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فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ابوالیمان نے بیان کیا کہ ہم کو شہب نے خبر دی ان سے ابوالیمان نے بیان کیا ان سے اعراب نے اور ان سے ابوہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا اللہ تعالیٰ لو طاعیہ السلام کی معفرت فرمائے کہ وہ زبردست رکن (یعنی اللہ) کی پناہ میں گئے تھے۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3375)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Pakistan adopts SDGs 2030 as National Development Agenda: Ahsan

Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal says Pakistan is the first country to adopt SDGs 2030 as National Development Agenda in 2015, as the government then recognized achievement of these goals as essential prerequisite for socioeconomic prosperity, well being and development of the people of Pakistan. Effort should be made at the global level for the support of developing countries like Pakistan after the recent crisis in the world.



I will never rejoin PPP: Qureshi

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi says he will never rejoin the PPP. I am part of the PTI family and the vice-captain of Imran Khan. PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari offered him to join their parties before joining the PTI.

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ECP seeks assets details from political parties

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has asked the political parties to submit their statement of accounts for the financial year, 2021-2022. According to details, the electoral watchdog has asked the political parties to submit their statements of accounts for the previous financial year by August 29, 2022, which is a mandatory requirement under relevant election laws.

The political parties have been asked to submit their statements of accounts in terms of Section 210 of the Elections Act 2017 and other relevant provisions of elections laws. Every political party is bound to submit consolidated statement of accounts of the party to the election commission within sixty days of the close of each financial year. These will contain annual income and expenses, sources of its funds and assets and liabilities.

The statement of accounts of the party is required to be accompanied by a certificate signed by the party leader stating that no funds from any source prohibited under the Elections Act 2017, were received by the party. It said that the statement will be delivered to the Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan in the Election Commission Secretariat, Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad, by party leader or through an office-bearer of the party, duly authorised by the party leader. It added as per provisions of Rule 11 of the Political Parties Rules, 2002, any statement received through post, fax, courier service or any other mode will not be entertained.

Prioritizing Tech

President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo during the 26th convocation ceremony of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering and Technology at Topi on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Briefing

PCNS to form steering committee for TTP talks

PM says govt committed to protect people from economic situation

ISLAMABAD: Military leadership on Tuesday briefed the participants of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS) on the ongoing talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP). The meeting of the PCNS chaired by PM Shehbaz Sharif and attended by the tri-services chiefs, heads of other security agencies, senior members of the assembly and Senate, members of NA and Senate standing committees on defence, officials of the ministries of defence, foreign affairs, interior, Kashmir affairs, health and federal secretariat of the national security division.

According to sources, the military leadership briefed the parliamentary committee on the security

situation including the progress of the talks with the TTP. The meeting was briefed on the rounds of talks so far and it was informed that talks with the TTP are underway with the facilitation of the government of Afghanistan. The briefing said that the committee was discussing within the framework of the Constitution of Pakistan while the final decision would be taken with the approval of Parliament, future guidance, and consensus. PCNS agreed that a steering committee will be formed on the issue of talks with the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP). The National Assembly Secretariat sent a letter inviting 62 members of NA, Senate and the PCNS, which comprises

27 members, including PM Shehbaz Sharif. The meeting discussed important issues including the overall national security situation in the country. The Prime Minister apprised the committee of the current situation in the country. According to sources, the military leadership briefed the participants on the progress of the talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The participants were briefed by DG ISI and Corps Commander Peshawar while the Army Chief briefed all the members and answered their questions.

During the briefing, it was informed that the negotiating committee consists of civil and

military representatives under the leadership of the government. The committee is negotiating within the framework of the Constitution of Pakistan and it will be done by consensus. In the meeting, the parliamentary forum gave a mandate to the negotiating committee to continue negotiations with the banned TTP. It was decided that a steering committee would be formed comprising only parliamentary members, which would oversee the negotiation process.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said protecting the poorest from the effects of difficult economic condition has been the priority of present government from day one.

Pakistan-Turkey review defence coop

COAS, Turkish Land Forces' Commander discuss security issues

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa met with the Commander of Turkish land forces on Tuesday and discussed bilateral cooperation in defence and security matters, ISPR reported. According to a statement released by the Inter-services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS met with the Turkish land forces Commander General Ümit Dündar on Tuesday. Pakistan gives special importance to its ties with Turkey, the COAS said.

The Army Chief added that both the countries share common historical, cultural and religious backgrounds. Both the military leaders agreed to work toward enhanced military and security ties, ISPR said. The Turk commander applauded

ed Pakistan Army's technical capabilities. He vowed to play a role in enhancing Pak-Turk military ties.

Earlier on July 2, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Nadeem Raza called on President of Iran Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi and discussed strengthening bilateral security & defence cooperation between the two countries, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. According to the ISPR, CJCS General Nadeem Raza and Iran's President Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi discussed matters of bilateral strategic interest and regional security environment including strengthening of bilateral security and defence cooperation between the two countries.

Uncertainty

Rupee slips against US Dollar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Continuing its upward trajectory against the US dollar in the interbank market for the last three sessions, the rupee on Tuesday registered a downward trend in the interbank market amid unconfirmed reports suggesting a delay in resumption of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. According to the forex dealers, the greenback gained Rs1.84 in the interbank market against rupee during intraday trading on Tuesday. The US dollar was trading at Rs206.25 against local currency at 12:25 pm. However, in the open market, the US dollar is being sold between Rs207 to 208. The local unit closed at 204.56 the other day, registering an appreciation of Rs0.29 or 0.14% against the US dollar.

According to the State Bank

of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency closed at Rs206.94 against the US dollar in the interbank market, after a fresh decline of Rs2.38, or 1.15%. Despite clarity from Finance Minister Miftah Ismail regarding the IMF programme being on track, investors remained concerned about the delay in the revival. Today's decline was contrary to traders' expectations regarding the appreciation of the local currency as market players are eyeing an increase in inflows from remittances ahead of the Eid ul Adha festival. In the upcoming days, an expected increase in dollar inflows in the shape of workers' remittances may also support the domestic currency. Since the beginning of the last fiscal year (July 1, 2021), the rupee has dropped by a massive 31.35% (or Rs49.4) compared to the previous fiscal year's close at Rs157.54.

High inflation

SBP may raise rates by 125 bps

The central bank raised the benchmark interest rate by 150 bps in May

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's central bank looks set to raise its key policy rate by 125 basis points at its review on Thursday, as it attempts to tackle 13-year high retail inflation, according to the median estimate in a snap poll of 10 economists and market watchers. The economists, analysts and senior professors surveyed were widely split on the quantum of increase by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), with views ranging from 50 to 200 basis points. Two respondents did not see a need for a rate increase.

The central bank raised the benchmark interest rate by 150 bps in May, taking the total increase to 400 bps so far this year to counter rising inflation. The South Asian nation is wrestling with economic turmoil, a fall in reserves and a weakening currency. Data on Friday showed consumer prices in June leapt 21.3% from a year earlier, largely on account of a 90% spike in fuel prices since the end of May after the government

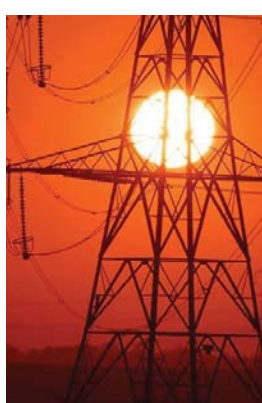


scrapped costly fuel subsidies. With the current policy rate at 13.75% and inflation running well above, real interest rates in the economy have turned sharply negative. Most believed a hike was inevitable, given persistently high global energy prices, the abrupt ending of fuel subsidies as well as the need to control demand after SBP said in its last policy

statement the economy had rebounded much more strongly than anticipated. With Pakistan expecting a restart of the much-awaited bailout package from the International Monetary Fund after the country agreed on some tough economic policy adjustments to promote stability, the SBP's decision is being closely watched

Rs7.91

Govt okays phased power tariff hike



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday has approved a summary to increase of basic electricity tariff by Rs7.91 in phases. According to sources, NEPRA had sent a summary to PM Shehbaz which was approved by him. In this regard, the sources further said that the first increase is Rs 3.50 per unit and from July 1, it was approved to increase the price of electricity by Rs3.50 per unit from August while from October, the basic electricity tariff will be increased by 91 paise per unit

Harassment

PTI may reveal names of conspirators: Imran Khan

Says he knows characters behind regime change

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that he has remained silent to save the country from chaos, and he knew that who were involved in the conspiracy to topple his government but if they continue to harass him and his party then he will reveal the names of the conspirators. Talking to news conference, the PTI chairman said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's government was ousted by imposing martial law in Pakistan on July 5 because the United States was not happy with Bhutto's government. The US doesn't like Pakistan's independent foreign policy, he added.

The former prime minister said that the leadership and workers of his party were being harassed and false cases were being registered. "I am sitting quietly to save the country from chaos and I know who played the part in a conspiracy to topple his government and if they did not stop to harass my party and me then I will be forced to reveal the names of conspirators," Imran warned. Taking a dig at Punjab CM, Imran Khan said that Hamza Shabbaz is misusing his authority to rig the upcoming Punjab by-elections, adding that there are corruption cases of Rs16 billion on him but he is moving freely in the country. PTI will win the



by-elections despite the steps made by the government to rig the elections. Rebuking the incumbent government, he said that the only motive of the current rulers was to get NRO they have no idea to save the country from present crises, adding that the economy was improving in his government, tax collection was increasing in his time but the incumbent government has broken all the records of inflation. Imran Khan said he has recorded a video, detailing each and every character and their role in the ouster of the PTI government. The video is kept at a 'safe place'.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan Tuesday emphasised the need to curb money laundering during a meeting with British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner. A PTI statement said that party leaders Fawad Chaudhry and Amir Mahmood Kayani were part of the meeting that took place in the federal capital, where bilateral matters and issues of mutual interest came under discussion. During the meeting, the former prime minister highlighted that developed nations must take special measures to ensure that money is not laundered from poor to rich states.

Food security

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at Finance Division on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

500,000MT

ECC okays import of wheat

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee has approved the second international wheat tender 2022 for the import of 500,000 metric tonnes of wheat. The decision was taken during a meeting held in Islamabad on Tuesday with Finance Minister Miftah Ismail in the chair. Regarding another summary on the declaration of National Disease Emergency on account of Emergence of Lumpy Skin disease in Pakistan, the ECC directed Ministry of National Food Security and Research to prepare a cost sharing plan after convening a meeting with concerned provincial secretaries and NDMA.

The ECC also granted one-time special permission for release of those consignments which have landed at ports or airports in Pakistan on or before 30th of last month. In view of hardship case of timber importers as the consignments were supplied against contracts months ago and the shipments have already arrived, the ECC decided that date of implementation of IPO 2022 regarding import of timber and wood may be suspended till 31st of next month.

The ECC also approved another summary of Ministry of Commerce to amend Import policy Order 2022 to allow import of goods of Afghan origin against Pak Rupee. The forum decided to continue subsidy on five essential commodities with direction to Ministry of Industries and Production to work out feasible proposal on subsidy programme keeping in mind the financial implications. The ECC approved supplementary grant in favor of Economic Affairs Division amounting to 193.006 billion rupees for foreign loan.

