be made in value addition, diversification and market expansion.

Lastly, leaders must prioritize export-led economic growth. Enhanced exports enable the inflow of foreign currency to finance imports, service debt, stabilize exchange rates and to overcome the persistent problem of the balance of payment deficit.

The textile sector has performed exceptionally well in the last 2 years. Textile exports have increased by 43 percent in FY22 as compared to FY18. Textile industry has invested a sum of \$5 billion over the past few years in new plant & machinery and upgradation.

Further expansion and increase in exports are limited by the inconsistent availability of energy at Regionally Competitive Energy Tariffs (RCET). Given that the past export spur occurred due to the priority of the government to provide regionally competitive terms for the sector, this policy must be consistently maintained in the future to enable economic stability and subsequent growth.

Commonwealth Games

Nida's unbeaten half-century goes in vain as Barbados beat Pakistan

Pakistan will now take on arch-rivals India today

BIRMINGHAM: Barbados women handed a 15-run defeat to Pakistan women in their opening match of the Commonwealth Games 2022 at the Edgbaston in Birmingham.

Chasing 145 to win, Pakistan lost four wickets with 49 runs on the board. Iram Javed (first-ball duck), Muneeba Ali (17, 19b, three fours), Omaisma Sohail (10, 14b, two fours) and Bismah Maroof (12, 28b, one four) were all back in the hut in the 11th over but Nida Dar's unbeaten half-century kept Pakistan in the run-chase. Coming to bat at number five, Nida collected 20 runs from Shamilia Connell's final over and 15th over of the innings. The over included three fours and a huge six from Nida's bat. The pair of Nida and Aliya Riaz went on to collect 11 runs in the 17th over with 39 runs required from the last three overs. The pair scored eight runs from the 18th over.

Aaliyah Alleyne broke the partnership on her last ball of the spell with Aliya going for a shot over mid-off, but was held by Connell in the 19th over. Aliya



scored a 24-ball 14 and added 69 runs for the fifth wicket with Nida. With 27 runs required off the final over, Pakistan managed to score 11 runs with Ayesha Naseem striking a six off the second ball of the over. Nida brought

up her half-century in the final over and returned undefeated on 50 off 31 balls.

Her innings included seven boundaries and one six. For Barbados, Alleyne, Connell, Dottin and Matthews bagged a wicket each. Earlier, after winning the

toss and opting to field first, Bismah Maroof-led side restricted Barbados to 144 for four from their allotted 20 overs. Deandra Dottin was the first Barbados batter to return to the pavilion when she tried to play too many shots in the opening over of the match and was caught by Bismah bowled Diana Baig for eight with nine runs on the board. Captain Hayley Matthews was joined by wicketkeeper-batter Kycia Knight and both batters scored runs at all parts of the ground.

The pair knitted a 107-run partnership for the second wicket – the highest in the match. Matthews scored a 50-ball 51, hitting four fours and one six. Knight returned undefeated on 62 off 56 balls, which included nine boundaries.

For Pakistan, right-arm fast Fatima Sana was the most successful bowler with two for 41 from four overs. Diana was the other wicket taker with one for 14 from two overs. Pakistan will now take on the arch-rivals India on Sunday, 31 July at the same venue.

New Zealand start campaign with impressive win

BIRMINGHAM: New Zealand beat South Africa by 13 runs in their opening Group B encounter at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Put into bat first, New Zealand had a fantastic opening stand from their two experienced campaigners, Suzie Bates and skipper Sophie Devine. Though not overly aggressive, the pair expertly handled any threat the South African bowlers posed. They also scored at a decent click, putting the bad deliveries away. Their partnership fell merely 1 run short of the 100-run mark, as Devine was dismissed by Nonkululeko Mlaba on 48.

Bates though carried on with her charge, steadily increasing the scoring rate. She got decent support from Amelia Kerr, who ended on an unbeaten 16-ball 20. Bates' fantastic knock of 91 would end on the final delivery of the New Zealand



innings, as she was run-out, pushing for a run. But her exploits ensured that New Zealand ended with a total of 167/2 on the board.

In reply, South Africa were rocked quite early in their chase, losing both their openers. Anneke Bosch (3) was dismissed by Hayley Jensen, while Hannah Rowe

sent Tazmin Brits packing. South Africa simply could not recover from these early setbacks, meandering along in their chase.

Mignon du Preez (26) and Laura Wolvaardt (28) steadied the ship, but could not keep up with the required rate. Chloe Tryon was the most impressive

batter, scoring 39 in only 17 deliveries but was run out at the most inopportune moment.

Skipper Sune Luus (32 off 18) tried her best, but South Africa ended up being short by 13 runs, as New Zealand began their Commonwealth Games 2022 campaign in style.

Djokovic hopeful he can compete at US Open

BELGRADE: Novak Djokovic said he is preparing for the U.S. Open as if he will be allowed to compete at the hard-court major, despite his refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

Djokovic, who has three U.S. Open titles, will not be able to participate at this year's U.S. Open due to current rules under which travellers seeking to enter the U.S. have to be fully vaccinated and provide a proof before boarding flights.

