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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the inauguration of Innovation Hub in Islamabad on Friday.

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i 🔊 Rs 1.66 per kg OGRA hikes LPG price



😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following massive hike in prices of petroleum products, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has announced another hike in the price of LPG for July. According to the notification, the regulatory authority has increased the price of LPG by Rs 1.66 per kg, after which the price of one kg of LPG has been fixed at Rs 220.42. The price of 11.8 kg domestic cylinder of LPG went up by Rs 19.62, after which the new price was fixed at Rs 2,600.97. It is pertinent to mention here that in June, the domestic cylinder of LPG

was Rs 2581 35. A day earlier, Pakistan Muslim League Nawazled coalition government jacked up petrol prices by

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister been connected with Faiz Ahmed facilitate the people of Bhara tional. "It gives me immense satis-Shehbaz Sharif Friday directed Faiz Terminal instead of NHA Kahu and the travelers of Murree. faction to announce that the 720 the authorities concerned to intro- Station which had increased the Moreover the travelers coming mega watt hydal power plant in duce a coordinated mechanism for the reduction in fares of metro bus service to provide relief to the masses. The prime minister issued directives while chairing a meeting to review progress on Orange, Blue and Green Line Bus services in the federal capital. He also directed to complete landscaping of Orange Line Metro Bus Service from Faiz Ahmed Faiz Terminal to the Islamabad Airport within seven days. The prime minister was also apprised of the progress on the Bhara Kahu Bypass project. The prime minister directed to ensure the preservation of forests during the PM told. the execution of the project. The

😂 Staff Reporter

S Rising inflation

Devise system to reduce

meeting was told that 29-kilom- kilometer Greenline Bus Service Pakistan Economic Corridor eter Orange Line Bus Service had from Bhara Kahu to PIMS would (CPEC) project became opera-Karot has started functioning," he said in a tweet. PM Sharif said he was thankful to the government of China for materializing the project. He mentioned that the project could not gain momentum during around four years of the previous government. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. The civil-military brass, according to the sources, held deliberations over several matters, including the country's security situation and the military's professional affairs. The meeting took place at PM Office, the sources added.

FM invites US Congresswoman to Pakistan

Sheila vows to asks IMF to improve Pakistan's economic conditions

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto on Friday addressed Congressional Pakistan Caucus via video link and invited its Chairperson Sheila Jackson Lee to visit Pakistan. Speaking during the interaction, Bilawal said that the Pakistani diaspora in United States plays an important role in strengthening the relationship between the two countries. US Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee said that she would write a letter to the International Monetary Fund for improving economic conditions of the country.

attended by Pakistani envoy

to US Masood Khan, Demo-

Riaz Qadir and others. On May 18, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to mend broken ties between the two countries. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto participated in a ministerial meeting and debate at the United Nations Security Council on food security.

Bilawal and Blinken vowed to mend ties between Pakistan and America and strengthen bilateral bonds. The American Secretary of State said that the USA is looking forward to encouraging economic and trade ties with Pakistan. Foreign Minister Bilawal The meeting was also Bhutto Zardari emphasised the importance of multilateralism and the United Nations in Pakicrat leaders Tahir Javed, Asif stan's foreign policy.

Centre accepts IMF terms sans consulting provinces

KP raises objections over IMF deal

😂 Staff Reporter

Saleem Jhagra has written a letter to Federal Minister for ISLAMABAD: The feder- Finance Miftah Ismail. al government has accepted a In the letter, KP Fir

Rs14.85 per litre, the third such rise within a month. After the recent increase, the new petrol price has been fixed at Rs248.74 per litre, the finance ministry announced. The price of high-speed diesel has been increased by Rs13.23 per litre and the new price has been fixed at Rs276.54 per litre. The notification further stated an increase of Rs18.83 in the price of kerosene, while the rate of light-speed diesel has been jacked up by Rs18.68 per litre.



Metro bus fares: PM orders

Thanks China as first CPEC hydal power plant becomes operational

number of passengers from 2000 from Airport through Orange to 3000 during peak hours and 18,000 a day. The 20-kilometer service to reach Murree. Work on Blue Line from Koral to PIMS was also ready for inauguration. Comprising 13 stations, the route would facilitate the people living briefed PM. along the Islamabad Expressway,

Line would also benefit from the the rehabilitation and widening of the Islamabad Expressway would also be initiated soon, the meeting

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday thanked China as the It was told that the planned 15.5 first power plant under China condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) without consulting the provinces. According to details, the coalition government has accepted the IMF condition of Rs800 billion (about 1 percent of GDP) provincial surplus in the budget. The agreement - based on IMF terms - has also been shared with all four provinces. Meanwhile, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has raised objections over the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and the global lender. In this regard, KP Finance Minister Taimur

Minister regretted that the government did not consult the provinces before accepting IMF condition. "Before signing the agreement, the Centre should solve the KP's financial problems," Taimur Saleem Jhagra said, adding that the government should ensure health cards and funds for the people of former FATA. The letter further stated that the government should ensure funds for the tribal districts in the Budget 2022-23. "KP was receiving Rs3 billion monthly from the National Health Programme," he said.

'Imported govt' continuously burdening masses: Imran

Questions wouldn't neutrals suffer a loss if economy goes down

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday while rebuking the incumbent government said that the imported government continuously putting an unbearable burden on the people. Taking to Twitter, the PTI chairman said that the imported government was imposed by the US regime change conspiracy instead of buying cheap oil from Russia, adding that the government is putting the unbearable burden on the people. "Incumbent rulers have given themselves NRO 2 worth Rs1100 billion. They have raised petrol price by Rs99 and diesel by Rs133 and people should join our Khan added. In another prices, the worst loadshedbe a historic jalsa on Saturday at the Parade Ground against the imported government.

Khan on Friday asked if this is not the country of neutrals and if the decline in economy, wouldn't the neutrals suffer a loss

Addressing the Islamabad Policy Institute on Friday, he said that a debate is going on at the moment as to what has happened to this country. The tomorrow protest," Imran former PM said that according to the economic survey, tweet. Imran Khan wrote the economy was improving that "against the rising oil during PTI government's tenure, whereas the agriding, InshaAllah, there will culture industry and other sectors were also improving but what had happened our government was removed Former prime minister through foreign conspiracy.

and Pakistan Tehreek-e-In- "It was told that our governsaf (PTI) chairman Imran ment was unable to control inflation," he said and added

the inflation has reached historic high in two months. The PTI Chairman went

on to say that the economic security is as much important as that of military security, adding that Rs11,00 billion of the thieves imposed on us have been written off. Earlier today, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan while rebuking the incumbent government said that the imported government continuously putting an unbearable burden on the people.

India, Pakistan exchange prisoners' lists



😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: India and Pakistan on Friday exchanged the lists of the civilian and fishermen prisoners in each other's custody. The Government of Pakistan shared with the Indian High Commission a list of 682 Indian prisoners detained in Pakistan including 49 civilians and 633 fishermen.

"This step is consistent with clause (i) of the Consular Access Agreement between Pakistan and India, signed on 21 May 2008, under which both countries are required to exchange lists of prisoners in each other's custodv on 01 January and 01 July every year," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement. The Indian government also simultaneously shared a list of 461 Pakistani prisoners in India including 345 civilians and 116 fishermen with the High Commission for Pakistan in New Delhi.

15 21.3% Inflation peaks to 14-year high

Monthly inflation reaches 6.34pc in June

Senior correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation reached 21.3pc during the week ending on June 30, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said in a report. According to the stats provided by the PBS, the inflation rate in the country in the previous week was recorded at 21.3 percent, the highest since December 2008. During the week under review, out of 53 items, prices of 28 items increased, prices of 05 items decreased, and prices of 18 items remained stable. During the week under review, out of 53 items, prices of 28 items increased, prices of 05 items decreased, and prices of 18 items remained stable.

The commodities, which recorded increase in their average prices included: Tomatoes (31.53%), Onions (7.86%), Tea Lipton (4.60%), Eggs (2.56%), Pulse Mash (2.30%), Pulse Gram (2.17%), Pulse Moong (1.83%), Milk Fresh (1.81%), Potatoes (1.67%), Bread (1.59%), Cooking Oil 5 litre (1.40%) and Pulse Masoor (1.34%), non-food items Electricity charges for Q1 (27.89%), Washing Soap (2.56%) and LPG (1.15%), with joint impact of (3.78%) into the overall SPI for combined group of (3.63%). On the other hand, a decrease was observed in the prices of Chicken (6.81%), Bananas (0.78%), Vegetable Ghee 1 Kg (0.44%), Garlic (0.26%), Wheat Flour (0.08%)



and Mustard Oil (0.03%). During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 28 (54.91%) items increased, 06 (11.76%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable.

The year on year trend depicts an increase of 32.01%, Diesel (129.83%), Onions (113.97%), Petrol (106.48%), Pulse Masoor (85.63%), Vegetable Ghee 1 Kg (83.45%), Cooking Oil 5 litre (79.39%), Mustard Oil (78.77%), Vegetable Ghee 2.5 Kg (73.34%), Tomatoes (70.08%), Washing Soap (56.64%), Gents Sponge Chappal 52.21%), Pulse Gram (50.30%), Garlic (47.66%), LPG (46.76%) and Pulse Mash (30.03%).while major decrease observed in the prices of Chillies Powdered (43.42%), Sugar (10.45%), Pulse Moong (5.49%)

and Gur (1.72%). Inflation has been on a rise amid rising fuel prices and economic situation in the country for the past three months.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz-led coalition government on Thursday jacked up petrol prices by Rs14.85 per litre, the third such rise within a month.

After the recent increase, the new petrol price has been fixed at Rs248.74 per litre, the finance ministry announced. The price of high-speed diesel has been increased by Rs13.23 per litre and the new price has been fixed at Rs276.54 per litre. The notification further stated an increase of Rs18.83 in the price of kerosene, while the rate of light-speed diesel has been jacked up by Rs18.68 per litre.



Saturday, July 2, 2022

E&P

First meeting of the special committee to explore the avenues for development of mining sector held today under the convenership of Federal Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan.



Winner of by-polls should be given province's charge: Hamza

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: (Dunya News)-Punjab Chief Hamza Shahbaz on Friday while reacting to the Supreme Court's verdict on the Punjab chief minister election said that during the by-elections on July 17, whichever party the public chose should be given the province's charge. Talking to the media after the Supreme Court decision, the Punjab Chief Minister said that Punjab has suffered a constitutional crisis for the last several months. Punjab's constitutional crisis can get entry in the Guinness Book of World Records, he added.

"I have accepted the court's decisions with an open heart because I have nothing to hide," Hamza Said He further said that during the by-elections, whichever party the public chose should be given the province's charge. "By the grace of Allah, Almighty PML-N will win the elections," he said. While highlighting his government's performance, Hamza Shahbaz said that despite the crisis we gave a subsidy of Rs 200 billion to the people of Punjab. In all the districts of Punjab, DHQ. and THQ, all medicines including cancer are going to be available free of cost, adding that he has completed the promises which he made not like Imran Khan who remained failed to fulfill. Rebuking the PTI government, he said that the previous government's decision not to go to IMF was a big mistake, Imran Khan wasted 6 months by not going to IMF due to this we have to raise the petrol prices to save the country from bankruptcy. Despite the difficulties, we are providing relief to the people, he added.

Political crisis

Punjab CM re-election to be held on July 22: SC

PTI, PML-Q agree to let Hamza remain CM till re-election

腾 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The election to elect new chief minister of Punjab will take place on July 22, announced Supreme Court after Punjab government and opposition parties reached consensus to hold election for the province's chief executive after by-elections in 20 constituencies. A three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial conducted hearing of PTI plea requesting SC to set aside LHC verdict by declaring it illegal and unconstitutional. PTI had also prayed that court suspend the process of recounting till a decision on this plea.

"All parties have agreed to hold the election of the chief minister on July 22," Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial remarked while the case will be issued by tonight. Pakiby-elections, whereas, Advocate General

consulted in this regard and Hamza Shahbaz remained the Chief Minister until July 17.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial while expressing happiness after both opposition groups reached consensus remarked that by the grace of almighty Allah, the political parties have agreed to some extent and this is a success for both sides. Meanwhile, PTI lawyer Babar Awan while informing the court said that former prime minister and party chairman Imran Khan has been contacted and he has accepted Hamza Shahbaz Sharif as the Chief Minister till re-election, while the IG, Chief Secretary and the Election Commission should be ordered to act in accordance with the law.