Punjab CM election

PA passes unanimous resolution against Hamza

Pervaiz Elahi reconvened 40th session

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution condemning the misuse of powers by Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz ahead of Punjab by-elections in 20 constituencies on July 17. The resolution stated that Hamza Shahbaz is not performing his duties as per the recent Supreme Court's order, adding that he has announced development schemes and transferred the officers ahead of Punjab by-elections. The House also condemned how the journalist community is being targeted, the resolution further stated. On the other hand, Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi raised the issue of attack on Dunya News analyst and senior journalist Ayaz Amir in the House. He further said that the Punjab government should arrest the culprits as soon as possible.

Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Tuesday reconvened the 40th session of the Punjab Assembly in light of the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Punjab Chief Minister election. In this regard, speaker Pervaiz Elahi has signed the order and issued a notification to convene the Punjab Chief Minister Election session which will be held on July 22. According to the notification, the meeting will be chaired by Deputy Speaker



Sardar Dost Mazari. The Speaker Punjab Assembly further said that will take every step to make a free and fair atmosphere during the election.

Letter to SC

PTI opposes Punjab CM's relief package

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday has written a letter to the Supreme Court of Pakistan to take notice against the Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz's relief package announced ahead of Punjab by-elections in 20 constituencies on July 17. PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry has written a letter to the apex court on behalf of PTI in which he stated that the caretaker Chief Minister would exercise only regulatory powers till July 22, while Hamza Shahbaz himself had assured the court that he had no intention of rigging the elections, adding that PTI has serious reservations about the individual and government role of the Punjab Chief Minister.

"Hamza Shahbaz has trampled on the clear orders of the Supreme Court and the Electoral Code of Conduct. A few days



before the by-elections, the package was announced at a press conference for the people of the province, which was broadcast live on national media, including state-run TV (PTV). Details of the package were also published in national newspapers," the letter further stated.

The letter further stated that the Registrar of the SC should take notice of the relief package announced by Hamza Shahbaz. The package is an effort to rig by-elections on July 17 in Punjab, he claimed in the letter.

No to litigation

Provide free electricity to KP: Maryam

Criticises PTI for approaching the Supreme Court

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz has criticised the PTI for approaching the Supreme Court after Punjab's Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz announced to give free electricity to people consuming up to 100 units per month. The new announcement is expected to provide electricity to an estimated nine million poor families across the province.

In a statement on Twitter, Maryam said that free electricity has been provided to the poor in Punjab. So, instead of moving the Supreme Court against the Punjab CM's decision, the PTI should provide free electricity to the needy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The PML-N vice president said in order to provide free electricity to the needy in KP, one should work hard, instead of being jealous.

Relief package

ECP summons CM Punjab over code's violation

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday issued a notice to Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz for violating the code of conduct. The ECP summoned Hamza Shahbaz on July 7 in response to the Punjab Chief Minister's announcement of an electricity relief package ahead of Punjab by-elections. It is pertinent to mention that according to the code of conduct issued by the ECP, no government official, elected representative or government official can announce any development scheme in these constituencies after the announcement of the election schedule.

In the notice, the election commission has directed the Punjab chief minister to appear before him or send in a lawyer on July 7 at 10 am for the purpose. The ECP directed Hamza Shehbaz to explain his position on the matter in person or through a lawyer. It is pertinent to mention here that Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz on July 4 announced to provide free electricity to households that consumed 100 units per month in the last six months.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, the Punjab Chief Minister announced that the provincial government will bear the power cost of households that consume up to 100 units of electricity in a month. Hamza Shehbaz also said that the government will provide solar panels to the people in need, adding that the government has set aside Rs100 billion for the relief program that will benefit at least nine million households.

LHC directs ECP to notify PTI's five reserved seats



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to issue notification of the five reserved seats of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

LHC has issued a detailed 13-page judgment on five reserved seats in the Punjab Assembly. In the context of the decision, if a seat becomes vacant due to disqualification of a member, it will be filled in accordance with Article 224 (6) of the Constitution.

In this regard, the question arises as to whether the quota of reserved seats will be re-drawn if members are de-seated in a large number of general seats. The LHC further directed the Additional Registrar to immediately issue the order of the court to ECP.

Meanwhile, PTI has taken the stance that once the quota has been drawn after the general election, it cannot be changed later and there is no obstacle to fill the vacancies from the PTI's priority list for reserved seats. It is pertinent to mention here that the LHC had on June 27 approved PTI's request to issue notifications for five reserved seats.

Dictatorship mother of extremism, Kalashnikov culture: Bilawal

PPP observes 45th anniversary of 1977 coup as 'Black Day'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has termed July 5, 1977 as the blackest day in the history of the Pakistani nation and said that General Zia's dictatorship is the mother of extremism, Kalashnikov and drug culture in the country. On the occasion of the 45th anniversary of July 5, 1977, Chairman PPP further said in his message that the political, economic and social ills that Pakistan is suffering from goes back to the dark days of General Zia.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the people of Pakistan fought valiantly against dictator General Zia and his brutal regime and are still struggling against his mindset



and remnants.

Chairman PPP reiterated his commitment that his party would continue to play the role of defender of the constitution, democracy and parliamentary supremacy in the country, as it is, in fact, torchbearers of the ideology and vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Bilawal added that the people of

Pakistan fought against Zia-ul-Haq's fascist regime steadfastly. The country has not still recovered from the damaged Zia-ul-Haq caused during his 11-year-long unconstitutional regime. The PPP had termed July 5 as a black day. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa former president Humayun Khan has termed July 5 as the black day in the history of Pakistan, when the undemocratic forces trampled the Constitution of Pakistan and imposed dictatorship. Talking to reporters here, he said that the dictators trampled basic human rights and blocked the way of development and progress. He said the entire society was disturbed to protect the personal interests of a dictator.

Services' exports up by 17.71% in 11 months

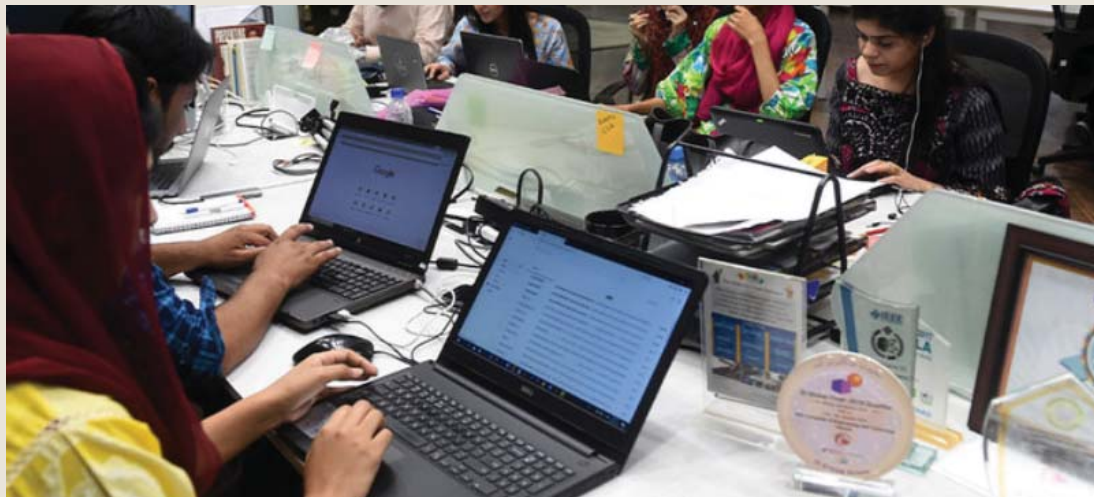
Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The exports of services from the country witnessed an increase of 17.71 percent during the first eleven months of the current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports of services during July-May (2021-22) were recorded at US\$ 6,318.11 million against the exports of US\$ 5,367.36 million during July-May (2020-21), showing a growth of 17.71 percent.

The services' imports also rose by 35.49 percent growing from US\$ 7,590.19 million last year to US\$ 10,284.29 million during the period under review. Based on the figures, the services trade deficit was recorded at the

US \$ 3,966.18 million this year against the deficit of US \$ 2,222.83 million during the last fiscal year, showing an increase of 78.43 percent.

On a year-on-year basis, the services exports during the month of May 2022 grew by 9.38 percent to US\$ 514.11 million against the exports of US \$ 470.02 million during May 2021. The imports also grew by 48.50 percent from US\$ 602.05 million last May to the US \$ 894.04 million in May 2022, according to the data. On a month-on-month basis, the exports from the country declined by 19.93 percent as compared to the exports of US \$ 642.10 million in April 2022. The imports also went down by 13.96 percent as compared to the imports of US \$ 1,039.07 million in April 2022, the data revealed. Meanwhile, the merchandise exports



from the country witnessed an increase of 25.51 percent during the fiscal year

2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The exports from

the country were recorded at \$31.760 billion during July-June (2021-22)

against the exports of \$25.304 billion recorded during July-June (2020-21), showing growth of 25.51 percent. The imports during the year under review also went up by 41.93 percent by growing from \$56.380 billion last year to \$80.019 billion in July-June (2021-22).

Based on the data, the trade deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$48.259 billion, showing an increase of 55.29 percent over the deficit of \$31.076 billion recorded during last year, the PBS data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of the country increased by 5.83 percent during June 2022 as compared to the exports of same month of last year. The exports during the month under review were recorded at \$2.887 billion against the exports of \$2.728 billion during the same month of last year.

SAPM Romina seeks Governor's help on SDGs targets

The SAPM called upon the Governor Punjab to make SDGs part of the syllabus in the universities

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Romina Khurshid Alam called on Governor Punjab and sought help in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in various sectors especially the higher education.

The SAPM Romina Khurshid, who is also Convenor of the National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs, briefed the Governor on various initiatives to fight climate change, urban flooding and waste management.

SAPM on Youth Affairs Shiza Fatima Khawaja was also present during the meeting. She said as convenor of the Task Force, she was also working on peace building initiatives, renewal of energy and zero carbon emissions from the factories.

She said she was working with the universities and other departments to make the programme a success and many young university students were working as interns with her.

The SAPM called upon the Governor Punjab to make SDGs part of the syllabus in the universities, adding that



LAHORE: SAPM on political Affairs Ms Romina Khurshid Alam meeting with the Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman at Governor House. APP

the schools administration should also be tasked to ensure SDGs programme.

Hailing her services as an active parliamentarian, Governor Punjab said he was making a consortium of the universities to create awareness on climate change among the youth,

adding that the climate change was a big challenge as it also affected the agriculture adversely.

He said the syllabus of universities was designed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) and

implanted in the universities.

"I, as Chancellor of public sector universities and patron in chief of private sector universities, will try to help you disseminate your message", adding that SDGs have been made for the good of humanity and these should be taken along for the elimination of poverty from societies.

"There is always a sense of deprivation why SDGs have not been achieved in Pakistan despite the fact that most of the world has adopted the SDGs goals", he added.

Balighur Rehman hailed the efforts to fight for zero urban flooding, missing components in the waste management and wastage of water in the country.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman assured the Convenor National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs Romina Khurshid of his fullest support in the implementation of SDG agenda. Allowing the request, the governor nominated Ms. Nazia Mughal, Deputy Secretary (Coordination) as focal person to facilitate SDG secretariat tasks in the Governor's office. APP



Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin calling on Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamer in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Shazia Marri terms July 5 as darkest day in Pakistan history

KARACHI: Federal Minister and Central Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian, Shazia Atta Marri on Tuesday termed July 5, 1977 as the most shameful and darkest day in the history of Pakistan.

She said that July 5, 1977 is the darkest day in the history of Pakistan whose devastating effects have caused irreparable damage to Pakistan.