Earlier this month, the 35-year-old was included in the entry list for the Aug. 29-Sept. 11 Grand Slam in New York.

"I am preparing as if I will be allowed to compete, while I await to hear if there is any room for me to travel to U.S.," Djokovic said in a post on Instagram along with a video of him practising.

More than 43,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to work with the U.S. govern-



ment to allow 21-times major champion Djokovic to compete in the U.S. Open.

Djokovic won the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon titles last year but was unable to defend his Melbourne Park crown this year after being deported from Australia over his

vaccination status in January.

The Serbian later said <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/not-anti-vax-wont-be-forced-take-covid-19-jab-says-djokovic-2022-02-15> he was prepared to miss Grand Slam tournaments rather than take the COVID-19 vaccine.

Odegaard named new Arsenal captain

LONDON: Norwegian midfielder Martin Odegaard has been named Arsenal's new captain ahead of the 2022-23 season, the Premier League club announced on Saturday (Jul 30).

Odegaard, 23, first arrived on loan from Real Madrid in January 2021 and after impressing manager Mikel Arteta, the club moved quickly to make that transfer permanent, signing him for around 35 million euros (US\$35.76 million) in August last year.

Arsenal have been without a permanent captain since Arteta stripped Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of the armband last season, with the Gabon striker eventually moving to Barcelona earlier this year.

His strike partner Alexandre Lacazette took the armband in the second half of last season but the Frenchman lost his place in the starting lineup and has since returned to his former club Olympique Lyonnais.

Odegaard is no stranger to wearing an armband, however, as he has been the captain of the Norway national team since March last year.

Odegaard's first match as Arsenal's fixed captain will be against Spanish side Sevilla in a pre-season friendly later on Saturday. Arsenal begin their Premier League campaign at Crystal Palace on Friday.

Chinese Super League to continue playing through World Cup

HONG KONG: Chinese football authorities have confirmed that the current Chinese Super League season will not break for the World Cup finals in November and December once it returns to action on Aug. 5.

The league took a scheduled break upon the conclusion of the opening 10 rounds on July 12 to accommodate the China national team's involvement in the East Asian Championship. With 24 rounds remaining and China not having qualified for the World Cup, the league will play on during proceedings in Qatar, which begin on Nov. 21.

The last round of the Chinese Super League will be played on Dec. 18, the same day as the World Cup final.

Eleven of the Chinese Super League's 18 teams will be permitted to play at their own stadiums following the return of the home-and-away format after almost three years.

Matches in the initial phase of the campaign were played in three biosecure venues in an effort to minimise travel as a result of the Chinese government's ongoing attempts to implement a zero-Covid strategy.

Swiatek upset by Garcia in Warsaw quarter-finals

WARSAW: World number one Iga Swiatek suffered a quarter-final exit at her home tournament, the Poland Open, after losing in three sets Friday to France's Caroline Garcia. French Open champion Swiatek had not lost on clay in over a year before going down 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to the 45th-ranked Garcia.

Swiatek was 18-0 on clay this season, winning titles at Stuttgart, Rome and Roland Garros, and had only dropped two sets on the surface in 2022. "It was a very important match and I tried to be ready for it," said Garcia. "I started very strong, putting a lot of pressure on her. As soon as I got a bit lower-intensity, she came back very strong, and that's what is happening against a top player."

"I stayed positive, I kept believing in my game and the way I wanted to play, and the third set was definitely very good tennis." Garcia will play Italy's Jasmine Paolini for a place in the Warsaw final. Paolini recovered from a poor start to defeat Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic 1-6, 6-2, 6-2. Ukraine's Kateryna Baindl faces Ana Bogdan of Romania in the other semi-final.

KP Tennis Championship to start from August 2

PESHAWAR: The first Iftikhar Ahmed Junior Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tennis Championship is going to start from August 2, 2022 on the synthetic courts of the Peshawar sports Complex here.

This was stated by Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tennis Association Umar Ayaz Khalil while talking to APP here on Saturday. "All arrangements in this connection have been made for the smooth conduct of the Championship, which is being sponsored by former national tennis player Iftikhar Ahmad, who is currently coaching Tennis in Abu Dhabi, UAE, he said." Umar Ayaz Khalil disclosed that players in different age group categories including U8, U12, U16 and Men singles for Media Persons.

He said Zakir Ullah and Shahyar Khan were nominated as referees for the Championship while Roman Gul would be the Director Tournament.

Secretary Umar Ayaz Khalil paid tribute to former tennis player and coach Iftikhar Ahmed for organizing the competition and said that sponsors for tennis must come forward to promote the sport.

He said that the whole family and brothers of Iftikhar Ahmad were also former national tennis players and were working as qualified coaches in UAE.

F1 drivers navigate rain-drenched practice before qualifying



BUDAPEST: Formula One drivers tackled a difficult rain-drenched third practice ahead of qualifying for the Hungarian Grand Prix later Saturday.

Runaway championship leader Max Verstappen and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez only came out late into the hour-long session. Aston Martin driver Sebastian Vettel lost the rear tires and went backward into the crash barriers, bringing out a red flag with about 10 minutes to go. The session restarted with four minutes left.

