

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ جس نے مجھ سے کلمہ پڑھا اور اسے یاد رکھا وہ میرے پیروں میں سے ہے اور میں اسے جہنم میں لے جاؤں گا۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3044)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

All stakeholders responsible for current situation: Khurshid

Pakistan People's Party leader and Federal Minister Khurshid Shah on Sunday said that all stakeholders are responsible for the country's current situation, and we have to work jointly to save the country from further destruction. Khurshid Shah said that country is going through the worst economic and political crisis and all the stakeholders are responsible for placing the country in this crisis but now we have to work jointly to save the debt and inflation-ridden Pakistan from further destruction.



PML-N always negotiates with other parties: Malik Ahmad

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Malik Ahmad Khan said on Sunday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had always held negotiations with other political parties, even the worst political rivals, for progress of the country and welfare of its people, which all democratic forces should always do.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 4, Monday, July 4, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 97 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Vegetable prices skyrocket ahead of Eid

LAHORE: With Eid-ul-Azha just around the corner, prices of vegetables have almost doubled across the country.

The prices of essential vegetables have skyrocketed as shopkeepers are selling items at their own rates instead of following the official price list released by the government. In Lahore, onions are being sold within a range of Rs80 to Rs110, while the price of tomatoes reached Rs140 per kg from Rs100 per kg.

Two other most used vegetables during Eid ul Adha — lemons and garlic — have also become expensive. While lemons are being sold at Rs320 per kg, garlic is available within a range of Rs250 to Rs300 per kg. In addition, the price of green chillies has skyrocketed to Rs120 per kg and a bunch of coriander is being sold at Rs20. It is to be noted that Eid ul Adha in Pakistan will be observed on July 10 (Sunday). Agencies

India facing possible collapse as a nation: Amartya Sen



ISLAMABAD: India's leading economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen said India was facing a possible collapse as a nation.

He made the remarks while addressing an inauguration ceremony of a research center in Kolkata. He said, "India is facing a crisis today and it can result in the possible collapse of the Indian nation."

India could not be the property of Hindus alone but belonged to all communities, he added. APP

Facing 'severe' energy crisis

Lahore: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting on Power loadshedding issues on Sunday.



Photo: PID

PM orders fast functioning of shut-down power plants

Shehbaz Sharif orders for resolution of issues of provinces regarding provision of drinking water and agriculture facilities

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the authorities concerned to take immediate steps for making the shut-down power plants functional and sought a report entailing clear reasons over the load-shedding.

The prime minister chaired an important meeting to overcome the issues of power load-shedding and energy crises. The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Petroleum Mussadiq Malik whereas, Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, MNA, and PM's Special

Assistant on Public Policy/Strategic Communications Fahad Hussain participated the meeting via videolink. The relevant authorities also attended the meeting.

agriculture facilities on priority basis. The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) was told to take an independent decision after mutual consultation of the provinces.

officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing regarding the law and order situation in the Punjab province. The prime minister directed that police should not give in to any pressure while performing their professional duties and ensure in every way possible, protection of life and property of the people.

He further said that police should provide all possible protection of life and property to the public. The PM assured that police would be provided sufficient funds for enhancing their capacity for overcoming present day challenges.

However, he warned that poor performance and a lethargic attitude would not be tolerated.

Steps to resolve ongoing power crises in country discussed

During the meeting, the steps to resolve the ongoing power crises in the country were discussed.

The prime minister also directed for resolution of the issues of provinces regarding provision of drinking water and

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here chaired a high-level meeting regarding the law and order situation in the Punjab province. Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly, Chief Secretary Punjab, Inspector General Punjab Police and senior police

To Tackle Energy Crisis

Govt focusing on solar energy: Dastgir

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan said on Sunday that power projects commissioned in recent past had been initiated by previous Nawaz Sharif led PML-N government, which had started work on new power generation projects with accumulative capacity of 11,600 megawatts.

Addressing a press conference at GEPCO (Gujranwala Electric Power Company) office, he added that 720-megawatt Karot power plant has started generation since June 29.

He said that water inflow in Tarbela Dam has increased significantly over the last three days, which resulted in an additional 600 MW of electricity. In next few days, the Tarbela Power Plant will be operating on capacity of 3400MW.

To a question about

load-shedding on Eid days, he said that there will be a considerable relief in power supply to domestic consumers owing to closure of industry during Eid-ul-Azha days.

During the PTI tenure, he mentioned, power projects of 5800MW could not generate electricity due to criminal negligence of the previous government which did not purchase fuel for these power plants, which led to power crisis and the people had to face long-hours power outages.

To a query, the minister said that huge quantum of electricity could be generated through Thar coal deposits, asserting that 1214 MW Thar Coal Power Plant will be the biggest coal power plant of Pakistan. The new power generation projects being initiating by the present government will operate on domestic fuel instead of imported fuel. APP

US Special envoy for enhancing ties with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The US Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed has underscored the US government's commitment to enhance commercial and economic ties with Pakistan.

In a news release issued by the US embassy in Islamabad, Dilawar Syed said the United States and Pakistan must seize the opportunity to boost commercial and economic ties.

The US Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs paid a three day visit to Pakistan from Friday till today, during which he held meetings with senior government officials including Ministers for Finance, Commerce, and Foreign Affairs.

During these meetings, he highlighted the decades-long history of economic partner-



ship between the United States and Pakistan.

Dilawar Syed said the United States continues to encourage Pakistan to improve the business climate to make it easier for US businesses to invest, operate, and create jobs. Agencies

Resolving Power Issue

Wapda expedites work on Keyal Khwar Hydropower

ISLAMABAD: The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has expedited the development work on the much awaited 72 megawatts Keyal Khwar Hydropower Project that would increase power generation, irrigation and employment opportunities for the locals.

The Keyal Khwar Hydropower Project is located at Keyal Khwar Nullah, a tributary of the Indus River in Lower Kohistan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that has around 72 megawatts (MW) electricity generation capacity.

Talking to APP, an official of WAPDA said that there were two turbine units of 34MW each and one unit of 4MW installed at Khan Khwar Hydroelectric Station with an average annual generation capacity of 595 million units (GWh) of cheap electricity.

In the current financial year, around Rs 1,084 million has been allocated for the execution of the project. The hydropower project would channelize emission less energy and



business opportunities for the locals by promoting fisheries and tourism opportunities, the official added.

Meanwhile, The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has initiated 10 new projects which would provide about 35,000 job opportunities during the construction.

These projects would also be enhanced hydel generation capacity to cross 18,000 MW with an addition of 9,000 MW, a Wapda source said. Wapda has initiated 10 projects aimed to enhance the gross water storage capacity in the country from 13 million acre-feet (MAF)

to more than 24 million MAF which would be also sufficient to irrigate another 1.6 million acres of land.

The Wapda projects include five dams, three hydropower projects, one canal, and one water supply scheme that were under construction which would be completed in a phased manner from 2023 to 2029.

Diamer Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Nai Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Extension, Sindh Barrage, and K-IV Project were among the projects, said official sources. APP

President asks institutes, people to save energy

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Sunday called on the institutes and people of Pakistan to save energy to the maximum level to help reduce load shedding.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "I request the institutes and the people of Pakistan to save energy to the maximum level so the load shedding may reduce and public can be served well."

"He said at no capital cost to the national exchequer, the Presidency was producing one megawatts of electricity.

"Because of our own increased daily conservation efforts, we are putting a good proportion into the national grid. All our people and institutes should take initiative at their end to conserve energy," he added.

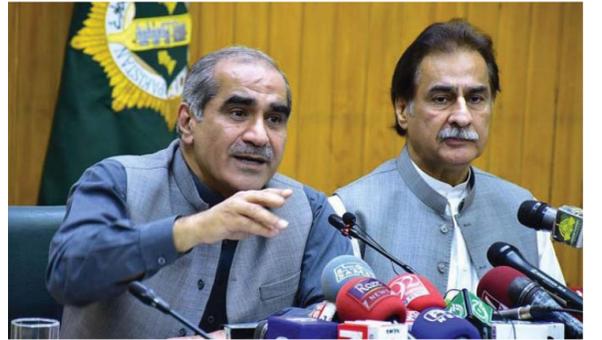
Govt wants to protect state instead of politicking: Saad

LAHORE: Railways and Aviation Minister Khwaja Saad Rafique said on Sunday that the nation was facing the consequences of wrong decisions of former prime minister Imran Khan and his incompetent and ineligible government.

Addressing a joint press conference with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the Railway Headquarters here on Sunday, he said that the Imran Khan government destroyed almost every institution and department of the country. Citing the example of Pakistan Railways (PR), he said the PTI government increased deficit of the railways to Rs 45 billion, which is only one department.

He said that whatever Imran blamed on others, he himself did that, adding that he (Imran) was himself a habitual thief, looter and cheapskate. "He always keeps an eye on others' pocket," he added.

Kh Saad said that Imran was living in a 300-kanal house in Islamabad, and paid a minimal tax, but never answered the questions about his business. "He blames others that their children live abroad, but never tells that where his own children were living," he said.



establishment to intervene in the political affairs," he said.

Saad said that Imran Niazi always denigrated the Constitution and used foul language against those who do not toe his line. He said that Imran was a dictator by nature who did not like to listen to any other voice, adding that he (Imran) was an imbalanced and thankless person, who always damaged his friends. He said that this stupid person even did not listen to those forces who had supported him in politics. "He even does not know the names of his allies," he said.

Saad Rafique said that Niazi did everything that could destroy the country, adding that he (Imran) signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which was damaging for the country, whereas the

PMLN government, before 2018, had said good bye to the IMF and reduced the load-shedding to zero.

"It was very easy for us to announce elections after successful move of no-confidence against Niazi, but no one would listen to the caretakers," he said and added that such situation would have not been good for the nation.

"You have brought the country to a point from where return is very hard," Khwaja Saad told Imran Khan.

Saad Rafique asked if it was not an unconstitutional act to call an institution to intervene in politics? He alleged that Khan used dirty language against institutions and ask his followers to follow suit. "Are you following any agenda against the nation?" he questioned. What did the previous government do in Punjab, he asked. APP

Inaugural Address

SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif addressing during his visit Shahabpura Bridge.



Photo: APP

Humanitarian assistance, free medical camp for Afghan quake affectees

ISLAMABAD: A truck carrying 7.4 tons of humanitarian aid for the earthquake affected people of Afghanistan by the Fatih Foundation on Sunday crossed Ghulam Khan border under Pak-Afghan Cooperation Forum (PACF) arrangements.

The relief assistance included food items, tents, clothes and bedding etc. Two volunteers of Fatih Foundation also accompanied the aid truck to carry out relief activities.

Meanwhile, a free medical camp was set up in Paktika province, Afghanistan by Alkhidmat Foundation under the PACF arrangements.

The medical teams were providing all possible medical support to the quake affected Afghans. APP

Govt focusing on long-term solution to problems: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that country is facing hardships due to wrong policies of the previous government.

Talking to a private news channel, he said opposing budget by opposition is a routine matter.

The Advisor said the government is not looking for short-term solution, but for a long-term, to save the country from default.

He said direct taxation is necessary and government is focusing to manufacture products in the country rather than importing them. Agencies

Defence Minister vows to protect all state institutions

Inflation, load-shedding result of PTI govt's faulty policies: Kh Asif

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif said on Sunday that people were suffering from inflation and load-shedding due to faulty policies of the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

"We have inherited inflation, which is the result of wrong policies of the previous government," he said while talking to the media during his visit to newly-constructed Shahabpura flyover here.

The federal minister said: "We are fully aware of inflation and the fact that oil, gas and coal prices are at all-time high, but we are determined that we will be able to overcome the crises."

He said that election would be held in 2023 for which the PML-N would go to people and then the people would decide who should rule the country.

The federal minister said that national institutions supported Imran Khan's government for four years in the hope

that he would start delivering and serving masses, but he failed badly. He said the PML-N had also respected the law and Constitution of the country.

Kh Asif said that the national institutions wanted to stay within their constitutional limits, but regrettably Imran Khan wanted to divide them. He said that even the Election Commission of Pakistan's decisions, given in accordance with the Constitution, were not acceptable to him [Imran Khan]. He wanted to weaken the nuclear power Pakistan and its institutions. He said all doors of power were closing on Imran Khan one after the other.

About the flyover project, Kh Asif said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would visit Sialkot soon and formally inaugurate the Shahabpura flyover project.