Shazia Marri added that on this day, the worst dictator Zia-ul-Haq ousted the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Pakistan Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and he altered Pakistan's political fabric by overthrowing and arresting ruling Prime Minister but he couldn't remove the Shaheed Bhutto's thoughts and ideology from the hearts and minds of people.

Ghani for attaching first priority to immediate drainage of rain water

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Labor and Manpower Saeed Ghani, after fresh spell of monsoon rains in the metropolis on Tuesday, visited various areas of District East to review the situation.

Saeed Ghani, who is also CM Sindh's Focal Person for Rain Emergency Monitoring, monitored contingency arrangements and flow of water at choking points of drainage system in District East, at Shara-e-Quaadeen, Nursery Expressway, Guru Mandar and Shara-e-Faisal.

He sought information from officials of DMC East, Solid Waste Management Board, Water board and other agencies present at the checkpoints.

He appreciated availability of machinery and staff at all major locations and thoroughfares and termed the situation better especially at the choking points where water used to accumulate in the past.

He called for attaching first priority to immediate drainage of rain water and providing relief to citizens. APP

Former Mayor Bahawalpur lauds role of IUB



Staff Reporter

BAHAWALPUR: Former Mayor Bahawalpur Aqeel Najam Hashmi called on Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob.

He said that the role of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur is very important in the educational, social and economic development of Bahawalpur city.

In the last three years, the number of students at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has increased from 13,500 to close to 60,000, which has boosted business activities in the city. After graduating from the university, they are playing a significant role as active citizens in various fields, which is very important for the development of the region.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob awarded appreciation certificates to the students for representing the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in USA Universities for period of one semester through Global Cultural Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program during January-May 2022.

Overall, 8 students from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur selected for the program; 4 students including M. Zubair Madni, Fatima Javed, Changeez Khan, Shaista Sadique have completed the program in different universities of USA and 4 students Ali Anwar, Ayman Shahzad, Rashid Ghafour, Amna Tahir will visit the USA in August 2022.

Monsoon Cleaning

KARACHI: Workers of KMC cleaning a Nalla at Rashid Minhas Road with the help of heavy machinery due to monsoon rains, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Ahead of Eidul Azha

Police chalked out a comprehensive security plan

LAHORE: The capital city police have chalked out a comprehensive security plan to maintain peace and ensure safety of citizens on the occasion of Eidul Azha.

While issuing directions to all operational heads regarding the security arrangements, during a meeting held at District Police Lines Qila Gujjar Singh, CCPO Lahore DIG Bilal Siddique Kamyana said, more than 8,000 police officers and officials would perform security duty on coming Eidul Azha.

DIG Operations Suhail Chaudhary, SSP Operations Mustansir Feroze, CTO Muntazir Mehdi, SP Security Rashid Hydayat, SP Dolphin Squad Syed Aziz, all divisional SPs Operations, SDPOs, SHOs and related officers attended the meeting.

Bilal Siddique Kamyana said security would be made more tightened, adding that more than 5,000 mosques in the city have been categorized according to their sensitivity. All the masajids, imam bargahs, religious places, public parks and other important places would be

provided maximum security on Eid, he added.

Strict monitoring would be ensured through CCTV cameras and special surveillance teams, CCPO Lahore said and added that dolphin squad and police response unit teams along with vehicles of police stations would ensure effective patrolling. He said that search and sweep operations, geo fencing, biometric verification and data entry through hotel eye and other police IT systems has already been ensured to avoid any untoward situation.

The CCPO directed to take precautionary measures against the accused with previous criminal record of one-wheeling, aerial firing and kite flying before arrival of Eidul Azha.

Bilal Siddique Kamyana also ordered to initiate immediate crackdown against those involved in selling kites and strings. He said that in case of setting up of illegal cattle markets or sale points in any place other than the places designated by the district government, immediate FIRs should be registered against the owners without any discrimination.

The CCPO urged that peaceful election campaign and security measures should be ensured in all the four Constituencies of the forthcoming by-elections and the code of conduct of the Election Commission and the government's ban on carrying weapons should be implemented in letter and spirit.

Effective measures should be taken for the arrest of proclaimed offenders and court absconders while search and combing operations should be continued as per routine in the city, he added.

All the vehicles, motorcycles and persons should be thoroughly checked at exit and entrance points of the city, CCPO Lahore directed.

Lahore Police have also deputed more than 1,000 police officers and officials at all the 13 cattle selling points of the city designated special cattle markets as well as 'Police Help Desks' have been established to facilitate cattle dealers and citizens, he concluded. Agencies

Monsoon Rains

AJK PM directs authorities to remain alert in monsoon

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has directed all departments including state Disaster Management Authorities to be high alert to deal any emergency situation in the wake of heavy monsoon rains.

The PM said that no negligence or laxity would be tolerated in this regard. He directed the District Administration, State Disaster Management and other relevant agencies to inspect the landslide sites and keep the office abreast of the situation in the region.

He said that all communication roads should be restored as soon as possible and people should be kept updated on the condition of highways.

"In case of any loss of life or property due to rains anywhere in Azad Kashmir, relief should be provided to the victims immediately", he added.

RCCI demands permanent solution to address loadshedding

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Nadeem Rauf has said that a permanent solution to the power crisis should be found and a long term policy should be adopted for the power sector. We welcomed the government announcement to shift government buildings to solar.

In order to increase the domestic production of Solar panels, a concessional package has to be given so that the import bill is reduced, he added. Speaking in a TV program, RCCI President said that the main cause of the energy crisis in Pakistan is mixed fuel transformation. Sixty percent of Pakistan's total electricity generation is thermal, which

requires importing diesel and furnace oil. Thirty percent is hydel, which requires a long-term policy, but we have seen that under public pressure the governments take shortcuts. Pakistan is rich in natural resources; in the north we have rivers with excellent flow. Our power generation capacity is more than 30,000 megawatts, which can be increased to more than 50,000 MW, he added.

Nadeem Rauf said that renewable energy resources also need to be harnessed. He said that solar, nuclear and wind energy account for 10% of the country's electricity generation which needs to be gradually increased. We have a long summer and luckily we have long Wind Corridors which can be helpful in generating Solar and Wind based electricity, he added.

Karachi businesses are subjected to 10-15 hours power outages: President FPCCI

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has strongly condemned the unscheduled, unrestricted and destructive load shedding in Karachi to the tune of 10-15 hours; which is not only destroying the local economic & commercial activities, but also creating crisis-like situation for many export-oriented industries as various industries and sectors are interlinked and intertwined. He added that hundreds of business owners have contacted FPCCI with their tales of unbearable losses and impending bankruptcies.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh informed that business, industry and trade community in Karachi has already suffered financial losses running into tens of billions of rupees over the past 4-6 weeks due to unprecedented load shedding. Furthermore, there is no end to this ordeal in sight.

FPCCI Chief maintained that if the exports are affected due to load shedding, there will be further strain on trade deficit, current account, rupee value and foreign exchange reserves - and, this effectively makes the debilitating load shedding in Karachi an issue of national economic security.

Powered by JS Bank

PHA, ZINDIGI sign MOU



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: An MOU was signed between Parks & Horticulture Authority and ZINDIGI-Powered by JS Bank in an auspicious event held at Parks & Horticulture Authority Headquarters.

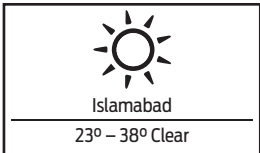
The MOU was signed between Umer Jehangir, DG PHA and Noman Azhar Chief Officer-ZINDIGI. According to this MOU, all the PHA departments will be digitalized to fulfill the requirements of the digital world.

On this occasion Secretary Housing Punjab Mian Shakeel Ahmed graced the ceremony along with Assistant Director General Mr. Babar Deen and Senior officials from PHA. During his address, Mian Shakeel Ahmed stressed that to improve the

performance of PHA, it is inevitable to digitalize all the departments of PHA. He also said that this initiative is in accordance with the vision of Punjab Government. Due to digitalization issue like attendance of employees, plantation drives and advertising expenditure will be easily monitored.

During his speech, DG PHA Umer Jehangir assured that all the resources shall be utilized to improve the performance of the organization. He also emphasized that PHA is working both on making Lahore green and on betterment of various departments.

He appreciated and mentioned that they are thankful to the Management of ZINDIGI-Powered by JS Bank, to assist this digitalization as volunteers to complete this task in the shortest possible time.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:20 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:22 pm
Isha 9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 92810192

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Education Minister, Kyrgyz envoy discuss exchange of expertise, knowledge

Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan Totuiaev Ulanbek Asankulovich calls on Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain

Naveed Ahmad Khan



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan Totuiaev Ulanbek Asankulovich called on the Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Tuesday.

Secretary Education Ms. Naheed S. Durrani also attended the meeting.

Rana Tanveer welcomed the Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic and said that Pakistan looks forward to taking the relationship with Kyrgyz Republic to the next level. Rana Tanveer said that cooperation between Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan has immense potential. Rana Tanveer said that Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic should take advantage of the opportunity at hand and ensure maximum cooperation. He said that the bilateral cooperation between

the two countries can be of immense benefit to Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

Rana Tanveer discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and Technical Training. He said that the two countries can benefit from the experience of each other. He invited the Education Minister of Kyrgyz Republic to enhance bilateral

exchange regarding education.

Rana Tanveer welcomed exchange of teachers and students to further mutual cooperation. He said that there is significant potential in cooperation between the two countries. He said that Pakistan can learn from the expertise of Kyrgyz Republic in Engineering whereas Kyrgyz Republic can learn from Pakistan with

respect to academic research.

The Federal Minister said that Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan are tied together in cordial relationship of respect and friendship. He said that the peoples of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan have had a long time and close cultural and spiritual ties. Already established relations between the two countries can further be enhanced in the political, economic and educational arena to bring both the countries further closer.

Rana Tanveer praised the current government's efforts in regard to accommodating students of Pakistan. He said that the current government has put high importance on furthering the public education sector. At the end he welcomed the agreement between the two dignitaries to further enhance cooperation between respective ministries of education of Pakistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

Mesmerising

ISLAMABAD: An attractive and eye-catching view of clouds hovering over the Margallah Hills, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

3,025 motorists fined over signal violations

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) issued fine tickets to 3,025 road users over violation of traffic signals during last one month, a police spokesman said on Tuesday.

He said a special campaign underway to check violations following directions of IGP Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan to ensure safe road environment in the city.

Various squads were performing duties at main roads of the city and taking action against the violators, he added.

He said the SSP traffic has appealed the citizens to follow rules by ensuring implementation on traffic laws and regulation.

The SSP had asked the force to take actions against the violators irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users.

Diabetes can be reversed, says Dr Asjad Hameed

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Asjad Hameed-Chairman The Diabetes' Centre Islamabad and renowned diabetologist and Endocrine Specialist has revealed that Diabetes' can be reversed and person can live free of diabetes for rest of life

He made these remarks after successful recovery of a diabetic patient aged around mid 40's to non diabetic in little span of time as 3 months of treatment.

While facilitating the patient, Dr Asjad Hameed termed this success as a breakthrough for those chronic diabetes' patients who have lost hope of life

Sedentary life style and erratic eating habits are considered to be major contributing factors for life threatening disease as Diabetes.