To which, the CJP said that he would concluding the hearing on the case. The order to ensure implementation of the video link. In his arguments, Babar Awan apex court said that detailed verdict of code of conduct of the Election Commis- told the court that all of the PTI lawmaksion. Justice Jiaz-ul-Ahsan said that the stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Imtiaz code of conduct of the Election Commis- were on Hajj pilgrimage while others Siddiqui said that the Punjab government sion exists to which Babar Awan said that were are busy attending family events. was ready for re-election of the province's his party has reservations over the Elec- To this, Justice Ijazul Ahsan remarked chief executive three to four days after the tion Commission. The Chief Justice asked that he doesn't agree with waiting before if the Chief Minister intends to rig elec- the voting if any member is absent.

Punjab and Hamza Shahbaz have been tion, while Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan asked both parties to contest election in a fair manner and the one whoever is better will win. To this, Hamza Shahbaz said that he is a political worker and have served sentences

> Justice Ijazul Hassan said that the court will issue a general order and will not get involved in small matters and it is better not to make the case a family dispute, small matters happen in family issues.

Meanwhile, Punjab CM Hamza Shahbaz and Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi agreed on July 22 date for re-election and the apex court pronounced final verdict after an agreement between the two

At the outset of the hearing, Babar Awan appeared before the court while PTI s counsel attended the hearing through ers were not present in Lahore as some

Gas reserves lessening at 10% per year: Musadik

Govt to incentivise usage of local oil, gas resources

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik announced on Friday that the government will introduce a programme aimed at utilising Pakistan's own resources for power generation to end the menace of load-shedding and reduce dependency on imported fuel.

Speaking at a press conference, he added that even if Pakistan managed to buy fuel from the international market at competitive rates, it would still build import pressure and drain foreign exchange reserves. "We are developing a roadmap to utilise our own assets for power generation. Under the initiative, local resources will be used to generate energy," he said.

He informed the participants that Pakistan's indigenous gas deposits were depleting at a rate of 10% per annum therefore, "new wells should have been dug years ago". Under the government's plan to use local fuel reserves, consultations would be held with the exploration and production companies and incentives would be offered to them to explore deposits in Pakistan, Malik said. He high-



lighted that foreign companies that have closed operations in the country would be invited back through an incentive package. "Foreign companies bring modern technology with them which minimises the cost of digging and extracting reserves," he said. Agencies

Puniab CM election Elahi expresses satisfaction over SC verdict



on the Punjab Chief Minister election said that what we wanted has been accepted by the court. Talking to the media, Elahi said that a fair decision has been taken today, what we wanted has been accepted by the apex court and the session of the Punjab Assembly will be held as per the rules.

Briefing the media on the order, he said that the court decided there would be no "use of police" or "victi-

Govt notifies raise in salaries, pensions

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has notified 15% raise in salaries and a 5% increase in pensions. According to the notification, the finance ministry issued the notification in this regard on Friday saying that the raise will take effect from July 1, 2022. The increase in salaries was made on the basis of the basic salary of 2017. The ministry has also reviewed the pay scales of government employees.

The new pay scales will be appli-cable from July 1, 2020, the notification said adding that the new pay scales will be applied in place of the 2017 pay scales. The notification elaborated that after the new pay scales, all five ad hoc reliefs will be merged together. Regarding pensions, the notification further read that previously on April 1, 2022 pensions had been increased by 10%, and now 5% raise was announced.

It was added in the notification that retired officials of the armed forces as well as of the civil armed

misation" during the July 22 elections. "The election would be held only in the Punjab assembly building, not at any other place," he added.

forces would also be entitled to the raise in pensions. Furthermore, it read that the decision also covered the officials retiring after July 1, 2022.

S NA-245 polls **Farooq Sattar's return to** MQM-P on the cards

Likely to contest from Amir Liagat's vacant seat

Farooq Sattar to rejoin the party and contest the NA-245 by-elections under the symbol of Kite, sources say. According to details, the Muttahida Qoumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leadership and Farooq Sattar have decided to mend ties. The estranged veteran has been offered to return to the party and contest the NA-245 by-polls under the Kite symbol, sources say.

Farooq Sattar had suggested multiple times in the last few weeks that the only viable option for the Urdu-speaking community is to unite. MQM-P leadership has said that Farooq Sattar would be a very good candidate for the NA-245 by-polls. Karachi's NA-245 had been vacated after the demise of PTI Liaquat Hussain. Agencies

KARACHI: MQM-P leadership has offered MNA Aamir Liaquat Hussain on June 9 2022

> Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has persuaded former party stalwart and senior politician Dr Farooq Sattar to return to the party. According to sources, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui met Farooq Sattar at his residence last night during which he persuaded him to return to the party fold. The MQM-P has not officially confirmed the meeting. Farooq Sattar, who was among the founder members of the MQM, told Aaj Digital that the MQM had offered him to contest the by-election for the NA-245 seat, which was vacated following the death of Aamir

Uninterrupted power supply to industries to protect jobs: Khurram

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir on Friday said that despite carrying out load-shedding for domestic consumers, consistent and uninterrupted electricity was supplied to industrial sector to protect employment of thousands of Pakistani. Addressing a press conference, he said various power plants having 6000 MW capacity were closed due to unavailability of fuel including coal, gas and furnace oil. However, the incumbent government arranged fuel for all the plants in the shortest possible time and made them functional except K-2 nuclear plant which was closed for refueling.

He said that K-2 plant would also start its 1100 MW production before hydropower plant completed during PML-N government tenure in 2018 was also generating 969 MW. The minister said the entire country was facing the menace of power loading which has three basic reasons including Imran's enmity towards CPEC, miss-use of NAB, unprecedented heat wave in April and unabated fuel (coal, gas-oil) prices hike at the international market.

He said power demand witnessed 30 per cent increase as compared to last year during the said period despite increasing 20 per cent generation this year. He said record demand of 30,009 MW was recorded on June 30 in the history of Pakistan while generation the Eidul Azha. 720 MW Karot hydro-remained at 21,842 MW against the to CPEC, he added.

power plant has already started it full total demand. Around 6,000 MW operation while Neelum Jehelum shortfall excluding areas of high losses was recorded, he added. Khurram Dastgir said PML-N past government had overcome power load-shedding in 2018 and set up 4 RLNG based, 3 coal based, 2 nuclear based power plants besides Neelum Jhelum Power Projects. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had performed ground breaking of 720 MW Karrot Power plant, he added.

He said foundation of even 5000 MW which would be added to the national grid system during this year was also laid by Nawaz Sharif. He said Imran Khan always misguided the people about the power generation in the country. 1214 MW local Thar Coal based Shanghai Electric project could not be started due to enmity of Imran

🔊 FDI, exports Govt focusing on improving energy sector: Miftah

Says 7 percent tax on POL due to PTI's agreement

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Friday said the present government would undertake every required step for improving energy sector, and enhancing exports and foreign investment. He said this during a meeting with the US delegation headed by State Department's Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Sved, a Finance Division press release said. The US delegation comprised Regional Policy Lead for Europe and Central Asia, Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Ms Gaia Self, and Economic Counselor of US Embassy in Pakistan Dan Froats, and other officers.

The secretary finance and other senior officers of the Finance Division also attended the meeting.

Miftah Ismail apprised the delegation about the power purchase agreements (PPAs) of its the economic challenges, and the reforms in policies that had been undertaken by the present government to tackle them. He said the reforms aimed at enhancing the gross domestic product (GDP) growth, attracting the foreign direct investment and augmenting the exports. The minister said the government was committed to provide more conducive environment for the foreign investment, and was also promoting the foreign companies especially involved in automobile and mobile assimilation for the promotion of exports.

The US delegation showed their interest in investment in various sectors, including wind renewable energy, and textile and agricultural sectors. It said the DFC was planning to revise sponsored wind power projects depending upon the support and cooperation of the Government of Pakistan. Miftah Ismail aid that 7 per cent of tax was due to be imposed on petroleum products as per the agreement signed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has improved its performance and paid all refund claims. He said that they witnessed success in making progress on IMF program and the talks with the IMF officials are going on in a positive way. Ismail alleged that former prime minister Imran Khan violated the IMF agreement. He added that the prices of petroleum products were increased in the global



market. The finance minister said that the present government has revived the IMF program; imposed taxes on the rich persons.

Earlier in the day, Ismail said in a Twitter thread, "Congratulations to Chairman FBR & his team on exceeding the upwardly revised tax target of Rs 6.1tr for FY 2021-22. FBR collect-

ed Rs 763b in June 22 v/s Rs 580b in June 21, registering a 32% growth. Refunds of Rs 39b issued in June 22 v/s Rs 27b in June 21, increase of 44%." In another tweet, he wrote, "I appreciate the FBR workforce for its outstanding performance in this quarter. During 4th qtr, tax collection of Rs 1741b v/s Rs1351b last year, an increase of 29%

Refunds of Rs 105b issued during 4th qtr of CFY against Rs 68b in the same period last year, an increase of 55%." The finance minister also said, "As per PM Shehbaz Sharif's instructions, a few days ago we paid all processed DLTL claims pending for the last three years. Today FBR paid all processed Faster, Sales Tax, Income Tax and Export Rebate claims that were due. Every single processed claim. Alhamdolillah." Agencies

National

Saturday, July 2, 2022

Govt to provide social protection to women of Balochistan: Marri

Minister says Benazir Nashonuma Programme centers to be opened in every district of province from next month

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and BISP Chairperson Shazia Marri on Friday said the government was committed to provide social protection to the women of Balochistan by making them economically strong so that they could play their role in the country's development.

The Benazir Nashonuma Programme centers would be opened in every district of the province from next month, besides provision of 25 vehicles to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to enhance its outreach to the needy women across Balochistan, she added.



auspices of the non-govern- of Balochistan. mental organization Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund al Assembly Rubina Irfan, the people should have the

She was addressing a est free loan cheques among function held here under the women from different parts

Member of the Nation-(PPAF) to distribute inter- ex-senator Roshan Khurshid right to the resources of their

Barocha, former members of province. Balochistan Assembly Rahila Hameed Durrani and Ghazala Gola, and leaders of political parties also attended the ceremony.

Shazia Marri expressed her resolve that Balochistan would be given top priority in the plans of her ministry. Balochistan being the largest province of Pakistan, must be given due attention, she added.

"Efforts are being made to make Balochistan socially strong so that the sense of deprivation of its people is removed," she said, adding

added.

She said the way in which work was being done at the community level with the people of Balochistan was commendable. A strong and thriving Balochistan would guarantee a strong Pakistan. The minister said the BISP was the largest social security programme in Asia, which had benefited 80,000 families. Some 0.2 million children were benefiting from its Education Programme, she

Shazia Marri said along with giving a sizable amount for the education of children, stipends were also being given to boys and girls. Agencies

Fighting Corruption with Art

LAHORE: Students take keen interest in painting during painting exhibition title "Anti Corruption" organised by fine art department at Lahore College for Women University in Provincial Capital.



NHA has global reputation for CTD SI Musa Khan martyred construction: Asad in S Waziristan 😂 🛛 Raja Furgan Ahmed

Regional meteorological center will be set up at IUB



😂 Staff Reporter

BAHAWALPUR: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Pakistan Meteorological Department for cooperation in the field of meteorology, increase in metaphysics, meteorological forecasting and related issues. Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof.

Dr. Athar Mahboob and Sahibzad Khan General Director Pakistan Meteorological Department signed the agreement at the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Islamabad. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur is conducting exceptional research in the field of agriculture. Agriculture is closely related to climatic conditions.

In this regard, coordination and cooperation between academia, agronomists and meteorologists is very important. According to the agreement, the two institutes will organize training programs to enhance the capacity of their specialists. A database of information on meteorology, agriculture, glaciers will be compiled. A regional meteorological center will be set up at the Islamia Univer-

sity of Bahawalpur. A center of excellence for teaching and research in climate sciences will be established. Glacier melting, river flow and its effects on the food chain will be examined. Priority will be given to training young scientists in this regard. Research and collaboration will be promoted to convert the artificial rain system into a fruit basket of Pakistan.