He said that the project was started by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

government, and it was also completed by the PML-N. He said: "I am grateful to all departments concerned and local authorities for their efforts to complete the project." He said that the previous PTI government, in its almost four-year tenure, did not lay even a single brick in Sialkot district. However, due to special efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz, the project had been completed now. He regretted that the project had been put on hold during the last four years.

The defence minister said that the project was very important for Sialkot and its residents. The flyover would significantly improve the traffic flow in Sialkot city, he added. He announced that an underpass would also be constructed from KFC stop to Kotli-Bahram Chowk for smooth flow of traffic in the city. APP

Sikhs vote in referendum in Rome for freedom of Khalistan

ISLAMABAD: Thousands of Sikhs gathered in Rome, the capital of Italy on Sunday to vote in the referendum for achieving their separate homeland Khalistan.

Men and women arrived at the polling stations to cast their vote in the referendum organized by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

The voters were carrying posters in support of the freedom of Khalistan and shouting slogans against the Indian government and the Indian army.

They were demanding that India should give freedom to Khalistan and the international community should take notice of the oppression against the Sikhs. About 200,000 Sikhs live in different cities of Italy.

Sikh voters while expressing their opinions said referendum was a constitutional and legal path adopted by them and India should end its occupation of Punjab so that Khalistan could be created.

On this occasion, Sikhs also released the

new map of their homeland Khalistan which not only included the state of Punjab but also Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and many districts of Uttar Pradesh.

The referendum was witnessed by international observers.

The Sikh voters said they were laying foundation of freedom from India and they wanted their separate homeland Khalistan.

Despite the pressure from India, the European government allowed Sikhs to hold a referendum on the issue of Khalistan.

Sikh leader Paramjeet Singh Pamma said the referendum for Khalistan was the democratic right of Sikhs.

"We are informing the international institutions and countries about our decision through a vote under the international laws." He said the singer Sidhu Moosewala who was killed by the Indian agencies, was a great supporter of the freedom of Indian Punjab. APP

PTI deal with IMF created problems: Rana Sana Ullah

FAISALABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah said on Sunday that agreements inked by the PTI government had become a major problem for the government as it had to honor these agreements to revive the IMF program and save Pakistan from default. He was addressing the ceremony of distribution cheques of welfare grant, talent scholarship and marriage grant among workers in the auditorium of Faisalabad Medical University.

Rana Sana Ullah put the onus of inflation on the bad governance of previous government and said that it failed to take appropriate measures to facilitate the masses.

However, he was optimistic that present government was committed to control the inflation and people would witness a visible positive change in their

life just within next six months.

He said that PML-N had credit to control load-shedding and terrorism and the issue of inflation was very easy for it to handle through its skilled and visionary leadership. He underlined the importance of workers in national economy and said that Rs.3.5 billion were being distributed among the workers as government fully understood their problems in this age of inflation. This amount would be disbursed among the workers on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha as they remained deprived of their legitimate rights during last 3.5 years of PTI government, he added.

He said that it was very shameful that previous government had failed to allocate funds for welfare of the workers despite of resources. He said that last 3.5 years were the worst period for the

workers but Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz immediately started work to facilitate the common man.

He quoted his recent meeting with IG Police Islamabad and said that our priority was to focus on the common man. "We are not responsible for the inflation. It is only due to incompetence of previous government who first inked the agreement and then violated it which irritated the donors and they withheld the sanctioned amount", he added. He said that inflation was directly linked with increase in the prices of petroleum products. "We decided to increase prices of petroleum products with heavy heart as there was no other option for us because the previous government had made a clear commitment with IMF to increase the prices", he said. APP

'NPO playing key role to promote new techs'

FAISALABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) is playing a pivotal role in promotion of new technologies at the grass root level to bring qualitative as well as quantitative improvement in the industrial sector, said Abdul Qayyum in-charge NPO Faisalabad.

He was addressing an awareness session on "Quality and Productivity" in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). The session was attended by owners and directors of the industrial units.

He said that on the directives of Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhary Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Productivity Organization (NPO), awareness sessions are being organized regularly on the innovative topics and challenges emerging at the global level.

He said that the ultimate objective of these sessions is to convince industrialists to switch over to the new technologies to enhance their

skills and productivity which is a prerequisite to enhance exports.

He also introduced resource person Dr. Ali Sajid, and said that he is a versatile speaker and has full grip on the subject of quality and productivity.

Dr. Ali Sajid explained in detail the new technologies and strategies being used to improve the quality and productivity and said that technology is changing at a much faster pace to minimize expenditure and improve the quality of the products. He said that we must switch over to these technologies to improve the quality of our products. He was optimistic that our industrialists would discuss and adopt new technologies to produce quality products by trimming their cost of production.

Resource person also responded to the questions of the participants and said that they could contact him at any time in case of any problem relating to the quality and productivity. Agencies

Hajj subsidy amount to be returned to Hajj Pilgrims: Shakoor

MAKKAH: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor says the Hajj subsidy amount approved by the Federal Cabinet, will be returned to Hajj Pilgrims on their arrival to Pakistan.

Chairing a meeting at Pakistan Hajj Mission in Makkah on Sunday, he said the government has transferred the subsidy amount to the account of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

During the meeting, the Minister was briefed about Hajj arrangements at Mina, Muzdalifah and Arafat. The Minister directed the Hajj Mission Makkah to ensure timely resolution of complaints and problems of Pakistani pilgrims at mashair during Hajj rituals.

The minister also visited different wings of main control office and Medical Hajj Mission Hospital in Makkah.

He enquired about facilities being provided to pilgrims by the mission. Agencies

Govt working hard to steer Pakistan out of crises: Abbasi

HAVELIAN: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi has said that Imran Khan's incompetence has thrown Pakistan into deep waters.

He was speaking to the delegations of his constituency called on him here on Sunday.

The minister further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his team had been working hard to get Pakistan out of the crisis that demanded difficult decisions.

Abbasi said that Imran's government had taken the country on the verge of bankruptcy and if Shehbaz Sharif had not taken up reins of the government, Pakistan would have defaulted.

The minister stated that the masses were well aware of the capabilities and performance of PML-N in the past and they believed the party would definitely deliver again and wade off the economic crunch faced by the country. APP

ECP appoints 525 RAs to dispose of objections on electoral rolls

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan has appointed 525 officials as Revising Authorities to dispose of claims and objections of the citizens on draft electoral rolls by 9th of this month.

The APP while quoting the Election Commission source, said the Revising Authorities have been tasked to complete the verification of entries and proposed corrections in the voters lists before Eid-ul-Azha. APP

Delayed decisions of PTI's govt main reasons for load-shedding

ISLAMABAD: In sizzling summer, the country and the people have to bear brunt of power load-shedding is mainly due to in-efficiency of the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government for not taking timely decisions to arrange fuel for power plants besides intentionally slowing pace of work on Pakistan's cheaper and indigenous power projects.

Coupled with high and rising energy prices in the international market, Pakistan's power sector is almost in the operation theatre and simply keeps it going is a miracle of a kind not known before in this sector.

According to documents available with APP, the previous government delayed 720 MW Karot Hydro and 1214 MW Shanghai Thar coal indigenous power projects on account of lack of ownership, project monitoring and failure to fulfill contractual commitments on already completed projects

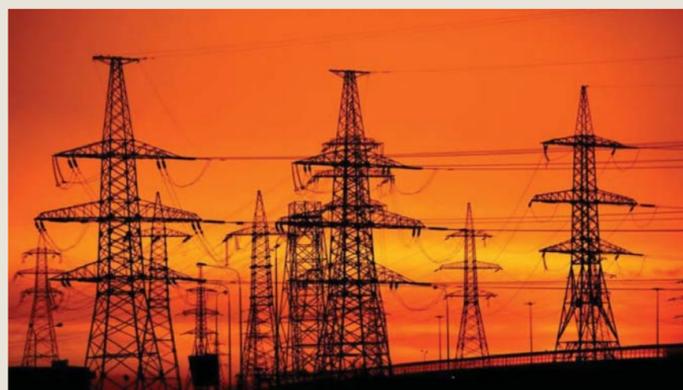
respectively, thus delaying financial close. The previous government either did not understand the CPEC's energy framework or was simply out there to strangle it to slow but sure death.

The government's failure to open revolving account for completed projects like Sahiwal Coal and Hub Power meant no further financing for energy sector under CPEC umbrella.

Similarly, another high RLNG based 1263 MW efficient Trimmu project has been delayed for more than three years due to ill-placed enthusiasm for witch hunt through NAB and then deliberate delay in achieving financial close.

Had the said three projects having accumulative capacity of 3200 MW been completed in time, load shedding in urban Pakistan would not have been witnessed despite high energy prices in the international market.

The PTI government also failed to enter



into long-term LNG contracts when LNG price was lowest at the international market. There has been lack of planning to execute long term contract for purchasing RLNG.

During COVID-19 (Mid 2020) the RLNG prices went far lower in the international market, but that opportunity of buying RLNG at USD 3 to 5 per MMBTU was not availed by the then government and no long-term contact was entered at that stage.

If such contract had been signed, consumers would have received much lower electricity bills. The average purchase price of the RLNG under the long-term contracts which was signed by the PML(N) government has been at price of USD 8.02/MMBTU between 2018 to 2022 whereas during same period on-spot average price has been USD 9.44/MMBTU, despite huge price dip for two years in the same period on account of COVID 19.

Much greater loss has been incurred during recent months wherein spot buying of RLNG has been as high as USD 38/MMBTU. It is a classic case of missing the stitch in time that saves nine. APP

People throng to cattle markets as Eid-ul-Azha approaches

Complaint Centre of market working round the clock to facilitate people

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: With change of weather in Karachi, people rushed to the super highway cattle market and they were found engaged in bargaining for their favorite animals.

Administrator Cattle Market, Muzaffar Hassan, said that Complaint Centre of the cattle market is working round the clock to facilitate people and they may lodge complain at the centre anytime and their grievances will be addressed immediately.

According to the details, as soon as the city got the refreshing spray of rain water, a large number of people rushed to the Asia's biggest cattle market. They came to the market with their families to buy the animals. They were found engaged in bargaining



with the animals' traders to cut down the price of the sacrificial animal.

A huge crowd of people was seen on the food street inside the cattle market who were enjoying the famous delicious cuisines with their families and friends after purchasing.

While talking to the media persons, Administrator Cattle Market, Muzaffar Hassan, said, "We are working

day and night to provide all possible facilities to the people at cattle market. A Complaint Cell has been set up adjacent to the Administrator's office that works day and night to address the people's issues. Containers of sacrificial animals are continuously coming to the market day and night and the process will continue till Eid-ul-Adha. As of Saturday, more than 4 lakh sacrificial animals have been brought by the traders to the cattle market.

Mr Hassan said that the efforts are being made to provide all possible facilities to the people, While Spokesperson of Cattle Market, Khurram Jaffrani, said, "We have full support of law enforcement agencies,"

The famous double hump camels of Arabian breed have also reached

the Super Highway Cattle Market. Children and families were eager to see and buy these camels. Two out of five camels have been sold.

According to the details, rare camels of Arabian breed have also been brought to the Super Highway Cattle Market to sell them for the purpose of Sunnat e Ibrahim.

The Trader of the camels, Haider, who came from Nawabshah, said that camels are of Arabian breed who have double humps. They are brought from Turkey, because these camels are not found in Pakistan. Five camels were brought to the cattle market, among which two have been sold and remaining three camels are waiting for an appropriate buyer. A large number of women and kids are coming to see them.

PM approves five-day public holidays on Eid ul Azha

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has approved five-day public holidays on the occasion of Eid ul Azha from July 8 to July 12 (Friday to Tuesday).

According to a letter of PM Office, the cabinet secretary was directed to take further action after PM's approval.

Earlier, the Cabinet Division had moved a summary to the PM's office regarding Eid holidays.

No law in AfK can be against Sunnah: President AfK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that no law can be against the Holy Quran and Sunnah in Azad Kashmir.

Barrister Chaudhry said this while talking to a delegation of Ulama that called him in Islamabad on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, the president said that Seerat Conference would be organized soon to reexamine whether there was any law in the AJK that contradicts the Quran and Sunnah.

Hailing the prevailing religious harmony in the state of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the president said that it was heartening to see that there was an atmosphere of religious harmony in Azad Kashmir. He said that there was a dire need to keep up this spirit to ensure religious and interfaith harmony.

Referring to Modi government's spokesperson Nupur Sharma's blasphemous remarks the President said that Sharma's remarks had hurt the sentiments of Muslims all over the world. He said that despite global outrage over the issue Modi government was still supporting and protecting Sharma. "Besides Indian supreme court, the foreign ministries of more than 20 Muslim countries have registered their formal protest against Indian government and demanded public apology over the incident", he said adding that Scholars should also play their role in this regard.