'We, at The Diabetes' Centre, with the help of our Research and Development Specialists, today proven this myth



ISLAMABAD: Dr Asjad Hameed, Chairman The Diabetes' Centre with Hospital Senior Staff and Moazzam Ghani resident of Chaklala Rawalpindi who got non diabetic after being treated at TDC.

wrong that Diabetes' cannot be reversed'. Dr Asjad Hameed said it's nonetheless a breakthrough and expressed his resolve to make Pakistan a Diabetes' free nation

The person who got healed from diabetes is Moazzam Ghani, a resident of Chaklala Rawalpindi. He thanked Dr Asjad Hameed and his hospital The Diabetes' Centre for giving him a new lease of life.

Ajman University delegation visits COMSATS University

To finalize cooperation agreement

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A senior level delegation comprising of Prof. Khaled Assaleh, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Ajman University, UAE and Prof. Kamran Arshad, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Ajman University, UAE visited COMSATS University Islamabad.



The delegation held meetings with counterparts led by Prof. Muhammad T Afzal, Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Registrar CUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Director, CUI Wah Campus, Prof. Dr. Shahzad A. Malik, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. Saqib Gulzar, Dean, Faculty of

Business Administration and Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Head, International Office.

Prof. Assaleh briefed the participants of the meeting about Ajman University. He further discussed his

objective of the visit to CUI was a strong desire to establish and further strength long term academic and research partnership between the two institutions.

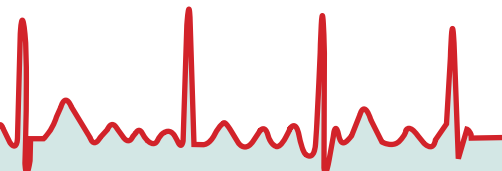
Prof. Sajjad Madani, Registrar CUI

gave a brief presentation about CUI. He said that COMSATS University was a fast-growing public sector university having 7 campuses, 6 faculties with over 2,700 faculty members wherein CUI has the largest pool of PhD degree holders in Pakistan.

Various modes of collaboration and partnership between two universities were discussed at the level of students and faculty members between the delegates and it was agreed to formalize the arrangements through an institutional agreement.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Director, Wah Campus was assigned as Focal Person from COMSATS University for establishing research collaboration between research centers of both universities.

Health Corner



Scientists warn of links between soil pollution, heart disease

ISLAMABAD: Pesticides and heavy metals in soil may have detrimental effects on the cardiovascular system, according to a review paper published today in Cardiovascular Research, a journal of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

"Soil contamination is a less visible danger to human health than dirty air," said author Professor Thomas Münzel of the University Medical Center Mainz, Germany. "But evidence is mounting that pollutants in soil may damage cardiovascular health through a number of mechanisms including inflammation and disrupting the body's natural clock."

Pollution of air, water and soil is responsible for at least nine million deaths each year. More than 60% of pollution-related disease and death is due to cardiovascular disease such as chronic ischaemic heart disease, heart attack, stroke and heart rhythm disorders (arrhythmias).

This paper highlights the relationships between soil pollution and human health, with a particular focus on cardiovascular disease. Soil pollutants include heavy metals, pesticides, and plastics. The authors state that contaminated soil may lead to cardiovascular disease by increasing oxidative stress in the blood vessels (with more "bad" free radicals and fewer "good" antioxidants), by causing inflammation, and by disturbing the body clock (circadian rhythm).



Dirty soil may enter the body by inhaling desert dust, fertilizer crystals, or plastic particles. Heavy metals such as cadmium and lead, plastics, and organic toxicants (for example in pesticides) can also be consumed orally. Soil pollutants wash into rivers and create dirty water which may be consumed.

Pesticides have been linked with an elevated risk of cardiovascular disease. While employees in the agricultural and chemical industries face the greatest exposure, the general public may ingest pesticides from contaminated food, soil and water.

Cadmium is a heavy metal that occurs naturally in small amounts in air, water, soil and food, and also comes from industrial and agricultural sources. Food is the main source of cadmium in non-smokers. The paper states that population studies have shown mixed results on the relationship between cadmium and cardiovascular disease and cites a Korean study showing that middle aged Koreans with high blood cadmium had elevated risks of stroke and hypertension.

Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal with environmental contamination through mining, smelting, manufacturing and recycling. Studies have found associations between high blood lead levels and cardiovascular disease, including coronary heart disease, heart attack and stroke, in women and in people with diabetes. Further studies have indicated a higher risk of death from cardiovascular disease associated with exposure to arsenic, a naturally occurring metalloid whose levels can increase due to industrial processes and using contaminated water to irrigate crops. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

CDA hospital gets recognition for endocrinology specialization

ISLAMABAD: The College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan had recognized the CDA hospital's department of endocrinology for specialization.

The CDA hospital was honored to be the first recognized super institute for endocrinology specialization, its spokesman told the APP on Tuesday.

Earlier, he said the specializations were being conducted in various fields including dermatology, radiology, general medicine ENT and PEDs etc.

However, specializations were added in two more fields upon the directions of the incumbent management of the authority including gynecology and super specialty in endocrinology.

The department supervised by renowned endocrinologist Dr. Sarwar Malik was set up six months ago which recently shifted to the newly constructed block at the hospital. Dr. Sarwar Malik was the only endocrinologist in the city who is deputized at the CDA hospital. APP

ANF recovers 280kg narcotics; arrests six accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Tuesday conducted three operations in Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta and managed to recover 280 kg narcotics besides netting six accused including a woman.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation conducted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, ANF recovered 111 kg narcotics including 64.8 kg Chars and 46.8 kg opium from a vehicle and arrested three accused namely Hamad, Qaiser and Shumaila a female.

In another raid, ANF Peshawar conducted a raid near Gora Qabristan, G.T.Road Peshawar and recovered 108 kg opium and 38.4 kg charras from a Kia Sportage vehicle.

The raiding party also netted an accused namely Imran Ashraf and recovered a pistol from his possession.

In third operation, a raid was conducted on Samungli Road Quetta and ANF seized 22 kg charras from the possession of two motorcyclists namely Saifullah and Bismillah.

Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. APP

IWMB impounds illegally traded wild birds from Capital's bird shops

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management board (IWMB) on Tuesday impounded over a dozen illegally traded wild birds from a bird shop in E-11 sector of the Federal capital. The rescue team of IWMB raided Alpha Bird Shop in E-11 sector where illegal purchase and sale of birds was going on, said an official of the Board.



He informed that the birds rescued during the raid included six chakurs, seven rosary ring parakeets and a gray franklin whereas all the birds were kept in the Margchara Rescue Center.

He added that completely healthy birds would be released into their natural habitat while the birds in need of any kind of treatment would be released after proper rehabilitation.

The IWMB, on the complain of a citizen has also seized three rare turtles being kept illegally and were retained after proper action.

As Islamabad has been declared a wildlife sanctuary, therefore sale and purchase of wildlife was strictly banned including hunting, under the Protection Ordinance 1979. The Board urged the public to inform and report the IWMB about any illegal sale and purchase of wildlife species in the capital, he added. APP

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Israel's 15-year failed siege of Gaza

Ramzy Baroud

Fifteen years have passed since Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip, subjecting nearly 2 million Palestinians to one of the longest and cruelest politically motivated blockades in history. The Israeli government at the time justified its siege as the only way to protect Israel from Palestinian "terrorism and rocket attacks." This remains the official line. However, few Israelis — certainly not in government, the media or even ordinary people — would argue that the country is safer today than it was prior to June 2007. It is widely understood that Israel imposed the siege as a response to Hamas' takeover of the Strip following a brief and violent confrontation with its main Palestinian political rival Fatah, which still dominates the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

However, the isolation of Gaza was planned years before the Hamas-Fatah clash or even Hamas' legislative election victory of January 2006. Late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had long been determined to redeploy Israeli forces out of Gaza. What finally culminated in the Israeli disengagement from Gaza in August-September 2005 was proposed by

Sharon in 2003, approved by his government in 2004 and finally adopted by the Knesset in February 2005. This "disengagement" was an Israeli tactic that aimed to move a few thousand illegal Jewish settlers out of Gaza to other illegal settlements in the West Bank, while redeploying the Israeli army from crowded Gazan population centers to the border areas. This was the actual start of the Gaza siege.

The above assertion was even clear to James Wolfensohn, who was in 2005 appointed special envoy for Gaza disengagement by the Quartet on the Middle East. In 2010, he concluded: "Gaza had been effectively sealed off from the outside world since the Israeli disengagement... and the humanitarian and economic consequences for the Palestinian population were profound." The ultimate motive for the disengagement was not Israel's security or even a desire to starve Gazans as a form of collective punishment. The latter was just one natural outcome of a much more sinister political plot, as communicated by Sharon's own senior adviser at the time, Dov Weisglass. In an interview with Haaretz in October 2004, he put it plainly: "The significance of the disengagement plan is the freezing of the peace process. And when you freeze that process, you prevent the establishment of a Palestinian

state and you prevent a discussion on the refugees, the borders and Jerusalem."

Not only was this Israel's reasoning behind the disengagement and subsequent siege on Gaza but, according to the seasoned Israeli politician, it was all done "with a (US) presidential blessing and the ratification of both houses of Congress." The president in question was George W. Bush. All of this took place before Palestine's legislative elections, Hamas' victory and the Hamas-Fatah clash. The last of these merely served as a convenient justification for what had already been discussed, ratified and implemented. For Israel, the siege was a political ploy that acquired additional meaning and value as time passed. In response to the accusation that Israel was starving Palestinians in Gaza, Weisglass said in 2006: "The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger."

What was then understood as a facetious, albeit thoughtless, statement turned out to be actual Israeli policy, as indicated in a 2008 report that was made available in 2012. Thanks to the Israeli human rights organization Gisha, the "red lines (for) food consumption in the Gaza Strip," composed by the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, was made public. It emerged that Israel was calculating the mini-

mum number of calories necessary to keep Gaza's population alive — a number that is "adjusted to culture and experience" in the Strip. The rest is history. Gaza's suffering is absolute. Some 98 percent of the Strip's water is undrinkable. Hospitals lack essential supplies and life-saving medications. Movement in and out of the Strip is practically prohibited, with minor exceptions.

Still, Israel has failed miserably in achieving any of its objectives. Tel Aviv hoped that the disengagement would compel the international community to redefine the legal status of its occupation of Gaza. Despite Washington's pressure, however, that never happened. Gaza remains part of the Occupied Palestinian Territories as defined in international law. Even the September 2007 Israeli designation of Gaza as an "enemy entity" and a "hostile territory" changed little, except that it allowed the Israeli government to declare several devastating wars on the Strip, starting in 2008.

None of these wars have successfully served a long-term Israeli strategy. Instead, Gaza is fighting back on a much larger scale than ever before, frustrating the calculations of Israeli leaders, as has become clear in their befuddled, disturbing language. During one of the deadliest Israeli wars on Gaza

in July 2014, right-wing Knesset member Ayelet Shaked wrote on Facebook that the war was "not a war against terror, and not a war against extremists, and not even a war against the Palestinian Authority." Instead, according to Shaked, who a year later became Israel's minister of justice, "it is a war between two people. Who is the enemy? The Palestinian people."