London College of Online Learning signs MoU with MAJU



😂 Staff Reporter

KARACHI: "Our aim is to promote online education in Pakistan so that it is possible to conduct online training for students and professionals. Our services are for the betterment of young people's futures. They can take management courses for which they will be given a certificate".

Syed Amjad Hussain, Regional Director, London College of Online Learning, expressed these views before signing a memorandum of understanding on a better future for youth at Muhammad Ali Jinnah University. He said that the younger generation is the architect of the nation and it is our duty to highlight their talents so that they can graduate from here and move towards better employment. Our panels also include international trainers from around the world who will provide online training through webinars.

Imad Zafar, Executive Manager, Muhammad Ali Jinnah University, said that the young people who graduated from our university today are serving in the government, semi-government, private sector, and other fields. I am happy today. We have signed an MOU with the London College of Online Learning and will continue to serve the young peoples. In the public interest, MAJU will provide the infrastructure to bridge the gap between institutions and industries in the public interest. It will also help our Pakistani students get international certification with the facilities of the Pro Matric Testing Center. We will conduct all courses related to IT. Dr. Masroor Sheikh, Aftab Alam, Ahmed Aftab, Arif Suri, and others were among those who spoke. At the end of the ceremony, Imad Zafar expressed his gratitude.

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The 37th meeting of the National Highway Council, the supreme body of the National Highway Authority was held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad Mahmood in the conference room of the Ministry of Communications.

The meeting was attended by Federal Secretary for Communications and Chairman NHA Capt (r) Muhammad Khurram Agha and other Members and senior officials. All the financial and administrative matters of the National Highway Authority were discussed.

It was suggested at the meeting that just as the Ministry of Housing allocates relating to NHA rules and regulations

construction, extension and maintenance schemes of NHA were also taken into consideration.

Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad houses to government employees of Mahmood said that the National other departments, there should also Highway Council undoubtedly is such be a quota for NHA employees. Matters a forum in which the most important issues are discussed and the council is were also discussed in the context of determined to play an active role for the Rules 1995. Various aspects of smooth running of affairs of the author-

ity.

The Federal Minister further said that if the problems were timely overcome, there would be no impediment in the development of the institution. NHA has a global reputation for construction and repair of roads, hence improving its performance and timely completion of ongoing construction projects is our primary responsibility, he added.

Homebridge by Beaconhouse signs MoU with SNPET for student scholarships

😂 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Beaconhouse, Pakistan's largest network of private educational institutions, under its recently introduced Hybrid A Level school, titled Homebridge, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sanjan Nagar Public Education Trust (SNPET), to offer scholarships to Sanjan Nagar students over a period of 5 academic years. The MoU was signed between Harris Sufyan, Project Director at ing Management System) Homebridge by Beaconhouse, and Beena Raza, other fees required for vari-Member of Board of Trustees, Sanjan Nagar Trust, at ties. Beaconhouse will also a ceremony held in Lahore. provide necessary devices,

Under this partner- including a laptop or a tablet, ship, Beaconhouse will along with internet connecoffer merit-based financial tivity for each student, assistance to five students as required for academ-



ry charges, LMS (Learn-

enrollment, textbooks, and

ous extra-curricular activi-

registered under SNPET, ic progress in the Hybrid A to cover their admission Level programme. fee, tuition fee, laborato-

Commenting on the partnership, Nassir Kasuri, Executive Director at Beaconhouse stated, "The Hybrid A Level programme offered by Homebridge is focused on providing a long-term alternative to on-campus education to the masses who have limited access to high-standard international programmes. Through this

partnership with the Sanjan Nagar Trust, we wish to provide better opportunities to deserving students who can receive quality education through an easier, more flexible education model, and have better chances to lead a progressive life."

Farzana Kausar, Principal Sanjan Nagar School, Lahore stated, "We at Sanjan Nagar Public Education Trust Higher Secondary School (SNPET-HSS) appreciate the Beaconhouse and Homebridge teams for this great initiative in making unequal access to education, equal. We are very excited that SNPET-HSS students will become part of the first batch of this programme and wish the very best to the Homebridge team and our students for their collaborative success.'

PESHAWAR: Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Sub-Inspector Musa Khan embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with terrorists in the Azam Warsak area of South Waziristan on Thursday night.

According to the details, during an exchange of fire with security forces, one terrorist was also killed while another was arrested. According to the Police officials, during the attack Sub-Inspector of Counter-Terrorism Department Musa Khan embraced martyrdom while one police constable got injured.

RDF, AKUH organize free medical camp in Godho

😂 Staff Reporter

TAXILA: RDF in collaboration with AKUH organized a one day free medical camp in Godho, Taxila.

In this camp, more than hundreds families got free screening of Hepatitis-C. People from Taxila, Hassan Abdal and nearby areas appreciated the efforts of RDF and were grateful to AKUH for providing this facility. Zil Ur Rehman, Director Project, Khushal Khan, Ms. Farzana from RDF. Safeer Khan, Ms. Anita, Ms. Khadija Shoukat from AKUH rendered their services to the community.

Met office forecasts heavy rains in Sindh from today

KARACHI: Pakistan Meteorological department, on Friday, forecast onset of monsoon in Sindh with likeliness of torrential rains from July 2 and advised concerned authorities to remain alert to deal with any potential emergency situation. Agencies

TCL launches C-Series of LED TVs

The latest series of Premium Mini LED TVs and QLED TVs in Pakistan with groundbreaking technology



LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No.1 LED features the high-class 2.1.2 sound TV Brand, unveiled its latest line of flagship LED TV Models at a glittering event held in Private Hotel. The event was highlighted by Mahira Khan and was attended by the Media and the influential Tech community of Pakistan. The new range of products offers significant technological upgrades which are forging new standards across the globe in terms of features and specs. New features such as 144Hz VRR, 1920 Local Dimming Zones and the Next Generation Mini LED technology have been added to the lineup. The C-Series which features 4 TV Models are now available nationwide across TCL Flagship Stores and Authorized Retailers.

The 2022 C-Series Line-up consists of 4 TV models: 2 Mini-LED TV Models, the C935 and C835; and 2 QLED TV models, the C735 and C635.

C935 which is TCL's flagship Mini LED TV offers Mini-LED OD5 technology with stunning 1920 local contrast and high brightness. It customers.

system with front-firing speakers, a dedicated bass speaker and two vertical Up-firing speakers to enjoy the verticality of Dolby Atmos sound. It further features a QLED 4K panel with support for Dolby Vision IQ, Dolby Vision and HDR 10+. C935 comes with a slim, bezel-less metallic panel and is available in 65" size currently.

On the other hand, C835 which is also a Mini LED TV, features most of the features of the C935 along with IMAX Enhanced, 144Hz refresh rate, Game Master Prosettings, HDMI 2.1, VRR (variable refresh rate), ALLM (auto low latency mode) and Google TV, with built-in Google Assistant to control the TV hands-free. C835 is available in 55", 65" and 75".

Sunny Yang, General Manager TCL Pakistan said, "Our newly launched C series is a testament to the fact that TCL continues to deliver world-class technologically advanced products dimming zones for precise deep and the best user experience to our

Islamabad 23º – 38º Clear

SERVICES

Namaz'	Timings
Fajr	3:18 ar
Zohr	12:12 pr
Asr	5:12 pr
Maghrib	7:22 pr
Isha	9:05 pr
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EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad . 9222596 Rawalpindi . 9270601-20

ENQUIRY Edhi Ambulance

PIA Flight Info ... 114 PIA Cargo. 92809791179270831-5 Railway Inquiry .. Railway Exchange ..5555489 WASA Rawalpindi CAA 9281092

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Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	.9218300-09
Shifa International	

DEPARTMENTS

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)4
-6
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24
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COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654 G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125 Rawalpindi.

Three rescued squirrel kits get rehabilitation

ISLAMABAD: The Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) during the hottest dry spell faced unprecedented number of forest fires in the capital that damaged the thriving biodiversity and wildlife of the national park A pack of three northern palm squirrel kittens were found by the rangers of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) who were only 15-16 days old that have been rehabilitated by the former Secretary of the Board to be released soon in the forest. It was assumed by the Board staff that they might not survive due to their vulner able young stage after the demise of their mother in the forest inferno. The kittens of northern palm squirrel were born blind and rely on their mother's feed to survive for around two or three months, said the University of Michigan's Animal Diversity Web. "A female carries her young for a gestation period of 29 to 65 days, depending on the size of the species; smaller squirrels have shorter gestation periods. Mothers give birth to two to eight offspring at one time," the department said. After seven to eight weeks, the young are accustomed to feed on other food than their mother's feed. "When the kits leave the nest, they don't travel farther than 2 miles from home. Some species of squirrel bear new offspring every few months or as little as twice per year," said the Massachusetts Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Former Secretary Abdul Hye Agha told APP that the IWMB staff during the post forest fire patrolling found the squirrel kittens. After taking congnisance of the issue that the IWMB staff told him that due to the very young and intricate stage of the young squirrels it was not an easy task to nurture them, he volunteered to look after the kits that were unable to be tackled at home during such an early stage.

Sanjrani for promoting parliamentary coop with **African countries**

Senate Chairman says we must utilize parliamentary diplomacy as a tool to promote regional peace

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Friday underscored that parliamentary cooperation and institutionalized collaboration can help promote peopleto-people contacts especially ..115

with the African countries. According to a message received here, the chairman exchanged views on matters of mutual significance and stressed cooperation, trade,

economic links, expediting regional growth and development with the delegates and parliamentary heads of different countries including Speaker of Algeria, Brahim Boughali, Deputy Speaker of Gambia,

ital before rain.

Pleasant weather

of Libya, Mr Fouzi Salim on the in opening up new avenues of sidelines of the conference of the NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) Parliamentary Network man said that global dynamin Azerbaijan.

Chairman highlighted the called for diversified bilateral significance of such conferences and underlined Pakistan's desire for peace and development in the region and beyond and urged the parliaments to play role in this regard.

"We must utilize parliamentary diplomacy as a tool to promote regional peace, and harmony and make collec- can investors to explore investtive efforts to resolve issues hampering development", he emphasized. He said that Pakistan's "Look

ISLAMABAD: An attractive view of dark clouds hovering over the Margalla Hills in the federal cap-

Seedy Njie and Deputy Speaker Africa" policy has been helpful the significance of parliacooperation, enhanced connectivity and trade links. Chairics of inter-state relations and During the meetings, Senate cooperation have changed, and and multilateral cooperation.

Senate Chairman informed that Pakistan was keen to further deepen ties with African countries. "Trade and investment opportunities can be explored through frequent exchanges in business sectors", he observed. He enticed Afriment opportunities in collaboration with their Pakistani counterparts.

Chairman underpinned

mentary cooperation, adding that parliamentary friendship groups can help in building synergy required to create a common ground for smooth working and develop an understanding for mutual benefit. Parliamentary leaders from different African countries while appreciating Chairman's remarks said that Pakistan was an important country for us and in the region. They underscored the need for more institutional collaboration.

Parliamentary leaders also acknowledged Pakistan's stance presented by Senate Chairman during the conference on NAM Parliamentary Network. APP

Health Corner

Skin's protective chains uncovered

ISLAMABAD: The skin's top layer contains a diverse set of hundreds of lipid molecules called ceramides with varying chain lengths that play a vital role in its barrier function.

Ceramides are a type of lipid that are found in abundance in the top layer of the skin, called the stratum corneum. They play a crucial role in the skin's barrier function, preventing entrance of pathogens and allergens and the loss of water and electrolytes. Mutations in the genes involved in the production of ceramides lead to a wide range of skin diseases

A new analytical approach has revealed the full range of different ceramides found in the top layer of human skin. The results were published by Hokkaido University scientists in the Journal of Lipid Research and could improve understanding of skin diseases like psoriasis and dermatitis

Scientists have struggled to get a full picture of the types of ceramides present in the stratum corneum due to difficulties in separating them from each other and then specifically identifying each one. The technological approaches that have so far been used to do this have not been sensitive enough.