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir assured the delegates that the government would solve the problems of the scholars on priority basis. He said that in addition to increase in the salary of Qari, Khatibs other issues would be resolved.

On the occasion, Member Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary to the Government of Azad Kashmir Allama Maulana Pir Mazhar Saeed, Chairman Ulama-e-Mashaykh Council Imtiaz Ahmad Siddiqui, Mufti Muhammad Arif Naqshbandi Member Islamic Ideological Council Kotli, Maulana Mahmood Al Hassan Ashraf Amir of Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, Mufti Muhammad Akhtar Leader of Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam, Allama Altaf Hussain Saifi Member Islamic Ideological Council Muzaffarabad, Qari Muhammad Shafiq Madrasa Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust District Bagh, Sahibzada Sohail Ahmad Naqshbandi Vice Chairman Ulama-e-Mashaykh Council, and others were present in the meeting. On the occasion, the religious scholars lauded the AJK President for his peerless contribution in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the international level.

Ibrahim, Waqar win first place at NSEF

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Muhammad Ibrahim and Muhammad Talha Waqar from Valencia Town Campus, Lahore, won first place at the Regeneration National Science and Engineering Fair (NSEF) and proudly represented Pakistan along with their teacher Faisal Fayyaz, at the international event held in Atlanta, USA.



Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) provides a global stage for the best and brightest young scientists and engineers around the world. Founded on the belief that advances in science are key to solving global challenges, it supports and invests in the next generation of leading STEM thinkers acting as catalysts for the change needed to improve the well-being of all people and the planet.

This year the competition featured 1,750 young scientists representing 49 states and 63 countries, regions and territories across the world. 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, Educusa International and Minhaj Youth League. His services to the youth at the grassroots level were appreciated.

Faisal Fayyaz, International Sportsman, gymnast, Coach and Sports Administrator, as well as Researcher in Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Educational Technologies and Computer Sciences, and Ambassador of several International Bodies. Faisal Fayyaz is also an editorial member of the Asia Pacific Journal of Advanced Education and Technology.

Faisal Fayyaz of Pakistan successfully presented his research on May 10 at the Regeneration ISEF in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, representing Pakistan at the C101 Auditorium, World Congress Center where he was appreciated by the international audience, directors, teachers, school and college. ISEF Manager Sharon Sander appreciated Faisal Fayyaz's hard work, ability and efforts and presented him with a certificate of appreciation in this regard. He is the first Pakistani to present research presentation at the ISEF Symposium.

KEC celebrates CPC's 101st founding anniversary

Our correspondent

KARACHI: Communist Party of China completed 101 year of its Founding on July 1, 2022.

Karachi Editors Club (KEC) celebrated CPC Anniversary at a local hotel. Chinese Consul General Li Bijian was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Sirajuddin Aziz Group CEO of Habib Bank AG Zurich, Zhang Hao vice CG China and other Chinese Envoys at Karachi Consulate Lyu Tuozu, Wang Haibo and Deng Haixiao were the guests of honour on this occasion.

Sirajuddin Aziz, Mubasher Mir, Manzar Naqvi, Mukhtar Aqil, Kazi Asad Abid, Shah Nawaz Agha, Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, Brig. Tariq Khalil, Agha Masood Hussain, Tara Uzra Dawood, Ateeq Ur Rehman, Dr. Muhammad Ali Ehsan, Iqbal Jamil, Mairajuddin, Haseen Sarwar and many others addressed the CPC anniversary ceremony.

Li Bijian, while addressing the ceremony as a chief guest, said that the Communist Party of China (CPC) has gone through a great journey of 101 years. It has grown from



a scale of just over 50 party members when the party was founded and now has turned into a large party with more than 96 million party members, leading the Chinese people to realize the transformation from standing up. The great leap from becoming rich to becoming strong has ushered in a bright future for a great renaissance, he added.

Consul General Li pointed out that China and Pakistan are highly friendly and are each other's all-weather strategic partners. Although it has been more than two years since the COVID-19 epidemic has spread globally,

the development of China-Pakistan relations has always been strong, with frequent and close high-level exchanges and continuous advancement of practical cooperation in various fields.

China will, as always, firmly support the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Through joint efforts and close cooperation with the Pakistani side, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will be built into an open, green and clean benchmark and model in the Belt and Road Initiative, which will bring more benefits to the two countries' societies

and communities.

Consul General Li affirmed KEC's contribution to enhancing the understanding of China and the Communist Party of China from all walks of life in Pakistan, and hoped that KEC would continue to increase its introduction and research efforts, deep exchanges and cooperation with the Chinese media community, and introduce more real, three-dimensional and comprehensive China and the Chinese Communist Party to the Pakistani society.

Sirajuddin Aziz, while addressing the ceremony as Guest of Honour, congratulated on the 101st founding anniversary of the CPC and spoke highly about President Xi Jinping, Chairman Mao and the founding leadership of the CPC. He emphasized to learn from China, especially on poverty alleviation. He said there is so much learning but we are celebrating in the media, they are celebrating the deposit of China 2.3 billion USD with our Central Bank, we ought to be, in my personal view as a proud Pakistani, ashamed! Borrowing is not to

be celebrated. Earning is to be celebrated. Borrowing means that you are living on borrowed money, for how long?

He said next month we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary of independence but after 75 years where we stand? He said we need to work on how we need to improve our economic structures.

He appreciated the meritorious services of Chinese CG Li Bijian and his team to improve relations in every corner between the two countries. He said we should appreciate that China has done so much for us.

Mubasher Mir congratulated the 101st anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and said that the achievements made by the Communist Party of China under its leadership over the past 100 years amaze the world. With brilliant achievements, absolute poverty has been completely eliminated at home, and great initiatives such as the "Belt and Road" and "Community with a Shared Future for Mankind" have been proposed in the international community.

Ceremony held to pay tribute to Dr. Gopi Chand Narang

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi held a function to pay homage to Indian critic Dr. Gopi Chand Narang at Hasina Moin Hall which was presided over by renowned scholar, writer, and poet Iftekhar Arif.

Prof. Shafi Qadwai (India), Nasir Abbas Nair (Lahore), Satya Pal Anand, Mohammad Hameed Shahid, and Asghar Nadeem Syed spoke online, while Dr. Ambareen Haseeb Amber performed the duties of moderator. Iftekhar Arif said that Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. Its greatest critic was Gopi Chand Narang. Urdu became very poor without him. The passing away of Shams-ur-Rehman, Shamim Hanafi, and Gopi Chand Narang is a loss for us. Narang loved me very much. This is also my loss. Narang was a very good friend, father, and husband.



I have never seen Gopi Chand Narang as a hard-working person in his life. His prose is so excellent that man was compelled to read it himself. "We are very bigoted people. We did not give Gopi Chand Narang the place he deserved. In India, he was punished for working on Urdu. He wrote critical articles and confronted him. Academic institutions and here People ignored him because he was a Hindu. The Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi should be credited for choosing a great man and paying tribute to him,

Professor Shafi Qadwai Online from India said that, Gopi Chand Narang used to say that language has no religion, he used to look at things in a new way, he lived a full life, he has published more than 70 books which gives a new kind of critical insight.

Satyapal Anand, while talking to the US online, said that in the last conversation with Narang, he realized that he was losing his senses. Tried to share memories that only he and I could share, but perhaps by then his memory had been affected, he said. Asghar Nadeem Syed said

that Gopi Chand Narang was a very simple man, he connected many people through literature, and he used to say that language is the only language.

No, there is life and the strings of life should spread all over the world. Urdu is not a trivial word. The way he described its civilization and history is a matter of pride for us. Mohammad Hameed Shahid shared his thoughts online from Islamabad.

Expressing that Gopi Chand Narang wanted to explain that creation decides what the direction of criticism should be, it also determines its style and rules and also paves the way, he said that the love and devotion with literature Gopi were seen in a few oranges, hardly found in anyone. Dr. Nasir Abbas Nair said that Narang Sahib had a real and esoteric connection with Urdu and he loved it deeply. He did a lot of research on Urdu.

Fahdel Sheikh vows to promote tourism

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The Honorary Consul General of Philippine in Pakistan Fahdel Sheikh met the Tour Operators at Philippine Consulate General office Lahore.

From Explorer Den CEO Jamil Raza, Mian Waheed Uddin CEO North Air, Nadeem Shahzad Tour & Guide, Saqib Sabir Pak Aim Travel, Muhammad Ali Skuf Travel, Farrukh Gilani Travels More, Ali Nisar Time Travel KHI, Asif, Zeb Travel, Jamil Travel Culture and Sameer Tahir participated in the meeting.

During the first session Fahdel Sheikh gave the presentation regarding the Philippine culture, business and food. On this occasion he said that we will do the work with Tours Operator for the promotion of business in Pakistan and Philippine.

He said that Pakistan businessman can flourish their business in Philippine in the different sectors particularly pharmaceutical, surgical items and agriculture and Philippine government fully support to them regarding the business sectors.

Munaza Kazmi

Have anyone of you ever thought about Holiday in Baluchistan? Obviously after reading this you would book the first flight to Baluchistan.

A beauty in itself, a hub of energy and trade corridor, a link to South-Asian countries and a treasure on Earth in terms of Natural Resources, Baluchistan is a must-visit place and an integral part of Pakistan.

Exploring Baluchistan is not just sight-seeing adventure, it is the intense culture, rich tradition, colorful handicrafts, wonderful flavors, delicious food, mesmerizing aromas moreover half of Pakistan is in its name.

Gwadar, located on a natural hammerhead shaped headland in the

promising land of Baluchistan. The city is situated on a tapered and sandy 12 kilometers long strip that links Pakistan to rocky outcropping in the Arabian Sea known as Koh-e-Batil or Gwadar Peninsula.

However, Gwadar adores strategic significance for not just tourism but the economic development of Pakistan, reasoning the gateway to CPEC and OBOR. Gwadar's CPEC routes are based on M8 motorway and Makran coastal highway that connects the province of Baluchistan with the rest.

Shahi Bazar, that enjoys a rich flamboyant past, as Sultans come to buy and sell into it, till date its alive and inspiring, selling numerous of local handicraft that I bet you would buying in numbers and the aromatic delicious food.

Oman Fort built in the times of Sultanate of Oman probably 16th

Our Baluchistan

Century. The promising building is also a museum, housing treasures of the past.

On the South is Koh-i-Batil, at an altitude of 470 feet, where the huge waves come to embrace the land. The Beach promises a flamboyantly calm evening, while sun setting, going into the faraway lands with seagulls making way to home, dramatic!

Discovering further towards the interior of Baluchistan, you need to drive from Gwadar on Makran Coastal Highway, this is one of the meaningful roads of Pakistan, since it connects the port town of Gwadar to the entire province. Moreover, like Karakoram this highway has its own mysterious, dramatic and magical views.

Hingol National Park, Hingol National Park, that is one of the natural wonders of Pakistan, covering the area of 1,650 square kilometers with its rocky terrain, mountain caves, and beautiful beaches, and home to the huge anomalous rock formation known as the 'Sphinx of Pakistan' A mythical creature having the body of a lion and the head of a human. The structure boasts enough similarities to remind you of the sphinxes in Egypt. However, on a closer look it appears to be guarding the temple-like structure near it.....and "Princess of Hope" standing high on a mountain range running along Makran Coastal Highway, this attractively sculpted object, which is a result of an alleged natural

occurring, will leave you spellbound.

An exotic beach about 150 kilometers from Zero-Point on Makran Coastal Highway, Kund Malir is scenic and is considered to be one of the most picturesque beaches in this world.

Then comes Ormara an old coastal town. Its historical routes are linked with Alexander the Great, who stayed here with his army for a few days on his way back from the Indus region after conquering Sindh, Punjab, and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa regions in 400 BC. His general, Ormoz, died there, and the present-day city was named after him. It is a spectacular view for tourists. With fun in the waters at day and bonfires and camping at night, it is the most sought-after place to visit.

Moving further we would be heading towards Quetta city district and division of Baluchistan and the 5th largest of Pakistan. The city enjoys rich history

dating from 11th Century when Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi conquered it, and on top it is a love land for all Pakistanis because it's the region where founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, have spent last of his memorable his days. Moreover, the valley is abundant with juniper and pistachio forests and diverse wild life. Also, if anyone is obsessed with horses, it's the right place to be, as horse breeding is thought to be the passion of locals.

Also, I would suggest you plan a visit to the colorful bazars where you would found yourself in brightest of colors of silk, handmade coppers, precious jewels, luxurious rugs, and mesmerizing perfumes, not less than that of the Arabian Nights.