In the final analysis, the governments of Sharon, Ehud Olmert, Benjamin Netanyahu and Naftali Bennett all failed to isolate Gaza from the greater Palestinian body, break the will of the Strip or ensure Israeli security at the expense of Palestinians. Moreover, Israel has fallen victim to its own hubris. While prolonging the siege will achieve no short or long-term strategic value, lifting it, from Israel's viewpoint, would be tantamount to an admission of defeat and could empower Palestinians in the West Bank to emulate the Gaza model. This lack of certainty further accentuates the political crisis and lack of strategic vision that has defined all Israeli governments for nearly two decades. Inevitably, Israel's political experiment in Gaza has backfired. The only way out is for the siege to be completely lifted — for good.

The writer is the founder of PalestineChronicle.com. Courtesy Arab News

Kashmiris' determination

The Government of India can incarcerate the champions of freedom, but it cannot incarcerate their idea of freedom. Every household in the IIOJK has a perpetual desire for freedom from the Indian yoke for the last 75 years, which has intensified after the revocation of special status of Kashmir on August 05, 2019. Hailing from the thickly populated Tankipura locality of Habaqadal area of occupied Srinagar, Mussarat Alam Butt, Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference in the IIOJK was orphaned in childhood and was raised by his uncles.

He emerged as one of the most prominent liberation leaders in the Amarnath land row of 2008. Fearing his popularity among the youth, the Indian government put him in Tihar Jail, where he has been languishing till date. Off and on he had been put in isolation in the Hindoli jail. His wife and only son have no source of income to feed themselves. They have not met him since 2008 as they could not bear the travelling expenses for New Delhi.

Muhammad Farooq Dar, another Kashmiri inmate of New Delhi's notorious prison, also hails from the Habaqadal area of Srinagar. He has championed the cause of freedom since 1989.

Dar is a commander of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), who led an army of 40,000 young Kashmiris in 1989. He was imprisoned in June 1990 by the Indian government, which pressurized him to ask his young followers to surrender their guns and also lured him with an offer of Rs 50 million for the purpose. He, however, did not yield to both the pressure and temptation.

Humiliated by his outright refusal, the Indian authorities made Farooq Ahmed Dar under duress to confess the killing of 24 Kashmiri pundits. His elder brother Pervez Ahmed Dar was brutally murdered by the occupation forces while he was on way to his office at Sheik-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) at Khanka-e-Mualla in Srinagar, and due to which his father had an analytical stroke. Late Prof Dr Bheem Singh Advocate, once chairman of the Kashmiri lawyers group in the Indian Supreme Court, fought Dar's cases, and got proved all the 24 murder charges leveled against him as fabricated in the highest court. It took him 16 years (from 1990 to 2006), which he spent in prison.

Farooq Dar was again incarcerated in 2017 along with other Kashmiri leadership in a fake money laundering case. Currently housed in Tihar Jail's Block No 2 Khare, he is on hunger strike to death in protest against the brutal jail superintendent and is reportedly being forced fed.

Ever since his solitary confinement in the Tihar prison, Dar has not been allowed to see his family, including an eight year old innocent daughter and the wife.

According to a report, the money sent by the families of jailed Kashmiri leaders is sent back deliberately by the Tihar jail authorities on the pretext of wrong address. In the holy month of Ramazan, the tap water was deliberately disconnected in the jail washrooms so that they were not able to perform ablutions for offering prayers. The families blame that the Tihar jail authorities are carrying out the Hindutava agenda of the extremist Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government of India.

They allege that the lawyers in Delhi courts ask for whooping fees of Rs 5 million per hearing, which is not affordable for the already suppressed families of jailed Kashmiri leaders.

It had also jeopardized the safety and security of women and children back home in held Kashmir where the Indian occupation troops can be seen at every nook and cranny.



Population Bomb

Nasir Hussain Wadho

It will be observed shortly that the population explosion will erupt like an atomic bomb in Pakistan. The country has witnessed several problems that may range from socioeconomic to security issues either that is internal or external but the consequent governments did not give attention to this issue. Pakistan is number fifth on the scoreboard of population records. The country has a population growth rate of 2.4 per cent. According to the latest census, the country's population is about 220 million if it is going at the same pace, the population will be 300 million in 2030.

No country cannot bear the burden of such a huge population, the condition will be further difficult when we consider Pakistan's weak economic and governance structure. Pakistan's economy has been undergoing serious below in all most every sector of the economy, high current account deficit, budget deficit, domestic and international loans, and an agriculture-based economy which is completely dependent on weather conditions that are already under the risk of climate change, cannot sustain the need of such a huge population.

Moreover, population growth has also impacted the education sector; we invest about two per cent of our GDP in education which is the least in South Asia. We have the second-highest number of out-school children in the world. There is a complete lack of critical and innovative think tanks

because the majority of graduate has been facing the same thing how can they enter the job market with such conditions we cannot improve the education sector. Moreover, over-security is also at risk; recently, the government announced the National Security Policy (NSP) but unfortunately, the officials had ignored the value of this incumbent issue of overpopulation. The

The Iranian government had done the same in the 1980s, and ayatollah Khomeini himself did this job, even though; birth control pills are available in government medicine shops in Iran.

mass population will intensify extremism and it will be difficult for the law enforcement agencies to maintain house order. The government had put economic security at its core agent to protect national security but had forgotten that it cannot be achieved without controlling the population.

Furthermore, if we take another example to support this argument, it is no further away, it was our part, it is Bangladesh. At the time of independence, Bangladesh's population was great than ours but now we crossed them, their population growth rate is about 1 per cent, and they have achieved tremendous economic development; further-

more, they have also reduced poverty. It is due to their will and their policies towards controlling the population.

It is not a problem which cannot be solved. It is only possible if certain measures will be taken.

Firstly, education is a prime tool which can fix this problem, the education masses especially women about the importance of this issue. In this case, the government is telling us that people are irrational about this issue but the government is responsible because it did not educate the masses. Secondly, religious scholars are ultra-conservative about the issue. They are claiming this is the idea of the global west. To combat this, the government should do the same thing which they did in the times of Covid-19. They gathered religious scholars and aware people of the health issues same should be the solution for this issue. It is practicable in Islam states.

The Iranian government had done the same in the 1980s, and ayatollah Khomeini himself did this job, even though; birth control pills are available in government medicine shops in Iran.

Last but not least, it is only possible when the government take an interest to solve this issue. It is observed in various countries that if the population growth rate is reduced, it will ultimately reduce poverty, unemployment, and crime rate, and enhance health quality, economic growth, and security and so on.

The writer is Graduate from University of Sindh

The Political Economy of Accountability

Sayed Sameed Hussain

The accountability system of Pakistan is evolving. The emergence of National Accountability Bureau, courts, and the accountability system of the National Assembly, have all helped accountability to nurture. However, these institutions, no matter specialized like NAB or unspecialized like the Federal Investigation Agency, have failed to give fruitful results. The reason to these failures lies in the structure of political economy of Pakistan. Any political leader, across the globe, gains his political capital through one of the three political designs that are Client Pattern, Charisma and Programmatic. In Pakistan, majority of the political capital is gained through Client Pattern.

Now what is client-pattern? A design in which the voters act as clients of a politician is the client pattern. In such system, voters prefer their local or personal stakes over the countries. Construction of roads, minor maintenance of streets or unjust employments of local voters is what makes the politician win the elections. In such a system, politicians are not held accountable by their voters and thus, accountability fails at the very grassroots level. In a programmatic scenario, politicians or policy makers are evaluated and voted based on their plans and programs that they have offered and will offer. This system

offers the best accountability as the politicians are questioned about their programs and policies at the grass root level.

The third type, Charisma, does not have significant impact on accountability, as only few politicians almost none are selected based on the charisma they have. Pakistan has been under the military dictatorship for the longest periods. These military rulers of Pakistan have exploited the accountability system to the worst. During the 1990s, and almost in every period, military establishment have used accountability as an excuse to overthrow their least favorable politicians. This made the accountability system less efficient and least trustworthy.

However, the emergence of middle class and rapid increase in youth bulge in recent years has somehow created a local and natural system of accountability and will lead towards greater evolution in accountability. The middle-class compromises mostly of the white-collar workers. They do not have seen their future as politicians or high earning businessmen. To them their only stake is fair and on merit induction in civil jobs and services. Any act of jobbery or nepotism endangers their stakes and thus, demand for accountability increases. In short, the accountability system of Pakistan is evolving but the process is slow and high costs will be paid till it reaches an efficient stage.

In such a system, politicians are not held accountable by their voters and thus, accountability fails at the very grassroots level.

The writers is a student of Economics Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

Russia shells Ukraine’s Donetsk seeking new gains after seizing Luhansk

Governor says there’s no safe place in Donetsk region

SLOVIANSK/KYIV: Russian forces struck targets across Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region on Tuesday, a day after President Vladimir Putin declared victory in the neighbouring region of Luhansk after months of gruelling attritional warfare in which both sides lost many men. The strikes across Donetsk, reported by regional officials and Russia’s military, followed Moscow’s capture of Lysychansk on Sunday, the last bastion of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk. Donetsk and Luhansk together make up the Donbas, the industrialised eastern part of Ukraine that has seen the biggest battle in Europe for generations. Russia says it wants to wrest control of the entire Donbas from Ukraine on behalf of Moscow-backed separatists in two self-proclaimed people’s republics. Ukrainian troops who retreated from Lysychansk at the weekend took up defensive lines in the Donetsk area on Tuesday, according to Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the Luhansk region. Russian forces struck a market and a

residential area in the city of Sloviansk in Donetsk on Tuesday, killing at least two people and injuring seven, local officials said. A Reuters reporter on the scene saw yellow smoke billowing from an auto supplies shop, and flames engulfing rows of market stalls as firefighters tried to extinguish the blaze. “Russians again deliberately target areas where civilians congregate,” Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko wrote in a Facebook post that detailed the toll of Tuesday’s strikes. “This is sheer terrorism.” Earlier, Kyrylenko had said both Sloviansk and nearby Kramatorsk had suffered heavy shelling overnight. “They are now also the main line of assault for the enemy,” he said. “There is no safe place without shelling in the Donetsk region.” The Russian defence ministry, which says it does not target residential areas, said it had used high-precision weapons to destroy command centres and artillery in the Donetsk region, where Ukraine still controls a number of major cities.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a call on Tuesday that he believed Ukraine’s military could retake territory recently captured by Russian forces. Johnson updated Zelenskyy on the latest deliveries of British military equipment, including 10 self-propelled artillery systems and loitering munitions, which would be arriving in the coming days and weeks, a spokesperson said. Zelenskyy adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said Russia’s capture of Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk—two medium-sized cities in Luhansk, now largely reduced to ruins—had come at a heavy human and financial cost for Moscow and had taken 90 days. “This is the last victory for Russia on Ukrainian territory,” Arestovych said in a video posted online. He said that besides the battle for Donetsk, Ukraine was hoping to launch counter-offensives in the south of the country. Russia might struggle to redirect its forces there with 60% of them now concentrated in the east,

he said. “And there are no more forces that can be brought in from Russia,” Arestovych added. Putin has told troops involved in capturing Luhansk—who would also be part of any attempt to capture cities in Donetsk—to “rest and recover their military preparedness,” while units in other parts of Ukraine keep fighting. A Reuters reporter who visited Lysychansk on Monday found widespread destruction and few residents in a city that was once home to nearly 100,000 people. Those who were left surveyed bullet-riddled, up-ended Ukrainian police cars, hulking local government buildings scorched by shell fire and the damaged golden dome of an Orthodox church. Some military experts reckoned the hard-fought victory had brought Russian forces little strategic gain, and the outcome of the war remained in the balance. “I think it’s a tactical victory for Russia but at an enormous cost,” said Neil Melvin of the RUSI think tank in London.