Professor Akio Kihara and fellow biochemists at Hokkaido University in Japan developed an approach to address this. They used a method called liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry using the multiple reaction monitoring mode. This approach separates the various ceramides in the skin and then selectively quantifies them by converting molecules into ions that are manipulated in electric and magnetic fields to sort them according to their mass-to-charge ratios.

By doing so, the team identified 1,327 different unbound ceramides and another 254 that are bound to proteins. They were also able to discover certain details of the ceramides, such as the lengths of their basic structural unit, called the long-chain base and the types of fatty acids they are conjugated to. They found, for example, that the long-chain bases ranged in length from 16 to 26 carbon atoms and that the 18-carbon-atom length was the most abundant.

Further analyses revealed that an enzyme called serine palmitoyltransferase was important for the diversity in ceramide long-chain base length in human stratum corneum.

"Total ceramide chain length is reduced in people with atopic dermatitis," says Kihara. "We think that the presence of the longer long-chain bases in ceramides is required for normal skin barrier function. In the future, comprehensive measurements of ceramides in people with skin disease could reveal the relationship between changes in ceramide composition and the pathology of each disease." (Courtesy: Science Daily)

President grieved over life loss in Kacchi traffic accident

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a traffic accident in Kacchi, Balochistan. The president prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and

extended condolences to the bereaved families.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured persons.

Riaz Hussain Pirzada meets Abdullah Fadil



Security put on high alert in Islamabad

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The security in the Federal capital had been put on high alert to thwart any untoward incident, a police spokesman said on Friday. He said deployment of additional contingents of police at sensitive places and important buildings would be ensured.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, he said, had directed senior officials to ensure elaborate security arrangements in their respective jurisdictions to avoid any untoward incident. All police officials have been directed to supervise all these security arrangements themselves and coordinate with rele-

vant law enforcement agencies. Following these directions, police have started strict checking at all the entry and exit points in the city.

Similarly, patrolling in the city has been further enhanced. Police Commandos have been deputed around sensitive locations and important buildings while policemen equipped with sophisticated weapons will also perform their duties



at the roof tops.

Special police teams constituted by each police stations will patrol for effective security measurements in their respective jurisdiction. Bravo vehicles have been ordered to remain vigilant and ready to tackle any untoward situation while squad of falcon vehicles from Rescue 15 have also been directed for strict patrolling and keep in touch with the heads of police stations for ensuring around them.

security. The IGP has also directed for effective coordination among all wings of Islamabad police including Operational police, CID Department, Security Division and Special Branch on this occasion.

He appealed the citizens to extend their full cooperation to police and immediately inform `Rescue 15 or concerned Police Stations' about any suspicious activity

here stan

Friday.

Both sides reiterated their resolve to further enhance their working collaboration for protection and promotion of child rights, said a press release issued here on Friday.

Government of Pakistan through the Economic Affairs Division has signed Pakistan-UNICEF Country Program 2018-22. Under this program, two-year Rolling Work Plan (2021-22) has been signed between Ministry of Human Rights and UNICEF. Goals of this work plan are the prevention and protection of children from abuse at ICT level.

Mr. Fadil acknowledged Pakistan's efforts for realization of child rights. He expressed his satisfaction over the ongoing projects and said that UNICEF would extend its maximum support and assistance towards Ministry of Human Rights for the cause of child rights. He said that there was a need to engage more and more stakeholders and social mobilisers to create awareness on child rights and prevention of child abuse.

Minister for Human Rights thanked and appreciated UNICEF team for their perpetual support, collaboration and coordination for development activities in the country. He outlined government's commitment to the promotion of child rights. Minister stated that Child Labor Survey that is being conducted with the help of UNICEF would play an instrumental role in generating data on child issues leading towards better policy formulation.

Pakistani mangoes popular worldwide: FM Bilawal Bhutto

Mango Festival organized by FO in partnership with Serena Hotels, PFVA as part of Pakistan's 75 years anniversary celebrations

腾 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with Serena Hotels and Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Association organized a Mango Festival at Serena Hotel here on Friday. This was part of the series of activities and events being organized throughout the year to commemorate 75 years of the Pakistan's Independence-Pakistan's Diamond jubilee.

Under the theme of Pakistan At 75 and "75thPayKuchKhaas", the event focused on projecting Pakistan's culinary and agrarian richness linked to production of more than 200 varieties of mangoes-"king of fruits" that are exported all over the world. Foreign Minister Bilawal



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, visiting at UAE embassy stall along withUAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi during Mango Festival on the occasion of 75 years celebrate of Pakistan title" 75 Pay Kuch Khaas" organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a local hotel in Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO by Sultan Bashir

Secretary Sohail Mahmood, stan, Patron-in-Chief PFVA CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani, Dean of the Diplomat-Bhutto Zardari graced the event ic Corps Ambassador Atadas Guest of Honour. Foreign jan Movlamov of Turkmeni- the occasion. A large number of

Waheed Ahmed and Senior Vice Chairman PFVA Mr. Ch. Shoaib Ahmed were present on



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue , UAE Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi and others cutting the cake during Mango Festival on the occasion of 75 years celebrate of Pakistan title" 75 Pay Kuch Khaas" organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a local hotel in Fedral Capital. Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Heads of Diplomatic Missions Minister highlighted the signifin Islamabad participated in the event

icance of the festival as part of the events celebrating the 75th In his remarks, the Foreign anniversary of Pakistan's Independence. The Foreign Minister underscored the fact that Pakistani mangoes were popular the world over due to superior quality as well as the huge number of varieties being grown in Pakistan. It was highlighted that Pakistan's missions abroad were organizing mango tasting festivals in their host countries and showcasing the variety and richness of the Pakistani mangoes.

The event was attended by over 300 persons that included members of the Diplomatic Corps, Business Executives, Bureau Chiefs of Local and Foreign Publications, Representatives of Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Association, and Officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Embassies of China and UAE also set up stalls offering mango based dishes from their own cuisine.

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Israel's occupation

ith the region witnessing a flurry of diplomatic activity ahead of US President Joe Biden's visit next month, there was a firm stand on one particular issue: The Palestine question. That position was reiterated during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's recent regional tour, as well as in talks between Jordan's King Abdullah and the leaders of the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt. And while the region is facing multiple challenges from conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Libya to the effects of climate change and food security, not to mention the controversial role of Iran and non-state actors the Palestinian issue remains central for most countries, as it should be.

Both in Cairo and Amman, Riyadh underlined its commitment to a negotiated peace settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in line with the two-state solution and the creation of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Saudi position, which has been unrelenting, preempts media speculation about its unwavering support of the Palestinian right to self-determination. The fact that the West is focusing on Russia's war in Ukraine and its long-term ramifications on European national security notwithstanding, for the people of this region, failure to end Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories represents a major threat to the stability of the Middle East and beyond.

Two years after two Arab countries signed treaties with Israel under the Abraham Accords, the Palestinian issue remains an obstacle to full normalization. What the events of last year proved is that, even if the world ignores the Palestinians and their struggle for liberation, Israel itself can never achieve full security and a state of normality as a result of its occupation. The need for a just resolution to the Palestinian issue is not only in the interest of Arab countries, but also in the interest of Israel itself if it wants to be viewed and treated as a normal country. It is inconceivable that its occupation and aggressive annexation of Palestinian territory can ever be accepted by the rest of the world.

The problem with the Israeli occupation and illegal settlement building is that it is rendering the two-state solution impossible to implement. This is driving both the Palestinians and Israelis toward difficult, if not perilous and self-defeating, alternatives. Either to include more than 3 million Palestinians in the West Bank into the state of Israel as full citizens or continue with an open-ended, but eventually unsustainable, military rule.

Israel itself has not provided an answer to this dilemma. So far, it is in violation of every single convention, international law and UN resolution on the conflict. International and Israeli human rights organizations have labeled it an apartheid state. It is facing serious charges of genocide and war crimes at the International Criminal Court. Not a week passes without its soldiers and radical settlers murdering Palestinians in cold blood. How long can this go on before the world takes action?

Far-right Israeli politicians, who are getting stronger with every election cycle, are contemplating extreme, not to mention illegal, measures that include the forced transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank. Others opt for milder solutions, such as annexing major chunks of the Occupied Territories and leaving disjoined Palestinian urban areas, more like Bantustans, to fend for themselves. One proposal suggests handing the responsibility of running these population clusters to Jordan.

Polarized America & troubled Supreme Court

Fawaz Turki

The Spokesman

he term historic may have become exceedingly tirethrough some overuse, but the

US Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade last Friday is deserving of no less than such a qualifier to describe it. On that day, the outpouring of emotions in cities across the country was high, and that included Washington, where thousands of abortion rights activists, shouting slogans and waving placards, gathered near the steps of the Supreme Court to protest the ruling, a ruling that in their view erased the right of women to their reproductive autonomy, a right that had been on the books for the previous five decades and that had drawn the support, according to polls, of a majority of Americans.

The ruling may well usher in a world that this majority will not be happy to inhabit.

"For the first time in the country's historic march, the Supreme Court has taken away a previously enshrined constitutional right", wrote CNN political commentator

day. "The starkly liberal reading of the Constitution by the court's Conservative majority in this case beckons an era of social upheaval". Even President Joe Biden chose to dip his toes in the waters of the public debate about a branch of government separate from and independent of his own. "Make no mistake: The decision is the culmination of a deliberate effort \`by the conservative movement] over decades to upset the balance of the law", he said. "It is the realisation of an extreme ideology and a tragic error by the Supreme Court".

So impassioned was the commentary in the liberal media about the prospect of similar rights being nullified in the near future that it seemed as if never before in the whole history of the Western intellectual tradition - ever since theories of law were formulated and jurisprudence had its birth in Ancient Greece - have individual rights been subverted by a court of law. The Scrapping of Roe v. Wade elicited equally vehement responses from leaders across the Western world, where in all but two nations (Poland and Malta) abortion is legal. British Prime Minister

Stephen Collinson on Satur-Boris Johnson considered the court of public opinion. ruling "horrific"; Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon tweeted that it was "one of the of the darkest days for women's rights in my lifetime": and French President Emmanuel Macron told legislators he addressed in chamber that he was "appalled" by how the US failed to "protect the fundamental rights of women" to free choice.

Even Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) felt it necessary to have his say. "I am very disappointed," he told Reuters. "I would've expected America to protect such rights". Beyond what it says about the question of abortion rights, this impassioned global reaction attests to how the world views the critical role that the US plays in shaping international affairs — even as the country goes about conducting its domestic policy. But this issue, after all is said and done, is not, I say, about where one stands on the battle lines fought by pro-choice and pro-life advocates — for, at the end of the day, each to his own — but about whether the Supreme Court should be allowed, and allowed in a democracy, to overrule the are expected to be loyal to the rulings of that other court, the

The traditional image we

have of the US Supreme Court - "the court of last resort", as it were - is one of dignified justices who embody proper judicial restraint and impartial interpretation of the constitution. This image needs a makeover. Sorry, folks, the nine justices you see on the bench are not individuals voted into office as are other mortal public servants. They are appointed, for life, and answerable to no one, not even to the president who had cavalierly appointed them. They make decisions of crucial import that impact the lives of Americans everywhere - decisions about matters that range from health care to race relations, from freedom of the press to women's reproduction rights, and from gun control to school prayer, along with a host of other deeply significant rulings.

They are expected to be neutral, apolitical and non-partisan jurists whose job is to "dispense justice for all", as the words inscribed on the entrance to the Superior Court building indicate. The crude reality is that these nine individuals don't fit the image. They

views of the presidents who

had nominated them when it comes to interpreting the law of the land. In short, they are not in fact neutral, apolitical and non-partisan. And that, as we say, is where it's at. Never before does an image of the Supreme Court appear as vivid as the one painted by Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the third president of the United States (1801-1809), who observed: "You seem to consider the Supreme Court as the ultimate interpreter of all constitutional questions — a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy".

When that same oligarchy last week took away one of the American people's long-held constitutional rights, it raised very serious questions about the status of liberty in the United States of America in our time. And if the United States of America is indeed leader of the free world, as it is self-styled, then this development is of great concern to the entirety of the global dialogue of cultures.