I would say, it's hard to describe the Baluchistan without getting carried away.



Constitutional Referendum

Kazakhstan moving from a Super-Presidential Republic to Presidential Republic: Envoy

Political reforms will also ensure economic development in mine country: Kistafin

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin

Naveed Ahmad Khan &

On June 5, 2022, Kazakhstan conducted a referendum for far-reaching changes in the country's constitution. According to Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, all the amendments are aimed at strengthening the system of checks and balances, and supporting them, will mean "a resolute no to corruption, nepotism, the monopoly in politics and the economy. The government sought nod to 55 amendments in 33 articles of the constitution, which included a transition from a super-powerful presidential rule to a one where parliament has relatively more space to influence the country's polity.

According to the Central Election Commission, 77.18% of voters favored the amendments, aimed at decentralizing decision-making; as many as 68% of registered voters had turned out to vote in the referendum. Big changes are ahead for Kazakhstan people, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stated. The novelties the Kazakhstan people vote for provide for big changes in the public life of the country. The change will entail more autonomy for local authorities to make them more effective.

Henceforth, the president will no longer have a decisive say in determining the composition of the senate while the lower house will be filled through a mix of nominations and party-based elections. In this context, 'The Daily Spokesman' moved a request to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin for an exclusive interview which he graciously accepted. Here are some extracts of interview for the information of our worthy readers.

Q: How would you like to elaborate constitutional referendum?

Ans: The main idea was to introduce amendments to our constitution with the goal to strengthen the parliament, to make our local representatives policy independent, to limit powers of our president, to introduce the constitutional courts, to introduce human rights' commissioner to the constitution and to strengthen their role and status as constitutional body. Upon the initiative of our president, now we



dent is limiting his powers and setting an example. Before these amendments, he was entitled to cancel acts of the local governments, now he can't do this, but the local representatives can do this. What he is trying to do is, he is making our local authorities more independent from our government, our president and to make them accountable and dependent on the local communities.

Q: How many parties took part in previous general elections?

Ans: Only three political parties contested last parliamentary elections; now we believe that in next elections we will have much more political parties and groups. In my humble opinion from seven to ten political parties to be represented in our parliament. Another important part; previously we had constitutional council, now we have established our constitutional court; it means any citizen, if doesn't agree with any kind of legislation, legal provisions whatsoever, he can apply, he can disagree in the legal framework, he can go the constitutional court to set this application showing his discontent and disagreement with our legislation.

Q: What were the reasons which forced your country to make such constitutional changes?

Ans: You know as our president said on several times, it was demand of our people. In January, unfortunately, you might know, we had some tragic events in our country and some people tried to use peaceful protests to overthrow our government. But in fact, from the very beginning our people were expressing their discontent with what is happening in our country and they were demanding for political liberalization and strengthening of democratic institutions in our country. So it was one of the main reasons our president decided to hold this constitutional referendum.

Q: Can we term constitutional referendum as a step forward towards the more democratization of Kazakhstan?

Ans: Definitely, we believe that it is a great step forward towards further democratization of Kazakhstan. These political reforms will definitely bring out

country to a new level and our president was very clear from the very beginning. He said that without political reforms it would be impossible to expect economic development as these were closely inter-linked because without political reforms it is impossible improvement in our economy. So he rightly said that we need to do, we need to improve the political situation of our country and it will definitely positively impact the economic situation of Kazakhstan.

Q: How would you like to compare prevailing state democracy in Kazakhstan with that of in other neighbouring countries?

Ans: There are number of international organizations which release their assessments about the level of governance, rule of law, human rights situation about different countries and in general I believe Kazakhstan is doing quite well.

Q: How would you like to comment on future plan about starting rail and bus service between Pakistan and Kazakhstan?

Ans: Last week our president visited Iran and he met with Iranian leadership; during his visit we launched freight train from Kazakhstan to Tehran so we can use this rail link. In last December Pakistan launched ECO train service; Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul. So we can use this link as from Tehran we can deliver goods to Pakistan via this train service. Inshallah in August we will launch direct flight between Almaty and Karachi and it will enhance people to people contact, B2B cooperation and student exchanges and do much more. We are planning to start business hubs in Karachi and Almaty and afterwards will cover Lahore and Islamabad.

Q: Either Kazakh airline or PIA is going to start direct flights between Karachi and Almaty?

Ans: It will be a private Kazakh airline which will start direct flights.

Q: Any progress on cultural cooperation between both the countries?

Ans: Now we are working on dubbing Kazakh movies in Urdu language; we finalized first part of Kazakh movie related to establishment of statehood our nation and it will be interesting for the audience and now we are working on second part of the movie. In August we will air this movie from HUM TV; we have talked to HUM TV and agreed in this regard. We are also going to sign an MoU between cultural ministries of both the countries to organize cultural events on regular basis. Then we will be able to arrange exchange of artists and others. For the first in Central Asian region, Kazakhstan organized an international conference dedicated to 'Legacy of Allama Iqbal' in Almaty and coordinator general COMSTECH Mohammad Iqbal Chaudhry was main person behind this conference. We invited our friends from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and other countries as it was a big international event.

Q: Any proposal to air Kazakh historical plays in Pakistan?

Ans: We have number of very good historical plays



and movies related to nomadic civilization in Kazakhstan and definitely Pakistan is a great part of this civilization. So in August or September we are planning to organize Kazakhstan Cinema days here in Pakistan. We have invited our people from film industry to show their movies in Pakistani cinemas.

Q: What about trade cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan?

Ans: Last year we doubled the tune of bilateral trade to almost US\$197 million while in 2020 our bilateral trade was US\$103 million, but we are far behind the actual potential of bilateral trade. In May we organized single country exhibition and we invited 132 business people from Pakistan to Kazakhstan for this exhibition. They established good connections with our business community members. We organized their visits to different areas of Kazakhstan and gradually we will have good fruits of these endeavours.

Q: What sort of problems Pakistani businessmen face in Kazakhstan?

Ans: Absence of the banking channels is the major problem confronted by the business communities of the both the countries; however, now we are establishing the banking channels between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. We picked up several banks of your side and several banks of our side and last two weeks we had online talks between our commercial banks and I am happy to say that both sides expressed interest to find some sort of agreement to resolve this issue. So I hope to have some positive results in this month and finally we will establish banking channels.

Second major problem is unavailable direct flights between both the countries as we have start direct flights we will have more exchanges of business delegations mutually. Then comes the visa regime and we are working on this issue and we have made some legislations to bring about some changes in visa regime. A businessman having potential business partner in Kazakhstan can get visa in three days only. Last week we held

very first session of bilateral business council organized by FPCCI and I believe that new people who have come in FPCCI are very enthusiastic in this regard.

Q: What problems are faced by Kazakh businessmen here in Pakistan?

Ans: Main problem faced by Kazakh businessmen in Pakistan is lack of information and we need to fill this gap. Our businessmen, academics, and even general public know nothing about each other. We have to spread information this is why I hold regular interactions with media friends like you. Therefore we need to establish cooperation between our media communities, establish collaboration between our TV channels and only by this we can fill the gap of lack of information.

Q: A present which countries are major business partners of Kazakhstan?

Ans: Leading trading partners and investors in Kazakhstan hail from European countries, US, China and other big countries, but we also focus on developing good trade relations with regional countries. We have to develop our cooperation with Pakistan, Afghanistan and other regional countries. We can help each other as Kazakhstan and Central Asia is land locked region so Pakistan can help the in having access to warm waters. Vis versa Kazakhstan can help Pakistan in access to Eurasian Economic Union; Central Asian markets and finally into European markets.

Dubbed in Urdu, Kazakh historical movies to be aired from Pakistani TV channel

have introduced ban for the members of family of our president to be high officials in the government or in the state owned companies. Now members of the family of our president cannot be nominated / appointed as high officials anymore. We believe that it is a great step forward.

Another very important point is diversifying our political landscape; upon the initiative of our president now we are easing the registration of regional political parties. For example, previously if someone wanted to establish a political party, he had to gather some 20,000 people, but now only 5000 people are required for the purpose. So we believe that in result of such initiatives, our political landscape will be diversified and during next parliamentary elections we will have more political groups to contest the elections. In general, these amendments to our constitution will strengthen the political system of our country, will liberalize our society and improve democratization process taking place in our country. So these are the main goals as our president wants to keep a check and balance and make our parlia-



ment as key player in our political life. Another idea is to engage our civil society into our political life; to make our government more accountable before the citizens of our country and before the civil society of Kazakhstan. Now we are moving from a super Presidential Republic to Presidential Republic so presi-

Q: Can we term constitutional referendum as a step forward towards the more democratization of Kazakhstan?

Ans: Definitely, we believe that it is a great step forward towards further democratization of Kazakhstan. These political reforms will definitely bring out

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**
 (mszk786@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Economy measures - Earning by Saving

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif

There is no denying the fact that there are some genuine economic difficulties faced by our beloved country, Pakistan. But it is also a fact that ours is a great nation with 22 crores of population equipped with atomic capabilities. Even a petty sacrifice by every citizen could produce a big contribution which could ensure stability. Nothing is insurmountable. Serious thinking and all round effective frugality measures could certainly bring down the state expenditure and enhance exports. The measures so far taken are neither systematic nor persistent. Some efforts made in this respect seem just a leap in the dark and most often altered.

This article simply aims at dealing with one aspect of our economy which we need to review the matter of undue and extra ordinary concessions a perks granted by some large organisations like WAPDA, PIA, RAILWAY and coast-

al guards etc. Some of them are financially sinking ships although they had monopoly in their domain and now those are surviving on annual subsidies and bail out packages borne by the state. The facilities were granted as an incentive for better performance but are causing havoc to our economy demanding financial aid.

The said organizations have granted concessions and perks over and above the salary and allowances allowed to civil servants. These privileges need to be reviewed in the situation of glaring losses of PIA, Railways, Steel Mills and similar other autonomous bodies. If we take extensive and exhaustive examination of the perks and privileges the financial consequences are alarming.

The department of the Railways has an old practice of issuing on permanent basis to its employees free travel passes in their trains. PIA grants, in addition to bonus, internal and external free family trips to their employees. The department of coastal guards also allows purchase of confiscated items on depreciated price to its staff. Even income tax department is also believed to grant

bonus on the recovery of tax to their staff as an incentive.

Analysis of department of WAPDA would reveal the gravity of financial losses caused to them by undue concessions to its employees. WAPDA has 48 thousand officers and one lac and five thousand other employees. All of them are allowed free of cost electricity which consume 39 crores and 10 lac free electric units which cost five billion and 25 crores of rupees per annum. Although the inefficiency of WAPDA employees is evident from line losses, non-payment of electricity bills and kunda system very common in all provinces. Even the government has to engage police force to effect recovery from defaulters. Normally a lineman is posted in his own domestic area where he also manages non-payments of bills from his negotiators and sometimes their amount is shifted to customers who are regular in payments of bills. So the facility of free electricity units, merits to be withdrawn or at least stipulated with performance.

Similar is the position of PIA. It is burdened with over-staffing and the privileges of free internal and exter-

nal trips of their staff despite continuous annual losses and demand of huge amount of subsidies. The ex-Minister of PIA caused irreparable loss to the PIA by his unwise and unscrupulous statements and thereby damaged the only asset of goodwill of PIA within the country and abroad. So many our outstanding pilots serving in foreign airlines and Air Force suffered heavily and they were removed from service for no fault on their part on the sole plea that the Pakistani Minister PIA had dubbed them as unqualified and fraudulent.

It would be appropriate, therefore to refer the matter of unusual perks and privileges allowed by aforementioned organisations to the pay and pension commission of the Federal Government to exercise vigilance on payment of unusual salaries.

In some departments purchase of expensive vehicles for their officers has also increased the financial liabilities. 800 Assistant Commissioners were provided new vehicles costing 6 billion rupees, in addition to fuel expenses. In the prevailing circumstances such expenses

should be curtailed.

Another aspect to be modified for the sake of frugality effort is the concept of protocol. The government could reduce the colossal expenditures incurred on protocol and body guard system which engages bulk to police force and resultantly the person and property of the public at large is jeopardised and compromised. That is why street crimes are rampant in the country. The number of flags may be reviewed as each national flag needs 24 hourly police guard.

Now the timings of the government and business markets are being dictated by princely employees of the Government and wealthy elite class owner of the big plazas and markets. Lawful force should be used against the rich who are indifferent to the painful financial situation of the country and not against the poor population when they become violent due to mismanagement of fiscal policies. Economy measures should be adopted in all fields of our society.