UAE President pardons 737 prisoners ahead of Eid Al-Adha

ABU DAHBI: President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has ordered the release of 737 prisoners in the UAE, ahead of Eid Al-Adha, Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. The pardoned prisoners had received prison sentences for a variety of offenses and the President also pledged to settle the financial obligations of the released prisoners. The pardon is part of the UAE’s humanitarian initiatives based on the values of forgiveness and tolerance, allowing the released prisoners to begin a new chapter in their lives and positively contribute to society, WAM reported. In November, the former president Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan also ordered the release of 870 prisoners to commemorate the UAE’s milestone 50th National Day. This was followed by the release of 540 prisoners in March, ahead of Ramadan. With Eid Al-Adha approaching, the President’s annual pardon aims to strengthen family bonds by reuniting inmates with their mothers, wives, and children.

Palestine rejects US stance on journalist killing



Spokesman Report

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine rejects the United States’ dismissal of the Israeli occupying forces’ intentional targeting of Palestinian journalists on 11 May 2022, which resulted in the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh and injury of Ali Sammoudi, as mere “tragic circumstances” and not an intentional war crime. The context in which the crime took place as well as forensic examination of the General Prosecutor of the State of Palestine and several independent reports concluded that the Israeli occupation soldiers intentionally targeted Shireen Abu Akleh along with other journalists. No amount of vagueness or politicization can exonerate the killers, whitewash the crime, or hide the truth. This whitewashing will only further institutionalize Israel’s entrenched impunity, continue to deny the Palestinian people any justice, and threaten the safety and lives of journalists in Palestine. It will also have a negative impact on the safety of journalists worldwide. The State of Palestine, in its pursuit of justice for Shireen Abu Akleh and all Palestinian victims, will continue undeterred with its efforts at the international level, including the International Criminal Court, to hold those who ordered and provide cover for this established trend of criminality accountable for their crimes.

Algeria marks 60 years of independence



ALGIERS: Algeria celebrated 60 years of independence from France on Tuesday with nationwide ceremonies, a pardon of 14,000 prisoners and its first military parade in years. The events mark the country’s official declaration of independence on July 5, 1962, after a brutal seven-year war which ended 132 years of colonial rule. The war, which killed at least 1.5 million people, remains a point of tension in relations between Algeria and France. “A day of glory for a new era” is the official slogan of the celebration, which includes concerts, sports events, lectures and photo exhibits retracing the horrors of the war. City workers hung Algerian flags and portraits of the war’s heroes, and loudspeakers in public squares are broadcasting patriotic songs. Former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika abandoned holding military parades, but his successor, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, revived the tradition for this year’s anniversary. The military show of force is taking place amid growing tensions between Algeria and Morocco over the disputed Western Sahara region. Tebboune is expected to address consultations with political leaders he’s been holding in recent months. Opposition figures and those involved in 2019 pro-democracy protests that helped overthrow Bouteflika were not invited to the consultations. The president signed decrees Monday announcing pardons for thousands of prisoners. It orders inmates suffering medical problems to be released or have their sentences commuted. It was not immediately clear whether political prisoners, including those involved in the Hirak protest movement, would be among the people freed.

India martyrs 140 Kashmiris in past six months in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred 140 Kashmiris including five boys from January 1, 2022 till first week of July 2022 in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, on Tuesday, revealed that of those 19 youth were killed in fake encounters and 854 were arrested during the past six months. The troops destroyed over 34 houses and structures by using chemical substance during cordon and search operations. Thousands of Hurriyat leaders including Masarat Aalam Butt, Muham-



mad Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Nayeem Ahmad Khan, Aasiya Andrabhi, Gulam Ahmad Gular, human rights activists, religious scholars and journalists continue to languish in Tihar and other jails of India and occupied territory over the past five years. APHC leadership in Srinagar said, instead of searching for a peaceful political solution of the Kashmir dispute, India has made Jammu and Kash-

Sydney floods burden 50,000 around Australia’s largest city

RICHMOND: Hundreds of homes have been inundated in and around Australia’s largest city in a flood emergency that was causing trouble for 50,000 people, officials said Tuesday. Emergency response teams made 100 rescues overnight of people trapped in cars on flooded roads or in inundated homes in the Sydney area, State Emergency Service manager Ashley Sullivan said. Days of torrential rain have caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks, bringing a fourth flood emergency in 16 months to parts of the city of 5 million people. Evacuation orders and warnings to prepare to abandon homes were given to 50,000 people, up from 32,000 on Monday, New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet said. “This event is far from over. Please don’t be complacent, wherever you are. Please be careful when you’re driving on our roads. There is still substantial risk for flash flooding across our state,” Perrottet said. The New South Wales state government declared a disaster across 23 local government areas overnight, activating federal government financial assistance for flood victims. Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke credited the skill and commitment of rescue crews for preventing any death or serious injury by the fourth day of the flooding emergency. Parts of southern Sydney had been lashed by more than 20 centimeters (nearly 8 inches) of rain in 24 hours, more than 17% of the city’s annual average, Bureau of Meteorology meteorologist Jonathan How said. Severe weather warnings of heavy rain remained in place across Sydney’s eastern suburbs on Tuesday. The warnings also extended north of Sydney along the coast and into the Hunter Valley. The worst flooding was along the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system along Sydney’s northern and western fringes. “The good news is that by tomorrow afternoon, it is looking to be mostly dry but, of course, we are reminding people that these floodwaters will remain very high well after the rain has stopped,” How said.

Two UK Cabinet ministers quit Boris Johnson’s govt

LONDON: Two of Britain’s most senior Cabinet ministers have quit, a move that could spell the end of Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s leadership after months of scandals. Treasury chief Rishi Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid resigned within minutes of each other. Javid said “I can no longer continue in good conscience.” Johnson has been hit by allegations he failed to come clean about a lawmaker who was appointed to a senior position despite claims of sexual misconduct. Sunak said “the public rightly expect government to be conducted properly, competently and seriously.” “I recognize this may be my last ministerial job, but I believe these standards are worth fighting for and that is why I am resigning,”

Talks with IMF difficult due to bankruptcy: Sri Lanka PM

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka’s negotiations with the International Monetary Fund on a bailout are more complex and difficult than before because it is a bankrupt nation, the country’s prime minister said Tuesday. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told lawmakers that recent discussions with a visiting IMF mission were fruitful but not as straightforward as in the past. The South Asian island nation is in its worst economic crisis in memory. Its people are suffering acute shortages of essentials, food, fuel, cooking gas and medicines, obliged to wait in long lines to buy limited supplies. The government has shut schools and asked employees other than those in essential services to work from home. “Our country has held talks with the IMF on many occasions before. But this time the situation is different from all those previous occasions. In the past, we have held discussions as a developing country,” Wickremesinghe said. “But now the situation is different. We are now participating in the negotiations as a bankrupt country. Therefore, we have to face a more difficult and complicated situation,” he said in explaining a roadmap for an economic recovery. Wickremesinghe said earlier that a preliminary agreement on a bailout has

been submitted to the IMF’s board of directors for approval. “But due to the state of bankruptcy our country is in, we have to submit a plan on our debt sustainability to them separately. Only when they are satisfied with that plan can we reach an agreement at the staff level. This is not a straight-forward process,” he said. He said Sri Lanka’s financial legal advisors are working on a debt sustainability report to be submitted in August. Discussions are underway with India, Japan and China to form an aid consortium once a staff-level agreement with the IMF is reached, Wickremesinghe said. Sri Lanka suspended repayment on foreign debts worth about \$7 billion that were due this year because its foreign exchange levels fell to record lows. The country’s total foreign debt is \$51 billion, \$28 billion of which must be repaid by 2027, an average repayment of about \$5 billion a year. Frustrated people have been holding street protests for months and often scuffle among themselves and with police at fuel stations. Wickremesinghe said the Central Bank is forecasting an economic contraction of 4% to 5% this year. The IMF estimates Sri Lanka’s economy will shrink 6% to 7%.

NATO nations sign accession protocols for Sweden, Finland

BRUSSELS: The 30 NATO allies signed off on the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland on Tuesday, sending the membership bids of the two nations to the alliance capitals for legislative approvals — and possible political trouble in Turkey. The move further increases Russia’s strategic isolation in the wake of its invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February and military struggles there since. “This is truly a historic moment for Finland, for Sweden and for NATO,” the head of the alliance, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, said. The 30 ambassadors and permanent representatives formally approved decisions made at a NATO summit in Madrid last week, when the leaders of member nations invited Russia’s neighbor Finland and Scandinavian partner Sweden to join the military club. Securing parliamentary approval for

the new members in Turkey, however, could still pose a problem even though Sweden, Finland and Turkey reached a memorandum of understanding at the Madrid summit. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that Ankara could block the process if the two countries failed to grant Turkey’s demands for the extradition of people it views as terror suspects. The people wanted in Turkey have links to outlawed Kurdish groups or the network of an exiled cleric accused of a failed 2016 coup in Turkey. He said Turkey’s Parliament could refuse to ratify the deal. It is a potent threat since NATO accession must be formally approved by all 30 member states, which gives each a blocking right. Stoltenberg said he expected no change of heart. “There were security concerns that needed to be addressed. And we did what we always do at

NATO. We found common ground,” he said. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has given the process added urgency. It will ensconce the two nations in the Western military alliance and give NATO more clout, especially in the face of Moscow’s military threat. “We will be even stronger and our people will be even safer as we face the biggest security crisis in decades,” Stoltenberg said. At a news conference, the foreign ministers of Sweden and Finland were asked whether the memorandum specified people who would have to be extradited to Turkey. Both ministers said no such list was part of the agreement. “We will honor the memorandum fully. There is, of course, no lists or anything like that in the memorandum, but what we will do is to have better cooperation when it comes to



terrorists,” Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde said. Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto was equally adamant.

“Everything that was agreed in Madrid is stated in the document. There are no hidden documents behind that, or any agreements behind that,” Haavisto said.

Every alliance nation has different legislative challenges and procedures to deal with, and it could take several more months for the two Nordic nations to take their place as official NATO members. Germany’s parliament is set to ratify the membership bids Friday, according to the Free Democrats, a partner party in the country’s coalition government. Other parliaments might only get to the approval process after long summer breaks. “I look forward to a swift ratification process,” Haavisto said. In the meantime, the protocols approved Tuesday bring both nations deeper into NATO’s fold already. As close partners, they already attended some meetings that involved issues that immediately affected them. As official invitees, they can attend all meetings of the ambassadors even if they do not yet have any voting rights.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with market data for Pakistan, Europe, USA, and Asia Pacific, including index values, changes, and times.

Table of Open Market Forex Rates showing exchange rates for various currencies like Australian Dollar, Bahrain Dinar, etc.

Easypaisa, BoK partner for KP's Insaf Food Programme

Through strategic partnership, beneficiaries of programme will be able to receive PKR 2100 every month

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: Easypaisa, Pakistan's leading digital payments app, has partnered with the Bank of Khyber to ensure seamless distribution of funds to beneficiaries in KP under the Insaf Food Programme.

Through the strategic partnership, beneficiaries of the programme will be able to receive PKR 2100 every month in their Easypaisa mobile wallet or collect cash from any Easypaisa agent to meet their essential food related needs. The programme shall benefit more than five million people in the province, costing PKR 25.5 billion annually.