The writer is a noted thinker, academic and author based in Washington DC. Courtesy GulfNews



Global South & Climate Action

Jason Hickel

uring the past several years it has become clear that the international climate negotiations are failing to address the climate crisis. Existing policies have us on track for 3.2 degrees Celsius (5.76F) of heating this century in other words, within the lifetime of the present generation. Scientists are clear that such a future will be characterised by severe suffering and dislocation. Western economies – and the corporations and elites that dominate them – are overwhelmingly responsible for this crisis. They have contributed more than 90 percent of the excess emissions that are driving climate breakdown. Meanwhile, the impacts fall hardest on the countries of the Global South, which are already suffering the brunt of the heatwaves, droughts, floods, crop failures and human displacement. The climate crisis is playing out along colonial lines.

Political leaders and social movements in the Global South are aware of these facts. For years, they have been calling for more dramatic action from governments in the Global North, whose per capita emissions remain far higher than the rest of the world. But their pleas fall on deaf ears. None of the Western governments is on track to meet their fair share of the Paris agreement goals. Why? Because to achieve sufficiently rapid emissions reductions will require rich economies to dramatically reduce their energy use.

To manage such an energy descent, rich nations would need to abandon capitalist growth as an objective and shift to a postgrowth, post-capitalist system, where production - and energy use - is organised around meeting human needs rather

than around elite accumulation.

point of leverage. At any moment, the South could cut off this flow of wealth. It is within their power to do so. They did it once before, in the decades after decolonisation, when some radical and progressive governments introduced policies to reclaim economic sovereignty. They used tariffs and capital controls to protect their markets; they nationalised key resources; they improved labour rights and wages; they built public services and developed national industries. In short, they mobilised their own resources and labour around meeting their own needs, and shifted to trading more with other post-colonial countries. These ideas were enshrined in the 1974 Cocovoc Declaration and developed by visionaries like Samir Amin and Thomas Sankara.

The movement for Southern sovereignty was was successful enough that it posed a serious threat to Western capitalism, as it began to cut off their access to cheap labour and resources. Western powers responded: first with a series of coups against anti-colonial leaders - Mossadegh in Iran, Sukarno in Indonesia, Arbenz in Guatemala, Lumumba in the DRC. Allende in Chile - and then by leveraging their power as creditors to impose structural adjustment programmes that dismantled the economic reforms. Now, half a century later, the South is in a position where it can and should attempt this revolution again. They can do it by pursuing agrarian reform and food sovereignty; by building renewable energy capacity; and by shifting industrial production towards supplying domestic needs. These steps would allow Southern countries to reclaim control over their own land and resources, dramatically reducing their Western currencies.

Governments can mobilise such a project This is a travesty of justice. But it is also a in large part by taking advantage of the policy space available to any currency issuer. As Keynes pointed out, anything that can be bought or produced in the national economy can be financed in the national currency. Countries in the Global South have plenty of labour and resources - the problem is that they are often prevented from using these capacities for their own development, by foreign creditors that impose strict limits on public spending. Where this is the case, governments may need to default on external debts. Taking steps towards economic sovereignty and progressively de-linking from Western capital would have far-reaching effects on the world economy. It would constrain the West's access to Southern labour and resources, and oblige their transition to a post-growth system.

It would also force Western governments to the bargaining table. The South would be in a position to push for much more radical climate policies - in line with their longstanding demands for 1.5 degrees C (2.7F) - including reparations for loss and damage. Governments fear taking these steps because they know that Western capital would punish them for it. But moving towards economic sovereignty would dramatically limit that leverage. Collective action is also essential here. As the anti-colonial leaders of the 20th century emphasised: we are stronger together than we are alone. If Southern governments unite and take these steps as a bloc, it would be difficult for anyone to stop them. Climate change is playing out along colonial lines, and it requires an anti-colonial movement in response.

The writer is Professor at the Institute dependence on Western imports, and on for Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB). Courtesy Al Jazeera

Inflation; a wrong political power play

Yanis Varoufakis

he blame game over surging prices is on. Was it too much central-bank money being pumped out for too long that caused inflation to take off? Was it China, where most physical production had moved before the pandemic locked down the country and disrupted global supply chains? Was it Russia, whose invasion of Ukraine took a large chunk out of the global supply of gas, oil, grains, and fertilisers? Was it some surreptitious shift from pre-pandemic austerity to unrestricted fiscal largesse? The answer is one that test-takers never encounter: All of the above and none of the above. Pivotal economic crises frequently evoke multiple explanations that are all correct while missing the point.

When Wall Street collapsed in 2008, triggering the global Great Recession, various explanations were offered: regulatory capture by financiers who had replaced industrialists in the capitalist pecking order; a cultural proclivity toward risky finance; failure by politicians and economists to distinguish between a new paradigm and a massive bubble; and other theories, too. All were valid, but none went to the heart of the matter. The same thing is true today. The "we told you so" monetarists, who have been predicting high inflation ever since central banks massively expanded their balance sheets in 2008, remind me of the joy felt that year by leftists (like me) who consistently "predict" capitalism's near-death – akin to a stopped clock that is right twice a day.

To save not just the bankers but also the labyrinth itself, central bankers stepped in to replace the financiers' pyramids with public money. Meanwhile, governments were cutting public expenditure, jobs, and services. It was nothing short of lavish socialism for capital and harsh austerity for labour. Wages shrunk, and prices and profits were stagnant, but the price of assets purchased by the rich (and thus their wealth) skyrocketed. Thus, investment (relative to

available cash) dropped to an all-time low, capacity shrunk, market power boomed, and capitalists became both richer and more reliant on central-bank money than ever.

It was a new power game. The traditional struggle etween capital and labour to increase their respective shares of total income through mark-ups and wage increases continued but was no longer the source of most new wealth. After 2008, universal austerity yielded low investment (money demand), which, combined with plentiful central-bank liquidity (money supply), kept the price of money (interest rates) close to zero. With productive capacity (even new housing) on the wane, good jobs scarce, and wages stagnant, wealth triumphed in equity and real-estate markets, which had decoupled from the real economy.

Then came the pandemic, which changed one big thing: Western governments were forced to channel some of the new rivers of central-bank money to the locked-down masses within economies that, over the decades, had depleted their capacity to produce stuff and were now facing busted supply chains to boot. As the locked-down multitudes spent some of their furlough money on scarce imports, prices began to rise. Corporations with great paper wealth responded by exploiting their immense market power (yielded by their shrunken productive capacity) to push prices through the roof.

After two decades of a central-bank-supported bonanza of soaring asset prices and rising corporate debt, a little price inflation was all it took to end the power game that shaped the post-2008 world in the image of a revived ruling class. So, what happens now! probably nothing good. To stabilise the economy, the authorities first need to end the exorbitant power bestowed upon the very few by a political process of paper wealth and cheap debt creation. But the few will not surrender power without a struggle, even if it means going down in flames with society in tow.

The writer is a former finance minister of Greece. **Courtesy Gulf Times**

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International

Saturday, July 2, 2022

Russia quits Snake Island on weakening blockade of Ukraine ports

Seizes control of Sakhalin Gas Project, raises stakes with West

LONDON: Russian troops have abandoned their positions on a captured Ukrainian island, a major setback to their invasion effort that weakens their blockade of Ukraine s ports, defence officials said. The news from the Black Sea came as NATO leaders wrapped up their summit in Madrid, with US President Joe Biden announcing \$800 million in new weapons to help Ukraine fight off Russia s invasion. "We are going to stick with Ukraine, and all of the alliance are going to stick with Ukraine, as long as it takes to make sure they are not defeated by Russia," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin s foreign minister, Sergei Lavroy, compared the new diplomatic low to the return of the Cold War, telling reporters: "As far as an Iron Curtain is concerned, essentially it is already descending... The process has begun."

But there may be a possible opening: Indonesia s President Joko Widodo said, after meeting Putin in Moscow, that he had given the Russian leader a message from their Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky. Snake Island became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance in the first days of the war, when the

SERHIIVKA/ MOSCOW/ TOKYO/ rocky outcrops defenders told a Russian the foreign partners can stay. warship that called on them to surrender to "go f*ck yourself", an incident that spurred a defiant meme. It was also a strategic target, sitting aside shipping lanes near Ukraine s port of Odessa. Russia had attempted to install missile and air defence batteries while under fire from drones. Now, however, Ukraine has begun to receive longer range missiles and artillery, and the Russian position on Snake Island seems to have become untenable.

> President Vladimir Putin has raised the stakes in an economic war with the West and its allies with a decree that seizes full control of the Sakhalin-2 gas and oil project in Russia's far east, a move that could force out Shell and Japanese investors. The decree, signed on Thursday, creates a new firm to take over all rights and obligations of Sakhalin Energy Investment, in which Shell and two panese trading companies Mitsui and Mitsubishi hold just under 50%. read more

The five-page decree, which follows $We stern\,s anctions\,imposed\,on\,Moscow$ over its invasion of Ukraine, indicates the Kremlin will now decide whether

State-run Gazprom already has a 50% plus one share stake in Sakhalin-2, which accounts for about 4% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) production. The move threatens to unsettle an already tight LNG market and raises the risks facing Western companies still in Russia.

"Russia's decree effectively expropriates foreign stakes in the Sakhalin Energy Investment Company, marking a further escalation in ongoing tensions," said Lucy Cullen, a principal analyst from consultancy Wood Mackenzie. Many Western firms have already packed up, while others have said they would quit, but Putin's move adds complications to an already complex process for those looking for the exit. Moscow has been preparing a law, expected to pass soon, to allow the state to seize assets of Western firms which decide to go.

Shell, which has already written off the value of all its Russian assets, made clear months ago it intended to quit Sakhalin-2 and has been in talks with potential buyers. It said on Friday it was assessing the Russian decree. Sources have said

Shell believed there was a risk Russia would nationalise foreign-held assets, while Putin has repeatedly said Moscow would retaliate against the United States and its allies for freezing Russian assets and other sanctions. Sakhalin-2, in which Shell has a 27.5% minus one share stake, is one of the world's largest LNG projects with output of 12 million tonnes. Its cargoes mainly head to Japan, South Korea, China, India and other Asian countries.

Japan's Mitsui has a 12.5% stake in Sakhalin-2 and Mitsubishi holds 10%. Japan, which depends heavily on imported energy, previously said it would not give up its interests in the project.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday that Russia's decision would not immediately stop LNG imports from the development, while Japan's Industry Minister Koichi Hagiuda said the government did not consider the decree a requisition. "The decree does not mean that Japan's LNG imports will become immediately impossible, but it is necessary to take all possible measures in preparation for unforeseen circumstances," Hagiuda told reporters.

Chinese, Pakistani leadership discus practical cooperation: Zhao Lijian



BEIJING: Senior Chinese Diplomat, Yang Jiechi in his meetings with Pakistani leadership held in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations, practical cooperation and international and regional issues of common interest, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Friday. At invitation of the Government of Pakistan, Yang Jiechi Member of Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to Pakistan from June 29 to 30, he said during his regular briefing held at the International Press Center (IPC).

He said, during the visit, Director Yang Jiechi met with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief of the Army Staff, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa respectively. Zhao Lijian said that the two sides had in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations, practical cooperation and international and regional issues of common interest.

Director Yang Jiechi stressed that China always prioritizes China Pakistan relations in his neighborhood diplomacy, and is ready to further strengthen policy communication and coordination of development strategies with Pakistan, carry forward traditional friendship, enhance strategic mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, jointly build the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in a safe, smooth and high quality way and work together to build a closer China Pakistan community with a shared future in a new era.

The spokesperson informed that the Pakistani side stressed that developing relations with China serves as the cornerstone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy. Pakistan stands ready to work with China to deepen practical cooperation in various fields, speed up the development of CPEC and elevate all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to new height. He said that both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in safeguarding and promoting regional security, stability and development as well as counterterrorism and play a positive role in regional and global peace and development.

In his remarks, Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at Institute of International Relations of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times that Yang's visit reaffirmed all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries after Shehbaz came into office. "It proves that China-Pakistan ties won't change along with government reshuffles and strong ties between the two nations bring regional stability and peace in the turbulent era," Hu said. The communication between the two countries' leaders further deepens bilateral cooperation on CPEC, a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative, Hu noted.