After the intense heat of Friday, rain began thundering down around midday and the Hungaroring track was drenched by the 1 p.m. start.

The Ferraris were the first to go out and Charles Leclerc — who leads F1 with seven poles this season — slid as he missed a chicane.

As rain got even heavier and visibility worsened, Vettel — who is retiring at the end of the season — missed a turn and AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly just about avoided a crash barrier, then later did a 360 spin.

Mercedes driver George Russell said he was "struggling a lot," McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo spoke of having "absolutely no grip" and Haas driver Mick Schumacher complained his rear tires felt like they were slipping on ice.

Alcaraz eases into seventh semi-final of 2022

UMAG: Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz reached his seventh semi-final of the year on Friday with a straight-sets win over Facundo Bagnis at the Umag clay-court tournament.

The 19-year-old Spaniard raced away with the first eight games of the match before sealing a 6-0, 6-4 win over his 120th-ranked opponent from Argentina. Having started the week at a career-high of five in the world, Alcaraz will replace Stefanos Tsitsipas at number four should he defeat Italian qualifier Giulio Zeppieri in Saturday's semi-finals.

"It means a lot to be able to reach the number four ranking, to have a chance to do it," Alcaraz said after Friday's match. "It's amazing for me. I think I'm playing really well. I feel really comfortable playing here, a lot of confidence right now." Zeppieri defeated Spain's Bernabe Zapata Miralles 7-5, 6-4 to make the last four. Meanwhile, second seed and world number 10 Jannik Sinner reached his first semi-final of 2022 by seeing off Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4, 7-6 (7/5).

Australia off to a flyer at CWG

BIRMINGHAM: Australia dominated the first night of action in the Commonwealth Games pool in Birmingham on Friday to race clear at the top of medals table. Olympic champions Ariarne Titmus and Zac Stubblety-Cook showed their class in tight races while world champion Elijah Winnington powered home in style.

Australia finished their evening on cloud nine by winning the mixed 4x100m freestyle relay, with Emma McKeone collecting the ninth Commonwealth gold of her career. They won eight medals out of a possible 16 on day one of sporting action at the Games – five clear of second-placed New Zealand. Titmus, who won 200m and 400m freestyle gold at last year's Tokyo Olympics, was given

a mighty scare in the women's 200m freestyle at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre by 18-year-old compatriot Mollie O'Callaghan.

The double Olympic champion was in control for most of the race but was hunted down the final stretch, edging home by just 0.12sec in a new Games record of 1min 53.89sec. "Moll has been killing in training, she is young, feisty, hungry – I knew she would be there," Titmus told Australia's Channel 7. "It is fun to have a race."

"I love it that we are in a country where we have depth like this," added the 21-year-old, who recently had a bout of coronavirus. Winnington stormed to victory in the men's 400m freestyle as Australia swept the podium just weeks after winning the world title in Budapest. The 22-year-

old, who was inside world record pace for much of the race, tired in the latter stages, clocking 3:43.06. Winnington, who almost quit the sport after a poor Olympics last year, said he was not too disappointed that he had faded in the final stages to miss out on a shot at the world record. "It's something to chase," he said.

"My coach and I always say it's pretty hard being the hunted but having that world record there means I am still the hunter." Olympic and world men's 200m breaststroke champion Stubblety-Cook was put under immense pressure by England's defending champion James Wilby but powered down the home straight to win in 2:08.07. Canada's Summer McIntosh, just 15 years old, destroyed the field in the

women's 400m individual medley.

She recorded a new Games record of 4:29.01 – more than three seconds quicker than her winning time at the recent world championships. Breaking her own world junior record, she finished nearly eight seconds clear of second-placed Australian Kiah Melverton. "I've been working on a lot of stuff in training so I can execute my 400m IM better than I did at the worlds, because I had so much room for improvement – and I still do," she said. In the cycling events, taking place in London, Australia won the women's 4,000 metres team pursuit and New Zealand won the men's event.

Much of the focus was on England's Laura Kenny, who took an emotional bronze medal



in the women's race. The 30-year-old has endured a torrid time since last year's Covid-delayed Tokyo Olympics, suffering a miscarriage and an ectopic pregnancy. "I've never felt so much pressure

to try to win a bronze medal in my whole career," Kenny said.

New Zealand also won the women's team sprint. Flora Duffy – Bermuda's first-ever Olympic champion – became the first

triathlete to win two Commonwealth Games titles with a dominant display in Sutton Park. The 34-year-old finished the sprint-distance event in 55min 25sec. That was 41 seconds clear of England's Georgia Taylor-Brown, who also took silver behind Duffy in Tokyo last year. England's Alex Yee won the men's event in a time of 50min 34sec. Australia beat India by three wickets in the first-ever Commonwealth Games women's cricket match, with Ash Gardner scoring 52 not out and Jess Jonassen taking 4-22 in the Twenty20 match. In the later match, also at Edgbaston, Barbados beat Pakistan by 15 runs. England became the first team to win three successive Commonwealth Games team gymnastics golds with victory for the men.