The agreement was signed by M. Mudassar Aqil, CEO, Easypaisa/ Telenor Microfinance Bank and Mohammad Ali Gulfaraz, Managing Director and CEO, Bank of Khyber.

M. Mudassar Aqil, CEO, Easypaisa/ Telenor



Microfinance Bank commented on the occasion, "We are extremely proud to be joining hands with the Bank of Khyber to facilitate the people of KP by providing convenient access to

funds under the Insaf Food Programme. This is not only in line with our mission of a financially inclusive Pakistan but would also enable us to bring ease into the lives of the ordinary citizens

during these testing times."

Also present at the occasion, Managing Director/ CEO Bank of Khyber, Mohammad Ali Gulfaraz commented, "Bank of Khyber is proud to be chosen by the Government of KP to implement the Insaf Food Card project aiming to distribute Rs25.5 billion annually to 1 million low-income households in the form of monthly cash support to help them cope with inflation. Our partnership with Easypaisa will enable convenient access to funds to the beneficiaries by leveraging their extensive network across KP."

With more than 10 million customers using the Easypaisa App in the last 30-days across the Android and iOS platforms, Easypaisa is the most used Pakistani App across all categories and remains committed to transforming Pakistan into a cashless and financially inclusive society through the power of collaboration & technology.

Govt should reconsider, withdraw super tax: SM Muneer

Implementation of super tax will shut down industrial cycle: Salman Aslam

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Patron-in-Chief of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) SM Muneer and President Salman Aslam have demanded the withdrawal of a 10 percent super tax on 13 sectors by the government. SM Muneer, Patron-in-Chief of KATI, said that with this move of the government, economic activities are declining with each passing day and with the implementation of the super tax, the economic slowdown is expected to increase further. He said that on the condition of collecting an additional tax of Rs 400 billion from the IMF, a super-tax of 10 percent was imposed on 13 different industrial sectors, including textiles, in addition to the pre-imposed tax.

SM Muneer said that a significant portion of the country's exports come from the textile



sector, which is already facing problems such as gas cut-off, expensive RLNG, expensive electricity, high-interest rates, and high production costs. In such a scenario, further taxes on other sectors, including the textile industry, are unbearable. He said that the overall rate of tax collection in these 13 sectors would increase from 29 to 39 percent which is impossible for any business to bear.

Patron-in-Chief of KATI said that the textile industry in Faisalabad was closing down rapidly which was a matter of concern. He demanded immediate withdrawal of super tax from the government so that the industrial cycle continues to run and the economy does not slow down.

KATI President Salman Aslam said that the implementation of the super tax has caused great frustration to investors. The government's hike in petrol, electricity, and gas prices by 30 to 40 percent and interest rates to 15 percent are adding difficulties in the industry. He said that the ongoing investment process in the country is also in jeopardy and investors have started thinking that in the current situation, further investment is not without risk. No significant tax has been levied on the agricultural sector. If the government has to raise

more money to meet the IMF's requirements, the best way to do so is to eliminate tax breaks for various sectors in the budget and reduce non-development expenditure.

President KATI said that the imposition of the super tax would also lead to the deterioration of financial discipline in the country and would provide a new opportunity for tax collectors to unnecessarily harass businesses and confuse them with legal complications. Salman Aslam said that instead of further enhancing their capacity, big industries are being entangled in a cycle that will slow down the industrial process as well as increasing unemployment and inflation in the country. Therefore, the government should focus on other measures to collect additional tax revenue instead of imposing the super tax.

Ghulam Qadir calls for formulating policy to enhance FDI

Ghulam Qadir designated-Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan to China visited PCJCCI

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Ghulam Qadir designated-Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan to China visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on another day. The meeting was attended by Wang Zihai, President PCJCCI, Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI attended the meeting along with executive committee members which includes; S.M Naveed, Daud Ahmed, Khalid Raffique Choudhry, Colonel Ashraf Rana, Zaki Aijaz, Muhammad Idrees and Jahangir Ahmed. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss that how can we deal with the trade deficit and what measures should be taken to enhance import/export.

Ghulam Qadir exchanged his views by saying that, importers



and exporters both are important when it comes to trade. We should come forward to implement a mechanism to enhance Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) because the GDP of Pakistan is low, the inflation rate is increasing day by day, and the exports have been decreased. He added that we need to diversify the main origins of FDI inflows with better economic diplomacy. He said that I am extremely grateful to PCJCCI for conducting such fruitful meeting before my visit to China, I will definitely

address the queries of our business community and will try to resolve them.

Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI suggested establishing "Buying House" in Pakistan to increase import/export and provide maximum facilities to the business community. Pakistan government should establish sourcing parks or buying houses and ensure all amenities through a single-window facility, to make the country an attractive destination for sourcing by the inter-

national buyers. He added that in this way we can develop a long term quality oriented trade relations with China, Middle East and other countries.

Wang Zihai, President PCJCCI also joined the meeting through zoom and he said that we should take steps for attracting Chinese investment in various potential industrial sectors including furniture, handicrafts, textile, fertilizers, cement, glass-work energy and pharmaceuticals. He added that Chinese government has also allocated buying houses for Pakistan in China where they can present their products.

Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI and Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General thanked the Commercial Counsellor for his precious time and said that we are endeavoring to build a better and prosperous future of Pakistan with the cooperation of China.



ISLAMABAD: The Chairman, Prime Valley, Dr. Abdul Wajid and Ch. Zulfarnain presenting shield to Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on the occasion of a Prime Valley pre-launching ceremony.

Ch. Sultan lauds govt decision to ban import of luxury items

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The renowned businessman Ch. Sultan who is the Central Chairman Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association (PHMA), said that the decision of Government to ban on import of luxury products lauded. Ch. Sultan said that this incentive is very promising to bring the local industry and trade towards



to the country and in this regards the government should provide favorable conditions for local industry and make the ban on import of luxury items profitable. He further said that in future for the development and prosperity of Pakistan long time policy formulated in the country so that investors and industrialists can enjoy security and peace of mind. He said local quality manufacturer better conditions. ing should be raised in the country by strictly enforcing the ban on import of luxury items.

Talked about the Pakistan Army Ch. Sultan said that Pakistan Army is fighting valiantly against the enemy of Pakistan on internal and external fronts. The Pakistan Army has always performed its duty in the best possible manner, be it in the war on terror or in emergencies. At last he added that we have always pursued a strategy of developing local industry, trade and tackling the challenges facing the country's economy.

PSI, Pakistan in collaboration with NIC hosted Make Space Hackathon



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Make Space Hackathon is a virtual competition aimed at empowering change-makers in creating tech-enabled solutions that are addressing Pakistan's pressing population crisis. With over 600 applications from across the country, the enthusiasm and drive to create innovative solutions was palpable before the competition kicked off.

In the run up to the hackathon, PSI Pakistan Country Director Ayesha Leghari stressed the urgency of addressing the population crisis, "This is an uphill battle that can only be won if we use out of the box ideas and innovations that breakthrough the barriers of accessibility and cultural restrictions."

Over the course of the 3 day hackathon, 60 teams went head to head in creating solutions that were both viable and sustainable. At the end of the 3 days, 11 teams were chosen for the finale that took place on the 30th of June at the NICK Auditorium at NED University.

The finalists were then tasked with pitching their solution in front of industry experts from the startup world as well as the family planning space. After hearing some excellent pitches, the judges for the finale Ayesha Leghari, Omar Abedin, Habibullah Khan, Shamim Rajani, Faizan Laghari, Dr.Sara Shahzad and Anjan Siraj chose team Caliber as the first prize winner and teams WoKahani and Humrah as the runner ups. The winner took home 1 million rupees as prize money, while the runner ups took home 100,000 rupees each.

Omar Abedin, Project Director at NICK expressed his delight at being able to collaborate with PSI Pakistan, "The work that PSI Pakistan does is vital for the economic security of the country and that coincides with our goals as an incubator that is a part of a large public-private partnership network."

Karachi facing worst loadshedding in history: Kaukab Iqbal

Chairman CAP says KE has failed to provide electricity to the consumers as per the demand

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Karachi has faced the worst loadshedding in history. People do not get a good sleep at night, but there is even a long shutdown during the day. Despite this, NEPRA has approved to increase the price of electricity by Rs. 9.42 paise. NEPRA was set up to protect the rights of consumers but now this authority is working entirely in the interest of the power companies. An example of this is the decision to be made without hearing from the consumers. To date, NEPRA has never questioned K Electric How many of its generating plants are working and why it does not increase power generation. Why has NEPRA only

allowed K Electric to establish a monopoly in Karachi?

This was stated by Kaukab Iqbal, Chairman, Consumers Association of Pakistan, while talking to media persons at CAP Head Office. He said that K Electric has failed to provide electricity to the consumers as per the demand. Billions of rupees are being collected from consumers even though there is no electricity. It is not known under what expediency only K Electric is allowed to work in Karachi. Load shedding can be avoided. He said that in today's world keeping in view the competitive laws, monopoly of a single company cannot be established. When there is an

atmosphere of competition, every company will not only provide better service but also offer cheaper electricity to the citizens. Kaukab Iqbal demanded from the government that NEPRA should be abolished immediately and an investigation should be carried out into the assets of the chairman and members to find out how much they have benefited from various power companies and how much money they have amassed. He said that the decision of NEPRA to increase the prices of electricity unilaterally was not accepted. In response to a question.

Kaukab Iqbal said that the qibla of K Electric can be straight-

ened in a month if the customers of K Electric join the campaign "Bijili Do Bill Lo". It will be straightforward that K Electric is already carrying out load shedding for 12 to 14 hours, so what difference does it make? Another thing is that K Electric will cut off its electricity connection if the entire Karachi does not submit the bill. He warned K Electric that if the unannounced and unannounced power outages were not stopped immediately, he had no choice but to take action on the "Bijili Do Bill Lo" campaign. The campaign will be launched through social media. He asked the federal and provincial governments to immediately stop load shedding of K Electric so that consumers can get relief.



World Test Championship

Pakistan jump above India in WTC standings after points penalty

Points penalty means India drop below Pakistan to the fourth spot

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan have jumped above India in the ICC World Test Championship standings after the latter were penalised for slow over-rate in the Edgbaston Test.

Apart from the points penalty, India have also been fined 40 per cent of their match fee for the offence during their seven-wicket loss against England in the rescheduled fifth Test.

The points penalty means India drop below Pakistan to the fourth spot in the ICC World Test Championship standings. After the penalty, India are on 75 points (point percentage of 52.08), just a shade below Pakistan's PCT of 52.38 per cent.

The news comes as a further blow to India, who were defeated by seven wickets in Edgbaston after England chased down a record 378 – their highest-successful run chase in Test history. Jonny Bairstow led the way with



a ton in each innings while Joe Root too smashed an unbeaten 142 in the fourth innings.

It meant England levelled the series

2-2, and India missed out on a chance to secure their first Test series victory in England since 2007.

According to Article 2.22 of the ICC

Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

In addition, as per Article 16.11.2 of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) playing conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short.

Since India fell short by two overs after time allowances were taken into consideration, they were docked two WTC points. David Boon of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after on-field umpires Aleem Dar and Richard Kettleborough, third umpire Marais Erasmus and fourth umpire Alex Wharf levelled the charge.

The penalty comes as a blow, with India chasing one of the top two spots in the WTC table, which will see the side qualify for the final in 2023.

England seal record Test chase against India

EDGBASTON: England hunted down 378 and completed their highest successful chase in Test history at Edgbaston on the back of tons from Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow to draw level 2-2 against India.