The writer is retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

India exposed

The world is getting scarier of Indian covert designs of its diplomatic moves. India falsely tries to depict before the world that there is no freedom fight continuing in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Whereas the on the ground realities are quite different because Kashmiris are showing their full resentment towards Indian government's anti human being policies in IIOJK. India has converted IIOJK into world most densely militarized occupied zone and it is not acceptable to any of India's neighbor. By keeping over a million troops stationed in IIOJK, India on one side continuously pose security threats to Pakistan as well as wants to keep China also under pressure.

On one hand Pakistan has often raised this issue on international forums and demand just right to self determination for Kashmiris and on the other hand China has also serious reservations about Indian activities along LAC as well as inside the occupied territory. A few days back India raised another issue on diplomatic fronts by announcing to hold G-20 meeting in IIOJK just to show the world that there is quite normalcy in IIOJK.

Now China has strongly opposed the Indian plan of holding the G-20 meeting in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and called on the member of the grouping to focus on economic recovery and avoid politicizing the relevant issue. China's position on Kashmir is consistent and clear cut. It is a legacy issue between India and Pakistan. It should be properly resolved in accordance with the relevant United Nations (UN) resolutions and bilateral agreement. Relevant parties should avoid complicating the situation with the unilateral move.

Pakistan has already completely rejected India's attempt to hold the G-20 meeting in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating that the region is under New Delhi's forcible and illegal occupation. As per media reports, India is planning to host the 2023 meetings of the G-20 and its Ministry of External Affairs has issued directives to the authorities in the occupied territory to ensure necessary arrangements. Noting the relevant information, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson stressed to address the disputes through dialogue and consultations and jointly uphold peace and stability.

We need to address the disputes through dialogue and consultation and jointly uphold peace and stability, says Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian. G-20 is a premier forum for international economic cooperation and called on relevant sides to focus on economic recovery and avoid politicizing the relevant issue so as to make positive contribution to improving the global economic governance. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is constructed in the region is completely different in nature than holding of G20 meetings in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

China has undertaken projects to help Pakistan to grow its economy and improve livelihood.

The relevant Chinese companies who run the projects do so with the aim of helping the local people to develop the economy and improve their livelihood and that doesn't mean our position on Kashmir is changed. I have already elaborated on our stern position on Kashmir. With regard to whether China will attend the meeting, the Chinese side will look into that.



Famine in the Horn of Africa demands a global response

Michael Jennings

During his inauguration speech in early June, the new president of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, called attention to the grave threat of famine arising from the severe drought affecting the Horn of Africa.

His plea for action echoed similar calls from humanitarian organizations, which have warned that the worst drought in 40 years represents a major crisis for the region, with millions of people already facing extreme hunger.

Rains have failed across four rainy seasons, which has had devastating effects on harvests, decimated livestock, and forced millions to leave their homes in desperate search of food. While the main concern is how to cope with the crisis and provide the support that is needed right now, the fear is that the situation will only worsen, especially if the rains continue to fail.

Although the crisis affects the wider Horn of Africa region, the problem is particularly severe in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. In Somalia, about 7.1 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, as are 7.2 million people in Ethiopia and 4.1 million in Kenya. About 7.1 million children in the three countries face significant hunger, and 2 million of them are already severely malnourished.

Hunger and famine are only two of the effects of extreme drought. The lack of water contributes to an increased risk of water-borne diseases as a result of more intensive use of the remaining sources.

Moreover, the need to travel greater distances to access water puts women and girls at risk of gender-based violence. It also becomes more

likely that girls will miss school, and UNICEF has warned that child marriage has already begun to increase in the region as part of the desperate response by families in need.

The last major drought in the region before this one, in 2011, killed about 260,000 people, more than half of whom were children. There are fears that the current drought will exact an even higher toll across the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia.

Although the catalyst for this crisis is the weather, it has been exacerbated by the disruption caused by the pandemic and the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine on global food supplies and trade. Almost 90 percent of Somalia's wheat imports come from Russia and Ukraine, and the blocks on exports resulting from the conflict have led to severe shortages and steep spikes in food prices across the region. The cost of basic foodstuffs has increased by two-thirds in Ethiopia and one-third in Somalia.

The situation is a useful reminder that hunger and famine are rarely the products of drought alone — even one as prolonged as this — but are fueled by the politics of money. The region's suffering is tied to a wicked combination of war-induced disruption to the food trade, inflation, falling food production, and a donor community unable or unwilling to respond.

Underpinning these immediate causes is the impact of climate change. In late June, Jan Egeland, who leads the Norwegian Refugee Council, described the crisis as "Somalia's climate emergency," drawing attention to the very real, very substantial effects of the world's changing climate on the increased severity and frequency of such disasters.

While the current crisis is unprecedented in scale, the reality is that prolonged droughts and the threat of famine are likely to occur more

frequently in regions, such as the Horn of Africa, that have long been prone to food crises. This is not only a crisis that requires resolution, therefore, but a foreshadowing of how the climate emergency will increasingly push millions into extreme hunger, especially in regions that are already among the world's most vulnerable.

Yet despite the scale of the problem, the response by the international community has been inadequate.

In addition to the growing need for international aid commitments, there is also a requirement for systemic change. Donors must move away from reactive funding models, which kick in when a crisis has reached a critical point, to proactive ones.

This would help ensure that humanitarian organizations have the resources to respond as soon as a crisis emerges. Relying on donor goodwill at a time of global crisis is a poor way to respond to a challenge on this scale.

For President Mohamud, the drought is one more problem he faces as he returns to office. This is his second term and some of the challenges that undermined his presidency between 2012 and 2017 remain in play: High levels of corruption, tensions within the ruling elite, and ongoing violence from the Al-Shabaab insurgency.

But the deafness of the global community in response to a severe and worsening crisis will only make it harder for him to govern, leaving millions to face extreme hunger as a climate-fueled famine continues to devastate the Horn of Africa region. (Courtesy: Arab News)

Michael Jennings is reader in international development at SOAS University of London, where he works on issues related to global health and the politics and history of global development.

China's efforts in World Heritage Sites conservation

Mathew Wong

The world's cultural and natural heritage is an important outcome of the development of human civilization and natural evolution. It is also an important vehicle for the exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations.

With 56 properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, China has rich cultural and natural resources. As a country with so many long-standing historical and uniquely natural sites, China has made great endeavors to maintain and strengthen local characteristics to protect its cultural civilization for the benefit of both the current and future generations.

Protection and conservation of heritage sites have not only effectively protected China's representative geological relics, the gorgeous mountains, forests, and lakes, as well as the rare animal and plant species, but it is also significant for the protection of the country's cultural relics and historic areas. This thereby brings economic benefits for local governments and the people.

Along with the development of its tourism industry and piquing the interest of visitors from across the world, these increasingly popular world heritage sites are bolstering related industries, such as catering, retail, and transportation. As such, local governments are able to utilize part of their income from these sectors as expenditure for cultural conservation works, such as by recruiting technical experts, purchasing sophisticated tools, and introducing the latest technology to conserve the sites.

Moreover, the Chinese government has

stepped up efforts to arouse public awareness toward the conservation of cultural and natural heritage sites, inspiring their enthusiasm for the cultural relics and encouraging them to contribute their own efforts. Since 2006, China has celebrated Cultural Heritage Day on the second Saturday of June. In 2017, it was renamed Cultural and Natural Heritage Day.

In the face of ongoing concerns that an influx of visitors to heritage sites could pose irreversible damage to protected cities, towns, and villages in the long run, China has made great efforts to strike a balance between development and conservation. Part of these efforts is to understand that economic development should never come at the expense of the environment. While the underlying values matter, environmental implications are even more important.

To better ensure balanced development, the country aims to continue to formulate long-term sustainable development plans and strategies, which will ensure that its cultural and natural heritage sites are maintained in good integrity.

It is anticipated that authorities will impose both hard and soft measures to ensure the proper management and operation of cultural and natural heritage sites, and together with the joint efforts of the public and experience learned from other countries, China will continue to pursue sustainable development. This in turn will help it better protect its heritage and make contributions to the conservation of humanity overall. (Courtesy: China.org.cn)

Mathew Wong is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Education University of Hong Kong.

Russia claims capture of pivotal city in eastern Ukraine

Ukraine stages fierce resistance in weeks of fighting

KYIV/MOSCOW: Russia's defense minister said Russian forces took control Sunday of the last major Ukrainian-held city in Ukraine's Luhansk province, bringing Moscow closer to its stated goal of seizing all of Ukraine's Donbas region.



capture the last stronghold of resistance in the province.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told President Vladimir Putin that Russia's troops together with members of a local separatist militia "have established full control over the city of Lysychansk," a ministry statement said.

Taking Lysychansk constitutes "the liberation of the Luhansk People's Republic," one of two separatist regions in Ukraine that Russia recognizes as sovereign, the statement said.

Ukrainian fighters spent weeks trying to defend Lysychansk and to keep it from falling to Russia, as neighboring Sievierodonetsk did a week ago. A presidential adviser predicted late Saturday that the city's fate could be determined within days.

Ukrainian officials did not immediately provide an update on its status. Earlier Sunday, Luhansk's governor said Russian forces were strengthening their positions in a grueling fight to

"The occupiers threw all their forces on Lysychansk. They attacked the city with incomprehensibly cruel tactics," Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said on the Telegram messaging app. "They suffer significant losses, but stubbornly advance. They are gaining a foothold in the city."

A river separates Lysychansk from Sievierodonetsk. Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to the Ukrainian president, said during an online interview late Saturday that Russian forces had managed for the first time to cross the river from the north, creating a "threatening" situation.

Arestovych said they had not reached the center of the city but that the course of the fighting indicated the battle for Lysychansk would be decided by

Monday. Luhansk and neighboring Donetsk are the two provinces that make up the Donbas, where Russia has focused its offensive since pulling back from northern Ukraine and the capital, Kyiv, in the spring.

Pro-Russia separatists have held portions of both eastern provinces since 2014, and Moscow recognizes all of Luhansk and Donetsk as sovereign republics. Syria's government said Wednesday that it would also recognize the "independence and sovereignty" of the two areas.

An occupation of Lysychansk would open the way for the Russians to move west into Donetsk province, where the sizable Ukrainian-held city of Sloviansk has come under rocket attacks several times since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. Mayor Vadym Lyakh said new attacks Sunday killed an unspecified number of people.

Elsewhere in the war, the exiled mayor of the Russia-occupied city of Melitopol said Sunday that Ukrainian rockets destroyed one of four Russian military bases in the city.

The governor of the Belgorod region in western Russia said four people were killed Sunday by fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile. The Russian Defense Ministry said two Ukrainian drones were shot down over the city of Kursk.

Kursk regional governor Roman Starovoi said the town of Tetkino, on the Ukraine border, came under mortar fire.

The leader of neighboring Belarus, a Russian ally, claimed Saturday that Ukraine fired missiles at military targets on Belarusian territory several days ago but all were intercepted by an air defense system. President Alexander Lukashenko described the alleged strike as a provocation and noted that no Belarusian soldiers were fighting in Ukraine.

There was no immediate response from the Ukrainian military. Belarus hosts Russian military units and was used as a staging ground for Russia's invasion. Last week, just hours before Lukashenko was to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Russian long-range bombers fired missiles on Ukraine from Belarusian airspace for the first time.

23 Indian soldiers among 34 dead as landslide hits army post



IMPHAL: At least 34 people, including 23 Indian army personnel, have died and 28 are still missing as a massive landslide hit the 107 Territorial Army (TA) camp in Noney district in the Indian state of Manipur.

The landslide occurred on Wednesday night at the Indian Territorial Army Camp near the Tupul yard railway construction site of the state. The death count due to the landslide has increased to 34, including 23 Indian army personnel, officials said.

So far, 13 personnel of the Territorial Army and five civilians have been rescued, while 28 people are still missing, officials said. "As officials are facing difficulties due to rains and other factors, a Through Wall Radar is also being inducted by air to detect the presence of personnel buried in the debris," an official release said.

The Indian Army, Assam Rifles, Territorial Army and the central and state disaster forces have intensified the efforts to rescue those still stuck beneath the debris. The residents have been asked to stay alert for continuous rain, which may aggravate the situation.

Tunisian constitution panel head blasts president's draft

TUNIS: The head of Tunisia's constitution committee blasted a proposed constitution published by President Kais Saied, local media reported on Sunday, reinforcing opposition fears that Saied was seeking to impose a unilateral charter.