US SC lets Biden end Trump's *immigration rule*

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court gave President Joe Biden's administration the green light to end the so-called Remain in Mexico policy instituted by Donald Trump as part of his hardline approach to immigration. Under the policy, some non-Mexicans who entered the United States illegally across the southern border were sent back to Mexico to wait while their immigration cases played out in court, rather than being detained or provisionally released.

Since the beginning of his term. Biden has been trying to wind

😂 Long Road We'll be with you to membership: EU tells Ukraine

BRUSSELS: Ukraine now has a "very clear European perspective" but the road to EU membership will take time and require hard work, the president of the EU executive told the country's parliament on Friday. EU leaders last week granted Ukraine candidate status to join the bloc, formally opening a process that is expected to take years before it becomes a member of the union that now comprises 27 countries. In a speech by video-link to the Ukrainian assembly, Ursula von der Leyen underlined the progress made by the country in its path towards EU membership while it defends itself against Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. "Ukraine now has a very clear European perspective. And Ukraine is a candidate country to join the European Union, something that seemed almost unimaginable just five months ago," she told lawmakers and Ukrainian Presi-

dent Volodymyr Zelenskiy. urope will be at your side every step of the way, for as long as it takes, from these erse this path as quickly as possible. This excessive clout and the appointment dark days of war until the moment you depends on us. cross the door that leads into our Euro-



crucial reforms were needed as soon as into the assembly hall by three servicepossible. "The next steps are within your reach. But they will require hard work,"

men from the National Guard dressed in ceremonial uniforms. Von der she added. Zelenskiy said Ukraine must Leyen listed among urgent measures become an EU member state quick- Ukraine needed to take: the adoption "There is a long road ahead but ly. "Our path to membership must not of a media law, the implementation take decades." he said. "We must tray- of new rules that reduce oligarche of top anti-corruption officials. Zelen-Ukrainian lawmakers clapped in skiv urged lawmakers to pass all those

ПОЭК *HC* denies exhumation of fake encounter victim's body

Indian CRPF soldier attempts suicide in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR:: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, a division bench of the High Court on Friday has denied the exhumation of the body of a youth, Aamir Magrey, who was martyred by Indian troops in last year's Hyderpora fake encounter. The court has, however, refused to pass any order on exhumation of Aamir's body, stating that the dead body would have started decomposing immediately after the burial. The division bench comprising Chief Justice, Pankaj Mithal, and Judge Javid Iqbal Wani directed the authorities to allow family members of Aamir (maximum 10 persons) to perform Fateha Khawani (religious rituals/prayers after burial) for im at Wadder Paveen Gravevard

pean Union," she said, noting that many unison as a huge EU flag was brought measures.

in North Kashmir's Handwara, on the date and time to be decided in consultation with authorities.

The court also directed the authorities to pay compensation of five lakh rupees to the family of Magrey. The court said the praver of counsel of Lateef Magrey, Aamir's father, that he and his family members be permitted to see the face of deceased by opening the grave of the deceased, cannot be accepted and permitted. The court citing one of the reasons for not able-bodied Muslim who can allowing the permission, maintained afford it, is a major source of that in view of pleading of writ petiincome for the government tioner, the dead body would start from worshippers' lodging, decomposing immediately after transport, fees and gifts. In burial.

It is to mention here that Indian troops had martyred four civilians, including Aamir Magrey, Altaf Ahmed Butt and Dr Mudassir Gull, in a staged encounter in Hyderpora area of Srinagar on November 15, 2021. The bodies of Altaf Ahmad Butt and Dr Mudasir Gul were exhumed and returned to the families following massive anti-India demonstrations after the incident.

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, a soldier of Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) attempted to commit suicide in Ganderbal district, today.

down the policy as part of what he claims is a more humane take on immigration. Advocates for migrants said the policy exposed asylum-seekers to dangerous conditions in Mexico as overwhelmed US courts slowly work through a backlog of cases. The ruling in favour of the Biden administration was split 5-4, with Chief Justice John Roberts joining fellow conservative Brett Kavanaugh and the court's three liberal justices in the majority. Roberts, who authored the majority opinion, argued that federal immigration law allows the executive branch to return asylum seekers to Mexico, but does not force it to do so.

"Congress conferred contiguous-territory return authority in expressly discretionary terms," the opinion states. Biden's attempt to terminate the policy, instituted by Trump in 2019, was challenged by a group of Republican-governed states led by Texas. These states argued that his move violated US immigration law by forcing authorities to release migrants they had detained onto US territory. They also said that Biden officials had not followed proper administrative procedure. A lower court in August 2021 ruled against the Biden administration and the case eventually ended up before the nation's highest court. At first, the Supreme Court simply refused to freeze the lower court ruling, forcing the administration to restart the policy, formally called Migration Protection Protocols (MPP), while it pressed ahead with its appeal.

From the start of the policy in January 2019 until its suspension under Biden, nearly 70,000 people were sent back to Mexico, according to the American Immigration Council. During Biden's tenure as president, more than 200,000 people attempting to enter the country illegally have been interdicted at the border each month and sent back, under MPP or a separate Covid-related policy blocking people at the border. Illegal border crossings are often dangerous, both for the physical conditions in the region and mistreatment by human traffickers. This week 53 people died after being packed inside a tractor-trailer truck without air conditioning that was later abandoned in San Antonio, Texas.

Muslim pilgrims flock to Makkah for first post-pandemic Hajj

MAKKAH: Thousands of ings right now," said Ahmed levels, and access is restrictpilgrims started arriving in the Sayed Mahmoud, an Egypholy city of Makkah in Saudi tian pilgrim. "Being in the Arabia on Friday, among Grand Mosque and in the some one million Muslims land of the two holy mosques expected to attend the 2022 makes me very happy." Saudi Hajj pilgrimage season after Arabia, home to Islam s holiest two years of major disrup- sites in Makkah and Medina, tion caused by the COVID pandemic. Wrapped in white robes, with some carrying Only a few thousand Saudi umbrellas against the burning desert sun, hundreds performed the first ritual of the Hajj, which involves walking in a circle around the Kaaba, the sacred building at travel. the centre of Makkah s Grand Mosque.

"Praise be God... It s impossible to describe my feel-

ed to pilgrims aged 18 to 65 who have been fully vaccinated or immunised against the virus and do not suffer from chronic diseases. Security officers mixed with pilgrims inside the mosque. A web of surveillance cameras oversaw allowed back foreign travellers this year to perform the Hajj. its surroundings and checkpoints controlled access to the city to help ensure an incicitizens and residents attended the annual pilgrimage in dent-free Hajj, which has been the last two years as COVIDmarred in the past by deadly 19 wreaked havoc across the stampedes, fires and riots. global economy and curtailed Over the years, the kingdom has spent billions of dollars

However authorities have on making one of the world said only one million people s biggest religious gatherings can join the 2022 season, less more secure. Hajj, a oncethan half of pre-pandemic in-a-lifetime duty for every

million people performed the Hajj, while around 19 million took part in the umrah, another form of pilgrimage to Makkah which-unlike the Hajj-can be carried out at any time of the year. An economic reform plan of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman aims to increase umrah and Hajj capacity to 30 million pilgrims annually and to generate 50 billion rivals (\$13.32 billion) of revenues by 2030.

2019, the last year before the

pandemic struck, some 2.6

US emissions ruling a 'setback' in climate fight: UN

Guterres says New financing mechanism for climate action becomes operational

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations said Thursday's US Supreme Court ruling that curbs regulators' power to limit greenhouse gas emissions had dealt a blow to the fight against global warming. "This is a setback in our fight against climate change," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Secretary General Antonio Guterres. By a majority of 6-3, the US high court said the Environmental Protection Agency did not have the power to set broad caps on emissions from coal-fired power plants. The decision sets back President Joe Biden's hopes of using the EPA to bring down emissions to meet global climate goals, set in 2015 under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Dujarric said the world is far

off course to meeting the goals

of that accord. "Decisions like the one today in the US or any other major emitting economy make it harder to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, for a healthy, liveable planet, especially as we need to accelerate the phase out of coal and the transition to renewable energies," he said. He added however that "the actions of a single nation should not and cannot make or break whether we reach our climate objectives." A new finance mechanism

to strengthen weather and climate observations, improve early warnings to save lives, protect livelihoods and underpin climate adaptation for longterm resilience has opened its doors for business. Systematic **Observations Financing Facility** (SOFF) is a key building block

for a new initiative spearheaded by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to ensure that early warning services cover everyone on Earth, within the next five years

SOFF seeks to address the long-standing problem of inadequate weather forecasting and climate services, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In support of the Paris Agreement on climate change, it will strengthen the international response to keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, "by filling the data gaps that limit our understanding of the climate", according to a press release issued by the World Mete-

orological Organization, WMO. These gaps affect national agencies' ability to predict and adapt to extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and heatwaves, all of which are on the rise, in line with the warm-

ing climate. Heads of the three founding agencies, WMO, the **UN Development Programme** (UNDP) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), joined ministers from donor countries, LDC Group members, Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) representatives and development partners, at the first SOFF Steering Committee meeting in Helsinki on Thursday to get the facility up and running.

"As the climate crisis worsens, it is crucial that we boost the power of prediction for everyone so countries can reduce disaster risk", said the UN chief. "That is



why we have launched an initiative to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within the next five years. SOFF is an essential tool to achieve this. I thank all the countries that are providing initial funding to the SOFF UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund and

urge others to do the same".

are built on the foundation of weather observation data, but this foundation is patchy to non-existent in many in LDCs and African countries," according to Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on

Climate Action and Just Transition. WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas, pointed out that today, less than 10 per cent of required basic weather and climate forecasting systems are available from SIDS and LDCs. "The world urgently needs this data and this is why SOFF will be a partnership of equals where everyone has a role and responsibilities.

SOFF said it provides benefits not only to the most vulnerable countries, but to all countries "Early warning systems across the globe. The improved availability of weather and climate observations enabled by the SOFF are essential if the world community is to realize the 162 billion US dollars annually in socio-economic benefits of weather and climate prediction.

Economy/Commerce

Saturday, July 2, 2022

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
41,630.35	41,540.83			
Day's High	Day's Low:			
41,744.86	41,538.49			
Index Value	Change			
2,958,354,510	+89.52			
Percentage	Time			
+0.22%	1 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
7,168.65	-0.63			
Percentage	Time			
-0.0088%	1 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
	Change			
Index Value	Change			
Index Value 30,637.22	Change - 138.21			
30,637.22	-138.21			
30,637.22 Percentage -0.45%	138.21 Time 1 Jul, 12:13 pm			
30,637.22 Percentage -0.45%	138.21 Time 1 Jul, 12:13 pm GMT-4			
30,637.22 Percentage –0.45% Asia Pacific: Nikk	– 138.21 Time 1 Jul, 12:13 pm GMT-4 ei Stocks Average			
30,637.22 Percentage –0.45% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value	– 138.21 Time 1 Jul, 12:13 pm GMT-4 ei Stocks Average Change			
30,637.22 Percentage –0.45% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value 25,935.62	138.21 Time 1 Jul, 12:13 pm GMT-4 ei Stocks Average Change 457.42			

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	141.25	142.5	
Bahrain Dinar	544.12	548.62	
Canadian Dollar	158.95	160.3	
China Yuan	30.54	30.79	
Danish Krone	28.78	29.13	
Euro	211	213	
Hong Kong Dollar	26.07	26.42	
Indian Rupee	2.59	2.67	
Japanese Yen	1.4	1.45	
Kuwaiti Dinar	667.62	672.62	
Malaysian Ringgit	46.42	46.87	
NewZealand \$	127.74	128.94	
Norwegians Krone	20.74	21.04	
Omani Riyal	532.09	536.59	
Qatari Riyal	56.21	56.71	
Saudi Riyal	53.4	54.2	
Singapore Dollar	147.13	148.43	
Swedish Korona	19.98	20.28	
Swiss Franc	214.14	215.89	
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04	
U.A.E Dirham	55	55.9	
UK Pound Sterling	245	248	

Inflation is sad but better than bankruptcy

Reforms only option to end borrowing, says Mian Zahid Hussain

腾 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on rising inflation is resulting in severe hard- try, including eliminating ship for the people. Still, it is better than the bankruptcy of the country.