Sadok Belaïd, a former constitutional law professor was named by Saied to draft a "new constitution for a new republic", said Saied's version was dangerous and did not resemble the first draft proposed by the constitution committee, the Assabeh newspaper said.

Belaïd said the draft constitution published by the president contains chapters that could pave the way for "a disgraceful dictatorial regime".

The president has not commented on the constitution since he published the text on Thursday in Tunisia's official gazette. The constitution, which would give Saied near-absolute powers, will be put to a referendum this month.

His proposal would dilute the roles of the parliament and judiciary, prompting accusations he is undoing democratic gains that Tunisians won in a 2011 revolution.

Saied seized most powers last year, brushing aside the 2014 democratic constitution and dismissing the elected parliament to say he would rule by decree while he remakes the political system.

A chapter of the proposed constitution includes the phrase, "In case of the imminent danger, the president can extend his term." Belaïd said this would "pave the way for a disgraceful dictatorship".

Saied last year used an "imminent danger" clause in the current constitution to dismiss the government and control executive powers, establishing one-man rule.

His proposed constitution would create a Council of Regions as a second chamber of parliament but gives no details on how it would be elected or what powers it would have.

Belaïd said the president's proposal to limit membership of the Constitutional Court to judges named by the president would undermine its independence.

Scottish voters remain split over independence



LONDON: Voters in Scotland remain evenly split over whether or not they support independence from the rest of Britain, a poll published by the Sunday Times showed, days after the Scottish government set out plans for a referendum on the subject next year.

Last week, Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon announced plans for a second independence referendum to be held on October 2023, and vowed to take legal action if the British government blocks it.

The Panelbase survey showed 48% of respondents were in favour of independence, 47% were opposed and 5% did not know. A previous online Panelbase poll in April had 47% in favour and 49% against. The latest results were based on a sample size of 1,010 people.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his ruling Conservative Party strongly oppose a referendum, saying the issue was settled in 2014 when Scots voted against independence by 55% to 45%.

Other polls in 2022 vary, with some showing a similar split to the 2014 result, and others showing the gap narrowing.

DPRK hits at hostility of US and its vassal forces

Spokesman Report

PYONGYANG: A spokesperson for the DPRK Foreign Ministry Saturday gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA as regards the fact that the U.S. and its vassal forces openly revealed their hostility towards the DPRK during the recent NATO summit:



During the recent NATO summit, the chief executives of the U.S., Japan and south Korea put their heads together for confrontation with the DPRK and discussed the dangerous joint military countermeasures against it including the launch of tripartite joint military exercises, taking issue with its legitimate exercise of the right to self-defense on no ground.

The U.S. and its vassal forces inserted a hostile expression of finding fault with the DPRK's measure for bolstering its military capability for self-defense

in a new "strategic concept" adopted at the NATO summit.

Such anti-DPRK row of the hostile forces synchronizes with the start of the RIMPAC joint military exercises, the U.S.-led multinational naval combined exercises, and south Korea's military lunacy to destroy peace and stability in the Korean peninsula as well as the Asia-Pacific region through the largest-ever scale dispatch of its naval force.

The recent NATO summit more clearly proves that the U.S. pursues a plan to

contain Russia and China at the same time by realizing the "militarization" of Europe and forming a military alliance like NATO in the Asia-Pacific region and keeps the U.S.-Japan-south Korea tripartite military alliance as an important means for materializing the plan.

Owing to the reckless military moves of the U.S. and its vassal forces, dangerous situation, in which a nuclear war might break out simultaneously in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, has been created and the world peace and security came to

be placed in the most critical condition after the end of the Cold War.

The reality clearly shows that the real purpose of the U.S. spreading the rumor about "threat from north Korea" is to provide an excuse for attaining military supremacy over the Asia-Pacific region including the Korean Peninsula, and furthermore, the rest of the world.

The prevailing situation more urgently calls for building up the country's defence to actively cope with the rapid aggravation of the security environment of the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the world.

The DPRK will reliably defend the sovereignty and interests of the country and its territory from all sorts of threats caused by the hostile acts of the U.S. and its vassal forces and fulfill its responsible duty to ensure peace and security in the Korean Peninsula and the region.

Sri Lanka struggling to pay for fuel shipments



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka is struggling to raise \$587 million to pay for about half a dozen fuel shipments, a top minister said on Sunday as the cash-strapped country tries to cope with its worst financial crisis in decades.

The country of 22 million people is unable to pay for essential import of food items, fertiliser, medicines and fuel due to a severe dollar crunch.

Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said new fuel shipments were being lined up but the country is struggling to raise enough funds to pay as the central bank can supply only about \$125 million.

Sri Lanka only has 12,774 tons of diesel and 4,061 tons of petrol left in its government reserves, he told reporters in Colombo, the commercial centre of the island nation.

"This week we will need \$316 million to pay for new shipments. If we add two crude oil shipments this amount shoots up to \$587 million," Wijesekera said.

The first shipment of 40,000 tons of diesel from Coral Energy is expected to arrive around July 9 and partial payment of \$49 million has to be made for a second one from Vitol by Thursday.

Faced with severely limited diesel and petrol stocks Sri Lanka last week closed schools, asked public employees to work from home and restricted government fuel supplies to essential services. The minister said the country will have to attempt to raise funds from the open market and seek more flexible payment options from suppliers.

Plans to settle the \$800 million owed to seven suppliers for purchases made this year were being discussed, he said.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials will continue to hold talks with Sri Lanka for a possible \$3 billion bailout package, the global lender said last week after wrapping up a 10-day visit to Colombo.

However, immediate release of funds from the IMF is unlikely because the country has first to get its debt on to a sustainable path.

APHC urges Kashmiris to observe Martyrs' Week

SRINAGAR: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has appealed to the freedom-loving Kashmiris living across the Line of Control, Pakistan and other parts of the world to observe Martyrs' Week from 6th to 13th July, 2022.

The APHC issued a calendar containing various programmes to be observed in connection with the Martyrs' Week. As per the calendar, 8th July will be observed as Resistance Day to mark the martyrdom anniversary of popular youth leader, Burhan Wani, and his associates and 13th July shall be observed as Kashmir Martyrs' Day. The APHC has urged people to

assemble in Burhan Wani's native town Tral on July 8 and the Martyrs' Graveyard at Naqashband Sahib in Srinagar on July 13 where the martyrs of 1931 are buried to offer Fateha.

Meanwhile, the newly-established State Investigation Agency, today, conducted raids at multiple locations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The sleuths of the agency accompanied by paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force and Indian police carried out raids particularly in central Kashmir. The SIA sleuths also raided the house of illegally detained Hurriyat lead-

er Fayaz Ahmad at Bopat in Beerwah area of Budgam district and harassed his family members.

The Travel Agents Association of Kashmir has condemned harassment of locals as well as tourists in the name of security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra. The Travel Agents Association President, Farooq Ahmed Kuthoo in a statement issued in Srinagar said many tourists have got stuck on highways due to severe restrictions. He said preferential treatment to Yatris is badly affecting Kashmir's economy.

The National Conference leader, Hasnain Masoodi, talking to media persons in Srinagar expressed concern over halt to normal life and closure of business activities on the yatra routes in Kashmir. He said trucks laden with perishable goods including fruit have stranded on Srinagar-Jammu highway, which may cause huge losses to the traders.

The APHC-AJK Convenor, Mahmood Ahmad Saghar, in a letter addressed to the heads of G-20 countries said that India's contentious plan to hold next G20 summit in IIOJK was a ploy aimed at deflecting the world's attention from the Kashmir dispute.

Palestinians give bullet that killed journalist to US

RAMALLAH/WEST BANK: The Palestinian Authority has handed the bullet that killed prominent Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to US authorities for forensic examination, a Palestinian official said on Saturday.



Abu Akleh was killed on May 11 while covering an Israeli military raid in the Palestinian city of Jenin in the occupied West Bank. Her death sparked Palestinian outrage and international condemnation.

"The relevant parties in the state of Palestine agreed to allow the US side to conduct ballistic works on the bullet. It was handed over to them," Akram al-Khatib, General Prosecutor for the Palestinian Authority, said in a statement published by the official Palestinian news agency WAFA.

There was no immediate comment from US diplomatic officials in Jerusalem. The Israeli military, prime minister's office and defence ministry did not immediately comment when asked whether Israel would be cooperating with the US investigation and, if so, how.

Defence Minister Benny Gantz said in May that Israel was "prepared to conduct an investigation in collaboration with international actors". After its own investigation, the Pales-

tinian Authority said Abu Akleh had been shot by an Israeli soldier in a "deliberate murder".

Israel has denied the accusation and says it is continuing its own investigation. But it says it cannot determine whether she was shot accidentally by an Israeli soldier or by a Palestinian during an exchange of fire without examining the bullet to see if it matches an Israeli military rifle.

US President Joe Biden is expected to meet separately with Palestinian and Israeli leaders during a visit to the region on July 13-16.

Video footage showed that Abu Akleh, 51, was wearing a blue vest clearly marked "Press" when she was shot. At least two colleagues who were with her said they had come under Israeli sniper fire without being near any fighters.

Argentine president scrambles to replace economy chief

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine President Alberto Fernandez held meetings and telephone calls on Sunday morning as he scrambled to find a new economy minister, official sources said, after the exit of ally Martin Guzman.

"No news," a government spokesperson told Reuters on Sunday morning. Guzman, 39, submitted his resignation late on Saturday amid rising tensions within the ruling Peronist coalition of how to handle economic crises that have been exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and sky-high inflation.

Fernandez has yet to publicly address the resignation of Guzman, a moderate

who had served as economy minister since the president took office in late 2019 and was the driving force behind major debt restructurings.

Guzman was key to sealing a new \$44 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this year to replace a failed 2018 program, as well as other major debt restructurings with local and international creditors.

Fernandez's choice for Guzman's successor will be an important signal for the direction his government will take on economic policy over a tightly controlled foreign exchange market, ongoing debt deals and trade. Argentina

is a major export of soy, wheat and corn.

Guzman had come under fire from the militant wing of the ruling coalition around powerful Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, which has been pushing for more state spending to support hard-hit Argentines.

He had been balancing that pressure with the need to cut a deep fiscal deficit, which had become tougher amid soaring energy import costs that have hit foreign currency reserves. "We are facing a complex political crisis, deepened by the fight for power," said Rosendo Fraga, a political analyst.

U Microfinance Bank successfully closes of Additional Tier-1 Capital TFC



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: U Microfinance Bank Limited has announced the successful closure of its Fully Paid up, Rated, Privately Placed / DSLR Listed, Unsecured, Subordinated, Perpetual and Non-Cumulative Debt Instrument Additional Tier 1 Capital TFCs of PKR 1,000,000,000. These TFCs will contribute towards U Bank's Tier-1 capital for Capital Adequacy Ratio ("CAR") purposes and for the Bank's on-going business operations to maintain its growth momentum while complying with the requirements of SBP.

In an Industry first, U Bank has successfully acted as the sole arranger of this instrument. This is a momentous milestone for the Microfinance industry, as for the very first time, a Microfinance Bank has acted as a sole arranger of any instrument issued in the history of Pakistan.

Speaking on this fine achievement, President and CEO of U Bank Kabeer Naqvi said "U Bank has always strived to scale to new heights not only for itself but also as a service to the microfinance industry. This achievement is a result of sheer hard work, dedication and commitment from team U Bank and is a testament of the potential this sector is capable of achieving. U Bank will continue to innovate and strive to achieve greater progress in order to serve its last mile customer base, thereby achieving its mission of banking the unbanked customer of this country".

He also expressed gratitude to investors and partners who have been very supportive throughout this journey and who helped U Bank in achieving this milestone. He also appreciated the role of the central bank for acknowledging U Bank's unique role as an innovative financial institution.

Rs1,949.72m released for 13 petroleum sector projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has released funds amounting to Rs1,949.72 million to execute seven ongoing and six new petroleum-related projects during the last fiscal year under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2021-22) against a total allocation of Rs3,249.54 million.

Out of the total disbursement of Rs1,949.72 million, around Rs586.54 million have been spent on petroleum projects to accelerate oil and gas exploration activities and achieve self-sufficiency in the energy sector, according to official data available with APP.

As per the PSDP document, funds amounting to Rs1,473.683 million had been earmarked for seven ongoing schemes, out of which Rs 263 million were meant for the establishment of the National Minerals Data Centre (NMDC), Rs345.321 for the Expansion and Up-gradation of Pakistan Petroleum Core House (PETCORE), Rs30 million for Geological Mapping on 50 Toposheets, out of 354 unmappped Toposheets of Outcrop Area of Balochistan Province, Rs385.336 million for strengthening and up-gradation of Karachi Laboratories Complex (KLC) at HDIP Operations Office, Karachi, Rs 76.580 million for the supply of 13.5 MMCFD gas at Doorstep (Zero Point) of Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Sindh, Rs 230 million for the supply of 30 MMCFD gas at Doorstep (Zero Point) of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Rs143.446 million for up-gradation of POL testing facilities of HDIP at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and ISO Certification of Petroleum Testing Laboratory at Islamabad.

Rs113.899b to be spent on reinforcement of gas transmission network

The two state-owned companies, SNGPL and SSGC, would collectively spend funds

ISLAMABAD: The two state-owned companies, SNGPL and SSGC, would collectively spend funds amounting to Rs 113.899 billion on the reinforcement of gas transmission networks in their operational areas across the country during the current fiscal year.

"The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) have planned to invest Rs 27,669 million on transmission projects, Rs 77,484 million on distribution projects and Rs 8,746 million on other projects bringing the total investment of Rs 113,899 million during the fiscal year 2022-23," according to an official



document available with APP. During the first nine months of the last

fiscal year (July-March 2021-22), the companies gasified 108 villages and towns at their respective networks, besides laying 67 kilometers (KM) gas transmission pipelines lines, 3,244 KM main and 829 KM services lines.

During the same period in 2020-21, they also provided around 259,212 additional gas connections including 257,644 domestic, 1473 commercial and 95 industrial across the country as compared to 304,573 additional gas connections.

"It is expected that gas will be supplied to approximately 736,060 new consumers (this target is subject to approval/revision by

OGRA during FY2023," the document said, adding the indigenous supply of natural gas witnessed a decline of around 5 per cent and its contribution recorded at 33.1 per cent in the total Primary energy supply mix of the country.

The available statistics indicated that Pakistan had an extensive gas network of over 13,513 KM transmission, 155,679 KM distribution and 41,231 KM service gas pipelines to cater for the requirement of millions of consumers. The number of consumers has increased from 10.3 million to more than 10.7 million across the country. APP



RCCI President Nadeem Rauf in a group photo with the Ambassador of UAE H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem AlZaabi at the embassy pavilion in Mango Festival at a local hotel to mark Pakistan's 75th anniversary.

Shakeel Munir elected as President Islamabad Greens Lions Club



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The first elections for Islamabad Greens Lions Club were held. Muhammad Shakeel Munir has been elected as President, Chaudhry Mohammad Ali and Neelam Khalid as Vice Presidents, Engineer Azharul Islam Secretary General, Gul Sher Sajjad Finance Secretary, Sheikh Jamshed Club Administrator, Chaudhry Javed Iqbal Club Director, Adnan Mukhtar Chairman Club Membership, Saima Huma Chairperson Club Marketing and Raja Ambassador as Club Coordinator. The new Office Bearers will serve for the year 2022-2023

Multiple Council Lions Chairman Iqbal Javed, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Muhammad Naveed

Malik, Chaudhry Masood, Tahir Abbasi, Ashfaq Chatha and others congratulated the newly elected Office Bearers of Islamabad Greens Lions Club.

Speaking on the occasion, the newly elected President, Islamabad Greens Lions Club Muhammad Shakeel Munir expressed his determination that he would try to play a positive role for the betterment of the society through this platform. He thanked the members of the Club for electing him as President and vowed that he would try his best to deliver up to their expectations from this platform. He said that he would play his active role especially for the development of the country, for the betterment of the society and especially, for the welfare of the

weaker sections.

He also congratulated other newly elected team of Islamabad Greens Lions Club. He said that it was an honor for him to lead the first elected cabinet of Islamabad Greens Lions Club and reiterated that he would use all his abilities to strengthen this platform with the help of his team, so that this platform achieves its goals effectively and its performance becomes a great precedent for the newcomers.

The newly elected Vice Presidents of the Club Chaudhry Muhammad Ali, Neelam Khalid and other members of the cabinet also expressed their views and assured the newly elected President Muhammad Shakeel Munir of their full support for achieving the goals of the Club.

Plastic material export witnesses 42.30pc increase

ISLAMABAD: Plastic material exports during the first eleven months of fiscal year of 2021-22 grew up by 42.30 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-May 2021-22, Plastic material worth US \$385,643 were exported as compared to the exports of US \$ 271,014 during the same period of last year.

According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Chemicals and Pharm. products increased by 35.53 percent, worth US \$ 1,368,760 as compared to exports of \$1,009,935 during the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, Pharmaceutical exports also increased by 1.64 percent as the exports during current fiscal year recorded worth US \$244,721 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which recorded US \$240,783.

Earthlink bags two 5-Star international property awards

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Earthlink wins the prestigious International Property Awards Asia Pacific in the Best Apartment and Residential Development categories for The Grandé Luxury Apartments and Piano by The Grandé.

Sheraton Grand London, United Kingdom, 23rd June 2022: Earthlink, a leading real estate brand in Pakistan, has won two 5-star awards at the most acclaimed International Property Awards (IPA) for its exceptional high-end projects, 'The Grandé Luxury Apartments and Piano by The Grandé'. The IPA Judges Panel, comprising an independent panel of over 80 industry experts, was chaired by Lord Caithness, Lord Best, and Lord Waverly, members of the House of Lords in the UK Parliament.

CEO Earthlink, Mubushar Hayat was honored at the International Property Awards Asia Pacific ceremony

in London, United Kingdom.

This year, the International Property Awards received unprecedented submissions worldwide, amongst which Earthlink was recognized as the leading real estate brand in Pakistan winning two 5-star awards. Earthlink is known for its history and legacy of a multitude of high-quality residential and mixed-purpose undertakings comprising commercial, business, and purely residential projects. Piano by The Grandé won the award for excelling in the 'Residential Development' category, whereas The Grandé Luxury Apartments bagged the award for standing out in the 'Apartment/Condominium' category. This covetable achievement by Earthlink will raise the benchmark for real estate industry standards in Pakistan and will encourage more local development companies to participate in international award ceremonies.

Innovation key to successful entrepreneurship, says Meher Kashif

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and former Senior Vice President chamber Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday said that innovation is a key to successful entrepreneurship for promoting business and enhancing profitability besides competing local and global markets.

He stated this in his keynote address at a workshop on "The importance of Innovation in Entrepreneurship" held under the aegis of United Business Group in Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Lahore, according to a press release received here.

He said the successful exploitation of new ideas is crucial to a business being able to improve its process

and better the products and services to market, increase its efficiency and most importantly, enhance its profitability.

He said marketplaces, whether local, national, regional or global are becoming highly competitive. Competition has increased as a result and knowledge-sharing opportunities offered by the internet. He said innovation enhances the nature, creativity and design thinking process of a brand.

Meher Kashif said a new business can attain the height of success by learning the steps of creativeness. He said it can open the doors of various opportunities by helping the business to keep up with the trends as it also help grow your business manifolds with better range of products.

Contextualising Commonalities between South Korea and Pakistan

To draw relevant Lessons and Opportunities for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: South Korea is an East Asian country encompassing an area of 100,210 sq. km is geo-politically located on Southern half Korean peninsula having 3,358 islands in south including Jeju Island. It is considered as an island nation as its only land link is with its arch nuclear rival; North Korea in its north. It is bounded by Yellow Sea, Sea of Japan and East China in east, west and south respectively. South Korea is between regional powers like China, Russia and Japan that are already asserting to influence the global and regional politico-economic mosaic which has transformed South Korea in to economic-military battle ground primarily between Washington and Beijing. It is pertinent to comprehend that Pakistan being a geo-political manoeuvre space between China, Central Asia, Europe and Africa has also suffered the scars of Cold War and is still sacrificing between Washington and Beijing. It is pertinent to understand that unlike South Korea, Pakistan could not maintain the balance to find the opportunities out of the battle grounds. While being involved in the wars of others Islamabad had to assert much more for continuity of its policies thus could not capitalize its geo-political manoeuvre space hence it will be vital for Islamabad to accrue benefits from China and US.

South Korean security concerns are primarily based on North Korean nuclear and ballistic missile developments. Apart from these concerns there are maritime security challenges for Republic of Korea (ROK). ROK is practically an island having 2,400 kms long coastline with fifty percent of its trade conducted through sea hence compelling ROK to safe guard its sea lines of communications (SLOCs). South Korean maritime dispute with North Korea in the Yellow Sea is Northern Limit Line which was drawn after Korean War armistice. North Korea insisted on 12 NM deep territorial seas while ROK maintains it only to be 3 NM.

Riddle of Beijing and Seoul relations is getting complex as Seoul's trade with Beijing only is more than its combined trade with the United States and Japan. Nevertheless, Seoul is wary of Chinese any maritime clash, particularly due to unresolved demarcation line along 124-degree east longitude in Yellow Sea. Both countries declared a 200 NM of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that ensued in a significant overlap. ROK maintains that the boundary should be determined by the median line principle while China argues that the line should be proportional to Chinese larger population and longer coastline. However despite conflict both have managed fishing through of temporary measures. Beijing's increasing naval presence in Yellow Sea is restricting ROK, that has asserted jurisdiction over Socotra Rock by constructing Ieodo Ocean

Research Station. However Beijing considers it illegal as the reef falls within their disputed EEZ.

ROK-Japan relations are at their lowest point in years due to maritime dispute over a group of islets, including Liancourt, Ieodo, Parangdo and Suyan Rocks. It is imperative to note that despite multi-dimensional conflicts ROK is maintaining impressive trade and economic relations with Japan due to a merited and sincere hedging policy, which should also be followed by Islamabad to strengthen its economy by balancing its relations with China and US.

Despite its trade dependency on Beijing, Seoul has joined NATO's Cyber Defence Group in May 2022 and has also attended NATO Summit in Madrid from 28th to 30th June 2022. ROK has also ventured to be part of US led anti-China Indo Pacific Economic Forum on 23 May 2022. All such diplomatic advancements aim at expanding engagement between Seoul and QUAD nations against Beijing. In pursuance to its New North Policy Seoul is concentrating on China, Russia and Central Asian Republics to advance its diplo-economic interests. Emerging defence relations with India and US once USA has already deployed 28,000 troops and much US desired Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port has already been operational since 26 Feb 2016; ROK has adopted a New South Policy to add India in to its ASEAN allies. Hence it is vital for Islamabad also to enhance and deepen its

diplomatic influence pragmatically, sincerely and continuously despite its diplo-economic limitations.

With foreign reserves of 446 billion USD and China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Vietnam as major trade partners, ROK's economic freedom score is 74.6 makes its economy 19th freest in the 2022 Index and is ranked 5th among 39 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Its industry mainly includes electronics, automobiles, telecommunications, shipbuilding, and chemicals, steel. During 2020, ROK's exported of machines, chemical products, instruments worth 97.7 billion USD and imported integrated circuits, broadcasting equipment and computers worth 110 billion USD. During same year, ROK exported transportation equipment, chemical products and metals worth 736 million USD to Pakistan and imported textiles, mineral products and foodstuffs worth 192.6 million USD from Pakistan.

South Korea and Pakistan have joined hands in ventures such as Kia and Hyundai vehicles as well as Samsung mobile phones. In hydro-power sector, two plants are already operating and providing electricity in Pakistan and four projects worth 3 billion USD are under way in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) has provided a loan worth 500 million USD for road construction and IT

centers in Islamabad and Karachi. However from 2022 onwards EDCF loan to Pakistan will be increased to 1 billion USD for five years hence enhancing cooperation in infra-business networking. It is imperative that with just 10 billion USD as foreign reserves Islamabad should convince Seoul to make investments in its Special Economic Zones.

Considering the geo-political commonalities and Pakistan's need to improve its diplo-economic facets it imperative to sincerely adopt the politico-economic policies of ROK as despite its regional conflicts, extra regional pressures and limitations ROK is advancing its diplomatic relations and economy. While considering the facet of aging population in ROK which has transformed it in to a Super Aged Society with approximately 20 per cent of population above 65 years of age Islamabad should prepare skilled work force for provision ROK. Islamabad should also offer Buddhist Tourism packages to Korean nationals for visit of Ghandhara Civilisation with a view to vitalise people to people diplomacy. Korean pop music is getting popular among Pakistanis hence a thoughtful and a continuous cultural exchange programme be implemented. Finally Islamabad should implement unprecedented ease of doing business policies to attract FDI. Pakistan and ROK can also collaborate to fight the menace of terrorism.