Because of the recent tough decisions, the rupee is strengthening, and the dollar is depreciating, which will lead to a decline in inflation, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that there is a

only option for Pakistan is to become self-reliant.

Talking to the business community, the a civil war. Presently affairs are being run on veteran business leader said that the government would have to make some more difficult reforms to save the counsubsidies, privatizing failed government companies, and eliminating theft and losses of electricity and gas.

He said that the government could save Rs3400 billion by focusing on the promotion

limit to the cooperation of friendly countries, of agriculture while ignoring reforms will things and where will the factories sell their now they have run out of patience and the bankrupt the country and people will not products?

find necessities as things expensive today will become scarce tomorrow resulting in

> loans and by eliminating subsidies, but the government must to get rid of it. balance the tax system, make industry and agriculture more reduce the profits of non-productive sectors and distribute wealth among the people.

The standard of living of the masses has to be raised because bread, how will they buy other

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that policymakers know that every foreign debt increases the burden on the people but they are addicted to it which has made it difficult

Because of IMF loans, the economy always shrinks, jobs and business opportunities are profitable than other sectors, reduced, fuel and electricity become more expensive, the currency is depreciated and interest rates are raised, which breaks the backbone of the people.

The previous government had taken the same path while the present government has if the people are starving for not yet started the real reforms which are evident from its first budget. If the reforms are further delayed, the country's poor economy will remain the same, he said.

MMBL to offer Adamjee Life Assurance products to customers

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank (MMBL), Pakistan's Largest Digital Bank has signed a Term Life Insurance Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the country's leading insurance service provider, Adamjee Life Assurance. This strategic partnership is designed to promote enhanced access to premium insurance products from Adamjee's portfolio for customers in unserved and underserved regions through MMBL's vast nationwide branch network. The arrangement is well-positioned to positively impact the financial inclusion landscape of the country.

Senior members from both organizations gathered earlier this week for the signing of the agreement at the MMBL Head Office in Islamabad. Speaking at the occasion, President and CEO, MMBL, Ghazanfar Azzam, opined, "We are excited to collaborate with Adamjee Life Assurance, to collectively drive our vision of providing quality services to our customers and promote financial inclusion. MMBL's widespread branch network, amassing upwards of 100 branches, will greatly aid in realizing our shared agenda and consequently accelerate economic growth."

These insurance products and servic-



es will be notable additions to the ones already an active part of MMBL's portfolio, which includes life and health insurance for customers, and animal insurance for livestock loans. Adamjee Life Assurance will primarily offer three key products under this partnership, including Adamjee Life 'Sehat Kafalat', Adamjee Life 'Nigraan', and Adamjee Life 'Mustaqbil Ki Zamanat'. Initially, these offerings will be made available through Adamjee Life Assurance desks at designated MMBL branches nationwide. Existing and walk-in MMBL customers can explore and subscribe to the product solutions per their requirements. For added convenience, MMBL will facili-

tate seamless payments directly to Adamjee Life through existing payment channels as well as its one-stop digital financial platform - DOST.

President and CEO of Adamjee Life Assurance, Manzar Mushtaq, while stressing the importance of the subject collaboration, stated, "We are excited to partner with MMBL, the country's largest digital bank, to promote our flagship insurance products across the country. Our Life, Health, and Pay continuation products are exclusively tailored to fulfill the needs of the masses. We hope that we will be able to make them more accessible to prospective customers through our alliance with MMBL".

System giving unjustified priority to privileged class: PEW 😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the country's system is treating the privileged class with priority, the price of which is paid by the people.

The skewed system is creating economic problems and increasing poverty in the country, it said.

The entire responsibility for the widening gap between the rich and the poor rests with the powerful elite, which, if left unchecked, will bankrupt the country, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

He said that despite the passage of 75 years, the rulers have not been able to provide equal opportunities to the deprived to improve their living standards. The flawed system encourages corruption, mismanagement and tax evasion, which does not increase the country's income as it should be resulting in repeated borrowing.

Tax evasion leaves the government without adequate ate rather than stifle national funding for basic needs such development, which requires as health and education while lack of governance the tariff

and various other products are much more expensive in Pakistan than the neighbouring countries.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that critically important sectors are suffering from circular credit as cheap sources for electricity generation like hydel and alternative energy were constantly being ignored. He said that there is no system of targeted subsidies for the poor like in neigh-

bouring countries. He suggested that the government needs to enter into free trade agreements with other countries so that domestic products can have access to other markets. Anti-corruption agencies need to reduce political interference so that they can accelerthe formation of a task force of international experts and civi

Gov't to raise domestic edible oil

For Enhancing Export SMEDA identifies 5 high potential SME

203.5

205.5

US Dollar

😂 Spokesman Report

sectors

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority has identified five clusters of SMEs as the high potential export-oriented sectors of economy, which include Information Technology, Food Processing, Surgical Instruments, Leather and Pharmaceutical. The sectors were discussed at an exclusive session on Private Sector-led Growth held in chair with Mr. Iftikhar Ali Sahoo, Additional Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production at the recent Turn around Pakistan Conference, Mr. Hashim Raza, Chief Executive Officer of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), who gave a presentation on significance of SMEs in enhancing exportled growth in Pillar-V session of the conference, informed here today that one of the key areas of the Conference for improving the competitiveness was to adopt a cluster-based development of high potential SME sectors from a trade augmentation perspective.

Cluster-based approach can lead to integration of supply chain, ease in logistics, knowledge sharing, availability of skilled labor and uniform evolution of SME sector, he said adding that cluster-based approach may also help improve value addition, which in turn will help the country get plugged into the global value chain and fetch higher export proceeds, thus leading to export-oriented growth of the economy.

He acknowledged that conference's module had specially focused to identify high potential export oriented sectors of the economy along with the key issues and gaps in the cluster-based value chain. He informed that stakeholders of the SME sector have suggested a number of key interventions to address the issues faced by SMEs by identifying five sectors; IT, Food Processing, Surgical Instruments, Leather and Pharmaceutical by recommending a set of supportive policy measures to enhance export.

The suggestions given by the stakeholders demanded incentives for tax relief to the SMEs producing medium to high-tech value-added products including establishment of IT specific technology zones and FDIs in high tech industries.

production to 4.8m tons

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to take the country towards self reliance in food commodities especially in edible oil, the government has planned to increase the annual domestic edible oil production up to 4.793 million tons in 10 years.

At present the country produces 0.745 million tons of edible oil annually which is only 8% of the total demand of the commodity of over 5 million tons.

In a meeting held here, presided over by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, it was informed that in order to meet the demand, Pakistan imports 4.5 million tons of edible oil annually.

The move would help minimizing the huge import bill of the food group that was recorded at US\$7.575 billion during first 11 months (Jul-May) of the year 2021-

The import of palm oil was recorded at \$3,058 billion while that soyabean oil stood at \$217.7 million during the period under review.

The meeting that was held to review the plans with respect to achieving self dependency in the edible oil here today.

It was informed in the meeting that it has been planned that the production would be gradually increased from current 0.745 million to 1.192 million in five years and 4.793 millions in next 10 years.

The meeting was attended by the



authorities of ministry of National Food edible oil production sector should be Security and Research, and ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives

On the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal directed that the plan to take the country towards self reliance in edible oil should be discussed with all provincial stake holders and after taking them in confidence on this issue, a feasible roadmap should be finalized within a week.

The minister said the investors in the

given special incentives to boost local production.

He said making the country self dependence in the edible oil was the top priority of the government's development agenda and in this regard he directed to engage the private sector to expedite the process of achieving the self reliance.

Ahsan Iqbal also directed to ensure the charge challenge against supply of edible oil to the people keeping Infinix NOTE 12 VIP's 120W the basic hygiene rules. APP

Infinix 5 mins charge challenge held

😂 🛛 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Infinix, Infinix, Pakistan's highest selling smartphone brand has set up the 5 minutes charge challenge at Hafeez center so that everyone can witness the power of 120 W Hyper Charge. Participants will be able to witness the power of 120W hyper charge that comes with new Infinix NOTE 12 VIP. They can also take part in interesting chal-

NOTE 12 VIP and other excit-

ing gifts. The exhibition of this

new era of technology took

place from 27th-30th June

Amid offering the fast-

est charge, Infinix has still

announced the 5-minute

at Hafeez Centre, Lahore.

able to witness the capability of Infinix technology, by comparing the charging speed of their personal mobiles with the NOTE 12 VIP in a 5-minutes span only. And by doing so, they can simply get a chance to win Infinix NOTE lenges & lucky-draws through 12 VIP. which they can win Infinix

In no time. Infinix has emerged as the new trendsetter of style, technology, and engaging activities in Pakistan. The challenge has already astonished the people, also buzzing the mobile market. Buyers, sellers, users, and fans are eager to witness the claim of Infinix NOTE 12 VIP charging from 0 to 100% hyper charge. People will be in 17 minutes.

Engro Fertilizers releases first-ever Sustainability report

😂 Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Engro Fertilizers, Pakistan's premier seed-to-harvest solutions provider, has released its first-ever Sustainability Report to highlight the Company's progress toward environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and governance (ESG) goals.

The comprehensive sustainabilitv report is based on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards and has been externally validated by an independent certification agency. The report details how the core values and governance model of Engro Fertilizers incorporate sustainable practices into its day-to-day operations, thus, ensuring a sustainable future.

Key highlights of the report include: Prioritization of UN Sustain-

to address education, healthcare, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, climate action and forging partnerships for the realization of SDGs. Initiatives to lead the agri-industry towards holistic digitization and innovation, ranging from customer and vendor support to digital payment solutions, including online ordering and payments. Key measures to safeguard the interests of farmers and national food security through farmer education, free of cost soil testing and timely product delivery through an extensive distribution network of more than 100 warehouses and 4,000 dealers across the country.

Recognition of the Company as "Industry Stewardship Champion" able Development Goals (SDGs) by the International Fertilizers Asso-



ciation (IFA) for efficient operations and minimizing environmental footprint through DuPont world-class environment management systems, solarization of all warehouses.

Engro Fertilizers continued to make significant headway in its efforts to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace. In 2021, women made up 15 percent of new hires, with placements in unconventional roles as trade apprentices, graduate trainee engineers, workshop supervisors, warehouse in-charges and field-sales.

up position in the category of "Leadership Commitment" at the prestigious UN Women 2021 Asia-Pacific WEPs Awards. It was also recognized for its diverse and inclusive workplace culture at the CFA Society Pakistan Annual Excellence Awards 2021 and the Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Benchmark (GDEIB) Conference and Awards 2021 by winning ten awards in different categories, including being named as the 'Most Inclusive Organization' of Pakistan.

Ghias Khan, President & CEO, Engro Corporation, stated, "Engro Fertilizers sustainability report speaks to the company's commitment towards building a sustainable future for its stakeholders through robust core values and a governance model that helps incorporate sustain-

The Company secured the first runner able practices in its day-to-day operations. As one of Pakistan's largest conglomerates, it is our duty to work towards the environmental, social, and economic health of the communities we work with and operate in.

He reiterated that, "For over five decades, Engro Fertilizers has worked diligently towards an equitable and prosperous Pakistan, with our efforts focused on food security, farmer literacv & financial inclusion, managing our carbon footprint, responsibly disposing waste, as well as education and health. I hope this report will help you gain an understanding of our sustainability efforts but more importantly be a catalyst for change across various sectors and industries. We will continue to view our businesses through the lens of sustainability so that generations to come may have a safe and bright future."

Sports Saturday, July 2, 2022

Pakistani-made footballs to shine at Doha World Cup

Manufactured in Sialkot city, 'Al-Rihla' footballs will be used at mega event

KARACHI: Pakistan's national football team is 200th out of 211 teams in the FIFA world rankings, but the country's more than 200 million people will still be feeling part of the 2022 FIFA World Cup finals to be played in Doha this winter.

Together with China, Pakistan is supplying the soccer balls to be used in the forthcoming mega event, which this time will be held in the winter instead of the summer due to the hot weather in the Qatari capital.