IS **WI v BAN**

Shakib shines as rain ruins opening T20I

Only 13 overs were possible at Windsor Park

ROSEAU: Shakib Al Hasan showed signs of his best with an entertaining cameo as rain ruined the opening match of the three-game series.

Only 13 overs were possible at Windsor Park as the first T20I between West Indies and Bangladesh finished without a result.

After West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran won the toss and elected to bowl first on a dreary day in Roseau, Bangladesh's innings never really reached any great heights as they battled their way to 105/8 from 13 overs.

There were delays at the start of the day as ground staff prepared the pitch and outfield and more play was lost during Bangladesh's innings as the weather continued to frustrate both teams.

One shining light for Bangladesh was the form of veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who once again showed his prowess in the shortest format of the game



with an entertaining innings at first drop.

Shakib came to the crease inside the first over when Munim Shahrir (2)

fell to Akeal Hosein and the Bangladesh ace wasted no time in making his intent known. He took a particular liking

to Hosein and then smashed leg-spinner Hayden Walsh into the stands in an entertaining 15-ball stay that netted 29 runs. Walsh did have the final say, as he tempted Shakib one time too often from a Bangladesh perspective and Devon Thomas held on to a tough chance behind the stumps.

While Walsh got the big wicket of Shakib, it was Romario Shepherd that was West Indies' best bowler during the match as he picked up three key wickets and finished with figures of 3/21.

The right-arm varied his pace well to continually confuse the Bangladesh batters and he saw the demise of Liton Das (9) and Mahmudullah (8) with excellent slower deliveries.

Shepherd then found the outside edge of Mahedi Hasan's bat as Bangladesh's batting order collapsed before the rain intervened to save them in the opening match of the three-game series.

DG Sports Punjab leads anti-dengue awareness walk

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi led an anti-dengue awareness walk from National Hockey Stadium to Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday.

Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hasan, Deputy Director Tariq Wattoo, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Deputy Director Rauf Bajwa, DSO Tanveer Shah, Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti, Assistant Director Zahoor Ahmed, NPSC Gymnasium Hall administrator Mustafa Shah, Incharge Media Cell Abdul Rauf, Fiaz Ali and hundreds of other employ-



ees of Sports Board Punjab and Directorate General of Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab participated in the anti-dengue awareness walk.

Talking to media, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said the basic purpose of

this walk is to spread awareness among SBP employees and general public to adopt safety measures against the fatal dengue mosquito. "It is a major issue and we can eradicate this virus through collective efforts".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq

Qureshi informed that Sports Board Punjab has arranged anti-dengue awareness walks in all divisional, district and tehsil sports offices as per directions of Punjab government.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi termed the dengue mosquito a fatal weapon against human health and appealed to the people not to allow stagnant rainy water near their houses, offices and suburbs. "Government is taking every possible measure for the eradication of dengue virus but we could not achieve our goal without the full cooperation of the general public," they stressed.

Hamilton 'doesn't agree' with booing

SILVERSTONE: Lewis Hamilton admitted he felt a "little bit gutted" after qualifying fifth for the British Grand Prix on Saturday when he also chided his fans for booing world champion Max Verstappen. The seven-time champion Mercedes driver said he had hoped to fight for a front row start in Sunday's race, but was unable to find the pace required in the final minutes of a sodden rain-lashed session.

He admitted he was disappointed, but said he felt equally sad to learn that the 27-year-old Dutchman was booed after qualifying second behind maiden pole-sitter Carlos Sainz of Ferrari. Verstappen beat him to the drivers' title last year after an acrimonious season, including a high-speed crash at Silverstone where the 37-year-old Briton won after his rival was taken to hospital. "I think we're better than that, so I would say we don't need to do booing," said Hamilton. "But we've such great fans and our sporting fans, they feel emotion up and down.

"I definitely don't agree with booing. We don't need to do that. We should be here pushing everybody. "It doesn't make a difference when you boo someone. They've already made the mistake



or whatever it is, but I really do appreciate the support I have here – and maybe some of them are still feeling the pain from last year so, either way, I appreciate it."

A crowd of more than 130,000 braved the cold and wet weather for qualifying and many appeared to enjoy Verstappen making a mistake in Q3 that cost him pole position and booed him when he was interviewed in the pit lane after the session. Verstappen shrugged off the abuse, saying: "It was a bit disappointing

because I couldn't really understand Billy (the post-session interviewer) and it was a bit of a problem. "But, the rest ... if they want to boo, they can do that. For me it's not going to change anything. I'm always happy to be here. It's a great track.

"It's a great atmosphere in general. Maybe some of them, they don't like me, but that's fine. They all have their own opinions, you know?" Hamilton remained optimistic that he can bid for an unprecedented record ninth win at a single Grand Prix venue.

New Zealand skipper hit with Covid ahead of Ireland tour



WELLINGTON: New Zealand have suffered a blow ahead of their white-ball tour of Ireland with news that veteran all-rounder Mitchell Santner has tested positive to Covid-19.

The Black Caps were due to fly out of New Zealand on Sunday, but Santner—who will captain the Kivis during the T20I part of the series—will remain at home ahead of three T20I and three ODI's against Ireland later this month.

New Zealand's head coach for the Ireland series Shane Jurgensen said Santner's availability for the six matches against the Irish will not be determined until he recovers from Covid and arrives in Dublin.

"Covid has been a challenge and will continue to be in the future and we will adapt accordingly, contingencies are always in place," Jurgensen said.

"He's feeling OK and the priority will be getting him into camp with us hopefully later in the week to assess where he's at and when he may be ready to play.

"We've got 11 games across the three tours and another tour to follow against the West Indies in August which Mitch will be involved with so we certainly won't be looking to rush him."

Santner has been named as captain for the T20I component of the series against Ireland, while fellow veteran Tom Latham will lead the Kivis during the three ODIs.

New Zealand ODI squad: Tom Latham, (c), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Dane Cleaver, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillip, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tuckner, Will Young

New Zealand T20 squad: Mitchell Santner (c), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guptill, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rippon, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tuckner

Inzamam attracts youth during Zalmi Talent Hunt UK



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Inzamam-ul-Haq, President Peshawar Zalmi and cricket legend, gave advice to young cricketers in Glasgow during the trials of the second phase of Peshawar Zalmi UK Talent Hunt in Glasgow.

Inzamam-ul-Haq, former captain of Pakistan and president of Peshawar Zalmi, said that Peshawar Zalmi has given a great opportunity to the Pakistani community in UK, Europe and other parts of the world, cricketers of Global Zalmi clubs and local cricketers to showcase their talents through talent hunt program. Talking to young cricketers in Glasgow, Inzamam-ul-Haq said that young cricketers should always keep their focus on performance.

Inzamam further said that many great cricketers of the world faced failures or difficulties in the beginning of their careers but with high spirits and focus on performance they became great cricketers. Inzamam-ul-Haq said that Peshawar Zalmi would give a chance to talented cricketers in Pakistan Super League. Those who did not get a chance this year will be given a chance next year but young cricketers should always focus on cricket and performance.

After Pakistan, Peshawar Zalmi's talent hunt is going on in UK. Trials will also be held in Europe after the UK Talent Hunt is conducted in seven cities and locations. Peshawar Zalmi President Inzamam-ul-Haq & Director Cricket Muhammad Akram are in the UK for the trials.

Chitral wins Shandur Polo Tournament

SHANDUR: Chitral won Shandur Polo Tournament by defeating Gilgit by 10-9 goals in Shandur on Sunday.

IG FC North Major General Adil Yamin who was the chief guest on the occasion gave away prizes to the players.

On this occasion, traditional dances of Chitral and Gilgit were also presented. A large number of tourists both from home and abroad attended the festival.

Karate workshop held in Karachi



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: On the occasion of the 98th founding day of World Sports Journalists Day, Sports Journalists Association (SJS), in association with, Sindh Karate Association organised a "Karate Workshop". A large number of SJS members participated in the programme.

During the workshop, Chairman Sindh Karate Association, Chief Referee of International Referee Karate Federation and General Secretary of South Asian Karate Federation Sensei Muhammad Naseem Qureshi imparted modern Karate rules, points system and role of judges on the participants.

Athletes highlighted the process of scoring points through "demos" in which sports journalists showed keen interest. Sensei Naseem Qureshi said that the workshop was organised in collaboration with SJS to express solidarity with them on the International Day of Sports Journalists.

Cake Cutting was also held to mark the historic day. SJS President Muhammad Asif Khan, on the occasion, said that sports journalism is not as easy as other fields of journalism in Pakistan but International Journalists Day creates a new aspiration. Secretary Shahid Saati said this day teaches us to fight for peace through pen.

According to the Charter of the AIPS, the Karate Workshop was organised on this great day at the direction of the Charter of the World Organisation, established in 1924, and the Pakistan Sports Writers Federation (PSWF).

The workshop of the ancient sport, Karate aims to minimize the scope for error in reporting.

The event was attended by PSWF Senior Vice President Syed Nasar Iqbal, SJS Senior Vice President Mahmood Riaz, President Sindh Karate Association Wahid Bin Hashim, General Secretary Wasif Ali, Vice President Shahan Hidayatullah Khan, General Secretary Karachi Sensei Naeem-ur-Rehman, Sensei Khalid Khan, Sensei Abdul Haq Acha, Sensei Mehboob Alam and Noorul Bilal.

Title hopefuls gear up for most competitive Euros

MANCHESTER: The most competitive women's European Championship to date is expected when England kick off Euro 2022 on Wednesday against Austria at Old Trafford in front of a sold-out stadium.

AFP Sport looks at what to expect from the group stage: The hosts must burden the expectations of a nation to win a women's tournament for the first time after reaching the semi-finals of their last three major competitions. Hopes are high as England have hit new heights since Sarina Wiegman took charge just under a year ago. The Lionesses are unbeaten in 14 games under the Dutch coach, who led her native nation to Euro glory on home soil five years ago. That includes plundering 68 goals without reply in eight World Cup quali-

fiers in a group that also features Austria and Northern Ireland, both of whom they will meet in Group A.

England will also have a wave of crowd support behind them with all three group games, including the tournament opener against Austria at Old Trafford, sold out. Two-time winners Norway pose the biggest threat with former Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg restored up front after a self-imposed five-year exile from international duty.

Austria were a penalty shoot-out away from reaching the final five years ago and only narrowly lost out 1-0 to England when they met in World Cup qualifying in November. Northern Ireland are the only tournament debutants and Kenny Shiels' side face a daunting task if they are even

to take a point from their three games in Southampton. The toughest of the four groups sees tournament favourites Spain, eight-time winners Germany and 2017 finalists Denmark battling for two places in the last eight. Spain are yet to shine at a major tournament, but are blessed with the core of the Barcelona side that had swept all before them in recent seasons until losing the Champions League final to Lyon in May.

The loss of all-time top goalscorer Jennifer Hermoso to injury is a major blow to La Roja's chances, but all eyes will be on Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas to leave her mark on the tournament. Germany are far from the force they once were in the women's game. Martina Voss-Tecklenburg's side lost

an away World Cup qualifier for the first time since 1998 in going down 3-2 to Serbia in April and finished bottom of the four-team Arnold Clark Cup behind England, Spain and Canada two months earlier. Denmark boast one of the world's deadliest strikers in Chelsea's Pernille Harder and scored an impressive 2-1 win over Brazil earlier this month in preparation for the tournament.

One of the blockbuster clashes of the group stage will see defending champions the Netherlands take on Olympic medalists Sweden in a repeat of the 2019 World Cup semi-final won by the Dutch. The holders' preparations were rocked by a 5-1 thrashing at the hands of England in a warm-up friendly, but they are blessed with arguably the best array of attacking talent in the tourna-



ment led by Arsenal's Vivianne Miedema and Lieke Martens of Paris Saint-Germain. Sweden are the highest-ranked team in the tournament and have strength in depth throughout the squad with Chelsea's Magdalena Eriksson,

Kosovare Asllani of AC Milan and Barcelona's Fridolina Rolfö forming a strong spine of the team. Portugal would not even be at the Euro had Russia not been thrown out due to the invasion of Ukraine, and they and the

Swiss will have to cause an upset to reach the last eight. Lyon are back on top of the European club game after dethroning Barcelona as Champions League winners, but success has been harder to come for France at the international level.

Les Bleues are yet to even make the last four of a Euro, but will start what should be a competitive group as favourites. Italian women's football is on the rise as they look to back up a run to the quarter-finals of the 2019 World Cup, but Iceland could prove to be tournament dark horses. They are seriously challenging the Netherlands in World Cup qualifying and finished runners-up to world champions the USA in the prestigious SheBelieves Cup earlier this year.