"We have once again been chosen to supply soccer balls for the World Cup, which is an honour for us and a testimony of the quality we have maintained," said Khawaja Masood Akhtar, the chairman the finest quality sports goods of Forward Sports, a contracting and has been supplying footballs manufacturer of global sports brand Adidas.



company's sprawling facility are goods ranging from cricket bats working extra hours to ensure on-time delivery of the footballs. The city, which borders India, has been famous for producing for mega-events for a long time.

Production of high-quality Nestled on the outskirts of footballs is not Sialkot's only

to hockey sticks and from shining (cricket and hockey) balls to other accessories like kits, shoes, and gloves.

The country earns \$1 billion annually from sports goods exports, including \$350 million to \$500 million from footballs alone. Declining to give the exact Punjab's Sialkot, workers at the forte. It also exports sports number of footballs the compa-

due to restrictions from Adidas, Akhtar said it would be "not in thousands but millions".

Named "Al-Rihla," Arabic for The Journey," the official match ball for the 2022 World Cup was unveiled in March by Adidas in Doha.

Forward Sports, which also makes footballs for the German Bundesliga, the French league, and the Champions League, was also the official football provider of the 2014 and 2018 World Cups in Brazil and Russia. The soccer ball to be used in the forthcoming tournament is technically termed "thermo bonded," which was first introduced in the 2014 World Cup.

Before that, Pakistan had supplied hand-stitched soccer balls for most of the World Cups from the 1990s to 2010. Other Sialkot are "glued" and "hand-

ny will supply for the World Cup stitched." Thermo bonded balls are made by attaching the panels through heat - the latest technology adopted by Adidas and transferred to Forward Sports in 2013. There are no stitches.

The Spokesman

"We have made some changes in (the design of) footballs this time, keeping Qatar's culture, environment, architecture, and flag in mind," Akhtar said.

"And it will be environment-friendly," he said, adding that for the first time, only water-based inks and glues have been used in the making of the footballs. Soaring inflation and energy tariffs combined with rising labour costs have not turned out to be a problem for Akhtar. "Everything is running smoothly, as we chalked out our plans, keeping all these factors in mind. In fact, we have hired some additional labour to types of soccer balls produced in ensure on-time deliveries," he said. Anadolu Agency

Sports will further strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye relations, says Oguz Konzanli Sports for All delegation meets with Turkish Deputy Consul General



腾 Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The popularity of Archery in Pakistan is astonishing, Karachi also has a lot of Archery talent. Pak-Turk relations will be further strengthened through the sports. Our cooperation with Pakistan will continue at all levels, said Turkish Deputy Consul General in Karachi Oguz Konzanli during a meeting with a delegation of "Sports for All" activists working at the grassroots level for sports in Karachi.

The delegation led by Shahid Hashmi, chairman of Sports for All, included Hassan Abdullah, an Asian-certified archery coach, and other male and female coaches. Oguz Konzanli said that the friendship between Turkiye and Pakistan is getting stronger than ever in all walks of life.

On this occasion, Shahid Hashmi, Chairman, Sports for All, said that our association has been working for sports in educational institutions in Karachi for the last many years. Working from the grassroots level for the promotion of sports, the establishment of sports relations between Turkey and Pakistan can help Pakistani athletes learn a lot from Turkish sports officials, coaches and athletes in other sports, including archery. The common culture of both the countries also brings us closer to each other. We will try our best to take advantage of this rare opportunity and bring our athletes' sports to world class.

Diya FC took their Girls U-16 and Boys U-14 team to Baku



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Diya FC under the supervision of G. Sec and Founder Sadia Sheikh took their Girls U-16 and Boys U-14 team to Azerbaijan Baku from June 22nd to 28th.

The Girls team won the series 3-0 without conceding a single Goal and won all their 03 matches against the following clubs:-Day 1 : Gomrukchu vs Diya FC 0-5

Day 2 : Baku Sporting vs Diya FC 0-6

- Day 3 : Ahmadli FC vs Diya FC 0-3

They won under the Captainship of Noor Akhber and Eisha Husain played as a V. Captain. The Matches were played in the format of 07 Aside.

The boys put up a good fight and Drew the first match and lost the rest by narrow margin. Standing also in the picture is Naila Sheikh V. President Diya WFC, Chinee Gul Manager, Rukhsar Rashid Asst. Coach, Amina Husain, Armeen Ismail Board Member and Parent, Doctor Ayesha Rauf and Sadia Sheikh.

Ammad clinch National Youth Empowerment Award 2022 awarded to Faisal Fayyaz U19 title of PSF Jr Squash Circuit

腾 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: National Youth Empowerment Award 2022 had been awarded to Faisal Fayyaz, Founder and President of Sports Promotion Society International and Pakistan Sports Promoters on the basis of Physical Education, Science and Technology, Gymnastics and Sports Sciences by Rising Pakistan, Educasa International and Minhaj Youth League. His services to the youth at the grassroots level were appreciated.

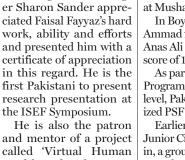
Faisal Fayyaz, International gymnast, Coach and Sports also an editorial member of Administrator, as well as the Asia Pacific Journal of Researcher in Physical Education and Sports Sciences. Educational



Technologies and Comput- successfully presented his er Sciences, and Ambassador of several Internation-Sportsman, al Bodies. Faisal Fayyaz is Advanced Education and Technology. he was appreciated by the

research on May 10 at the Regeneron ISEF in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, representing Pakistan at the C101 Auditorium, World Congress Center where

Faisal Fayyaz of Pakistan international audience,



called 'Virtual Human Health and Safety Integration System'. Meanwhile, Faisal Fayyaz also visited the World Olympic Park, World Aquarium Center and Atlanta Sports & Gymnastics Academy. Faisal has twice received awards from the President of Pakistan, especially in gymnastics and computer science.

directors, teachers, school

and college. ISEF Manag-

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force's (PAF) Muhammad Ammad clinched the Under19 title of the PSF Junior Squash Circuit No 2

at Mushaf Squash Complex on Friday. In Boys U-19 category, Muhammad Ammad from PAF won the title by beating Anas Ali Shah from Punjab with a game score of 11-4, 11-5 and 11-8.

As part of Juniors' Development Programme & Talent Hunt at grass root level, Pakistan Squash Federation organized PSF Junior Squash Circuit No 2.

Earlier in March, 22, first event of the Junior Circuit-2022 was organized wherein, a group of 198 players participated. Squash Legend and Vice President, PSF Qamar Zaman graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest and distributed prizes and trophies to the players.

In Girls U-19 category, Ms Sana Bhadur from Pak Army won the title by beating Ms Mehwish Ali from KP with a game score of 9-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5 (3-1).

In Boys U-11 category, Faizan Khan from Punjab won the title by beating Syed Muhammad Hussain from Punjab with a game score of 11-3, 11-2, 7-0 (Retd Hurt).

In Boys U-13 category, Ahmed Rayyan Khalil from PAF won the title by beating Shahzaib, also from PAF with a game scor

Int'l Savate C'ship

LAHORE: Player are in action during 3rd Pak-Sri Lanka International Savate Championship match at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall in Provincial Capital.



of 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5 (3-1).

In Boys U-15 category, Azan Ali from Pak Army won the title by beating Umair Arif from KP with a game score of 2-11, 12-10, 11-8, 14-12 (3-1).

In Boys U-17 category, Abdullah Nawaz from PAF won the title by beating Huraira Khan, also from PAF with a game score of 11-4, 11-9, 11-6. APP

China beats Dominican in women's Volleyball Nations League

SOFIA: China dominated the Dominican Republic 3-0 (25-19, 25-16, 25-15) in the women's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) here on Friday. It's the 7th victory for China from 11 games, and also its second win in week three of the VNL.

The 2016 Olympic champions stand fourth on the 16-team table in the preliminary phase with a 7-4 record. The top eight teams will qualify for the finals to be played in Turkey.

China's Li Yingying and the Dominican Republic's Pena Isabel Yonkaira Paola both scored a game-high 15 points. Xinhua

Furore 'good publicity' for British GP: Ecclestone

Former F1 boss defends remarks in favour of Putin; adds Piquet didn't make racist slur

Bernie Ecclestone told AFP that the furore over remarks he made on Russia's invasion of Ukraine were "good publicity for Silverstone", which is hosting this weekend's British Grand Prix.

In an interview on British television on Thursday, the 91-year-old defended both former world champion Nelson Piquet, who allegedly used a racial slur when discussing seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in a podcast last year, and Russian president Vladimir Putin. In the TV interview, Ecclestone called Putin a "first-class person" and said "I'd still take a bullet for him."

Formula One responded in a statement that Ecclestone's "personal views are in very stark contrast to the position of the modern values of our sport." Hamilton also said on Thursday that "these old voices" — three-time world champion Piquet is 69 — should not be given a platform. Ecclestone — who transformed the not need protecting.

PARIS: Former Formula One supremo sport into a global multi-billion-dollar commercial giant — was unabashed. "It is good publicity for Silverstone," he told AFP by phone from Ibiza. He said his style has always been to respond to interviewers. "It is rude to ignore them. It is bloody rude," he said. "They have to think carefully what questions they ask."

Piquet has apologised – claiming the term he used is a synonym for 'guy' or 'person' and not as it was translated - but nevertheless has been suspended by Silverstone's owners as Formula One said he will no longer be welcome in the paddock. Piquet's remark stemmed from an incident between Hamilton and Red Bull's Max Verstappen on the first lap of last year's British Grand Prix.

Piquet's daughter, Kelly, is world champion Verstappen's girlfriend. "I have known Nelson for many years and he is not the type of guy to make racist comments." Ecclestone said 37-year-old Hamilton did



"Lewis is old enough to look after am, I expect I will have to take a bullet." himself," he said. "After all, at 91 I do not need protection. The only protection I am tionship with Putin while negotiating to going to need is when I stand in front of Putin and take the bullet intended for him. in 2014 at the Black Sea resort of Sochi. If Putin comes to England, or wherever I AFP

Ecclestone built a warm working relabring the Formula One caravan to Russia

3-day Shandur Polo Festival begins

UPPER CHITRAL: A three-day annually Shandur polo festival kicked off on Friday at the world's highest polo ground in Upper Chitral.

Secretary Tourism Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Tahir Orakzai, Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority Abid Khan Wazir inagurated the festival.

Deputy Commissioner Chitral Lower and Chitral Upper, officials of Chitral Scouts attended the Shandur Polo Festival on the first day of the "Kings of sports." The polo lovers turned up in large numbers. The spectators applauded the free style thrilling polo match played between Chitral and Gilgit Baltistan teams. Great enthusiasm was witnessed between players and spectators. APP

ShoaibAkhtar meets Babar Azam, Shaheen Afridi

😂 Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Former fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar met the Pakistan team during their training for the white-ball series against Sri Lanka, set to start later this month.

The ex-pacer, taking to his Twitter, shared that he met the Men In Green at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday at the invitation of head coach Saqlain Mushtaq.

In the picture posted by the pacer, he can be seen interacting with skipper Babar Azam, pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah.

Pakistan will play a two-match Test series against Sri Lanka from July 16 to 28 in Galle and Colombo.

The first match will take place at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle from July 16-20, while the second match will be played from July 24 to 28 at Colombo' R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium.

In a separate development, the training session for today has been cancelled and the camp has also been wrapped up. The team will leave for Sri Lanka from Lahore on July 6.

Squad: Babar Azam (captain), Mohammad Rizwan (vice-captain, wicketkeeper), Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Nauman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicketkeeper), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi, Shan Masood and Yasir Shah

Tuba Hassan earns central contract

😂 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Promising 21-year-old leg-spinner Tuba Hassan was one of the three first-time women cricketers who were awarded central contracts for the 2022-23 season, which came into effect on Friday. The other two first-timers are Gul Feroza and Sadaf Shamas, who have been identified as future prospects.

Tuba was adjudged ICC Women's Player of the Month for May 2022 for her impressive debut series against Sri Lanka. She took five wickets in three T20Is, including three for eight in her debut match. Tuba was part of the Pakistan women's team for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 as a travelling reserve.