The Test series that began in August 2021 finally came to an end in July 2022 and at the end of it, both teams shared the spoils 2-2.

England's surge in the ICC World Test Championship standings continued as a result, solidifying their 7th spot with at a point percentage of 33.33. India, on the other hand, are third with 53.47 but have Pakistan, West Indies and Sri Lanka breathing down their neck.



There was a stark contrast to the conditions from yesterday to today – from bright and sunny day four, the final day was gloomy and overcast, giving India some hope of a possible comeback.

However, it was only the first over of the day from Mohammed Siraj that India

looked slightly threatening, after which Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow went about their business.

India were guilty of being extremely wayward in their lines and lengths, giving away few too many extras to their liking. The boundaries were flowing easily from the

bats of the duo as they started getting closer to the total.

The No.1 batter in the MRF Tyres ICC Test Rankings notched up his 28th Test ton, his fifth of the year, in style with a boundary. If the shackles weren't broken already, Root became more dangerous after the milestone. Bairstow, at the other end, was patiently playing second fiddle to his former captain in his nineties.

The Yorkshireman got to his fourth Test hundred in three Tests and smashed Siraj for three consecutive boundaries to bring the runs needed to single digits. Root hit the winning run to complete their record chase and draw the series 2-2.

Hashoo Group becomes title sponsor of World Corporate Golf Challenge Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Group, in collaboration with Loco Services, will be hosting Hashoo Group World Corporate Golf Challenge Pakistan 2022.

In this regard a memorandum of understanding was signed by Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education Division, Hashoo Group and Wing Commander (Retd.) I N Khokhar, Chairman, Loco Services in Islamabad.

This will be the 6th edition of the World Corporate Golf Challenge (WCGC) in Pakistan and Hashoo Group is proud to be the Title Sponsor of this pres-



tigious event. Following the success of tournaments over the last many years, Hashoo Group and Loco Services will host a total of three events in Karachi, Islamabad, and Lahore this year.

The series of events will

kick off in Karachi during the third week of August 2022 and will conclude with the finals in Lahore during the third week of September 2022. The venues and exact dates will be revealed in August, closer to the event.

The winning team of the National Final of Hashoo Group World Corporate Golf Challenge Pakistan, comprising of two corporate players will represent as a Team at World Final in Tenerife, Spain.

WCGC is the largest corporate golf tournament in the world and since its inception nearly three decades ago, over one million golfers have competed across the globe for a chance to represent their company and country at World Finals. Loco Services is not only the license holder of WCGC in Pakistan, but also the official country partner of Heritage World Cup, GEC Open and World Golf & Business Club.

Nadal into Wimbledon quarters as Kyrgios lurks

LONDON: Rafael Nadal swept into the Wimbledon quarter-finals on Monday, staying on course for a crunch meeting with Nick Kyrgios, who was on his best behaviour in a battling five-set win.

In the women's competition, 2019 champion Simona Halep demolished Spanish fourth seed Paula Badosa in just 60 minutes to set up a meeting with Amanda Anisimova. Nadal, chasing a rare calendar Grand Slam, started his campaign at the All England Club slowly but is now in the groove as he hunts a third Wimbledon crown. He showed no mercy to Dutch 21st seed Botic van de Zandschulp in their evening clash on Centre Court, overcoming a late wobble to seal a 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) win.

"I think I continued in a positive way until the end where I played a bad game," said the Spanish second seed. "In a personal way, for me to be able to be in quarter-finals after three years (away from Wimbledon) it's amazing for me so very, very happy." Nadal broke his opponent five times in the match, capitalising on his fourth match point to reach the Wimbledon quarters for the eighth time. If the 22-time Grand Slam champion beats 11th seed Taylor

Fritz and Kyrgios gets past Chile's Cristian Garin, they will meet in a mouth-watering semi-final on Friday.

Kyrgios earlier shrugged off a shoulder injury to beat US player Brandon Nakashima 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2), 3-6, 6-2. The maverick Australian was a changed man just two days after his stormy third-round victory against Greek fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas. Kyrgios looked to be in trouble when Nakashima broke for 4-3 in the fourth and took the set courtesy of a lazy Kyrgios service game. But he rallied in the decider, passing the 100-ace mark for the tournament and breaking twice to secure the win. Kyrgios, who needed regular physio treatment, hammered 79 winners, including 35 aces.

The last time the 40th-ranked player reached the last eight at a major was at the Australian Open in 2015, a year after he reached the same stage on his debut at the All England Club. But he is seen as a major threat to Nadal, whom he beat on his way to the quarter-finals in 2014. The Australian, 27, said he was trying to stay "in the moment". "I'm not thinking about lifting a trophy or making semi-finals or making the final," he said. "I'm just thinking about my habits every day,



just trying to put in a good performance on the court, then put in a good practice session, try to stay positive, try to really separate. "You know, once I'm off the court, enjoy time with my team, my girlfriend, and just really enjoy that, then get into the game mode."

The unseeded Garin pulled off an astonishing comeback against Australia's Alex de Minaur, whom he had not beaten before. The Chilean recovered from two sets down and saved two match points in the fifth set to beat the 19th seed in a gruelling contest lasting four hours and 34 minutes. America's Fritz, who beat Nadal in the Indian Wells final earlier this year, cruised past Australian qualifier Jason Kubler for the loss of just eight games. Former world number one Halep is looking increasingly dangerous as she makes

Jesus wants to emulate boyhood hero Henry



LONDON: Gabriel Jesus has set his sights on emulating boyhood hero Thierry Henry after Arsenal signed the Manchester City striker for a fee of around £45 million (\$54 million) on Monday.

Jesus, who scored 95 goals in 236 appearances for City, has signed a "long-term contract" with Arsenal after deciding to leave the Premier League champions in search of more regular first-team action. The Brazil international revealed he was a big Arsenal fan as a youngster, having been captivated by Henry during the France star's successful spell in north London.

Now Jesus will follow in Henry's footsteps as the main man in Arsenal's attack. "I followed Arsenal when I was young because of Henry," Jesus said. "Obviously I didn't follow too many European teams, but when I saw some of the players that played here, I was like 'Wow, this club is big.' I'm so happy to sign for this big club. Since day one when I knew I could come to play for Arsenal, I was happy. "I know the staff, I know some players, the Brazilian ones. I know there are a lot of top players." Jesus was expected to fall down the pecking order at City had he stayed for the final year of his contract as the champions have bolstered their striking options with the signings of Erling Haaland and Julian Alvarez.

He is reunited with Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, who was Pep Guardiola's assistant at City before he took charge at the Emirates Stadium. "I'm very excited. The club has done a tremendous job to recruit a player of this stature," Arteta said. "I know Gabriel personally very well, and we all know him well from his time in the Premier League and being really successful here. "This is a position that's been on our radar for a long time now and we have managed to get a player that we all wanted, so I'm really happy." Admitting Arteta's presence at the Emirates was influential in his decision to join the Gunners, Jesus said: "We spoke a couple of times about the club, the players, the project and the future.

"I believe 100 percent in Mikel. I had a very good time with him before, he's a very good guy and a very good coach as well.

Peshawar Zalmi UK Talent Hunt trials continue



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Peshawar Zalmi UK Talent Hunt trials continue, after Newcastle, Glasgow and Birmingham Trials were also held in Luton I will have trials. After UK, Peshawar Zalmi will also do talent hunt in Europe.

Peshawar Zalmi's Overseas Team will be formed after trials in UK and Europe. Peshawar Zalmi Overseas Team later will be in Peshawar this year & will be in action in the "Kaun Banyga KP champion" event.

Muhammad Akram, Director Cricket, Peshawar Zalmi, said that there are more than 25 Zalmi clubs attached with the Global Zalmi platform in the UK, Europe and around the world.

Mohammad Akram said that after UK, trials will also be held in Europe. Mohammad Akram further said that after the trials Peshawar Zalmi Overseas team will be selected and Zalmi Overseas team will take part in "Kaun Banyga KP champion" tournament this year. The top performers will be included in the Peshawar Zalmi squad in PSL 8 next year.

Marseille name Igor Tudor as new coach

MARSEILLE: French Ligue 1 giants Marseille on Monday named ex-Croatia international Igor Tudor as their new coach on a two-year deal to replace Jorge Sampaoli. Tudor coached Verona in Serie A last season, leading the club to ninth in Italy's top flight. He stepped down after failing to come to an agreement on how to build on that impressive finish.

"I think we have found what we need in Igor Tudor, and I am happy to welcome him to our club," Marseille's American owner Frank McCourt said in a statement. "Igor is a fighting man, as he has demonstrated throughout his career, both as a coach and as a player. "As he recently proved at Hellas Verona, Igor is an authentic leader who offers a bold vision of soccer, who does not shy away from any challenge and who is determined to pursue excellence."

Argentina's Sampaoli quit Marseille earlier this month because of what he said were differences with the club's hierarchy after guiding them back to the Champions League. Tudor spent the majority of his playing career at Juventus and won 55 caps for Croatia, featuring in the 1998 and 2006 World Cups as well as the 2004 Euros.

The 44-year-old kicked off his coaching career with home club Hajduk Split in 2013, before bouncing from PAOK in Greece to Karabukspor and Galatasaray in Turkey and then on to Udinese in Italy before taking in a second stint in Split followed by an assistant role with Juventus and finally taking the reins of Verona last season. "Trained in Split, I am convinced that he will feel at home in Marseille," owner McCourt added. "Moreover, his experience as a coach at Galatasaray and PAOK, as well as at Juventus as a player, have prepared him for the level of passion that defines and unites our club and this city."

Barca seal double swoop for Kessie, Christensen

BARCELONA: Barcelona on Monday announced the signings of Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie and Denmark defender Andreas Christensen on free transfers.

Kessie joins from Italian champions AC Milan while Christensen arrives from Chelsea. Both have agreed four-year deals with Barcelona. The 25-year-old Kessie spent the past five seasons in Milan after first arriving in Italy with Atalanta in 2015.

He scored seven times in 39 appearances for Milan last season as the club won the Serie A title for the first time since 2011.

Christensen, 26, made 161 Chelsea appearances over 10 years at Stamford Bridge, winning a number of trophies including the Champions League and Europa League.

He had not played for the Blues since withdrawing himself from selection on the morning of the FA Cup final against Liverpool, which Chelsea lost on penalties.

Kessie will be presented by Barca on Wednesday, with Christensen set to be unveiled on Thursday.

EPL clubs given green light to apply for safe standing

LONDON: Premier League clubs have been told they can apply to use safe standing areas from the start of the 2022-23 season. Chelsea, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham took part in a safe standing pilot in the second half of last season, with second-tier Cardiff also joining the experiment.

The scheme proved a success and the British government has given the green light for all clubs in the Premier League and Championship to request a safe standing license if they wish. "Thanks to a robust trial, thorough evidence and modern engineering, we are now ready to allow standing once again in our grounds," UK Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said on Monday. "We are not reintroducing terraces and only clubs which meet strict safety criteria will be permitted." Brentford, Wolves and second-tier QPR will offer designated standing areas for home and away fans in the coming season, with other clubs expected to apply. The government confirmed Wembley would offer limited safe standing for fans at domestic matches later in the season.

Axelsen out of Malaysia Masters

KUALA LUMPUR: Dominant world number one Viktor Axelsen withdrew from badminton's Malaysia Masters starting Tuesday, saying he needed to "rest and recharge" after winning the Malaysia Open, Indonesia Open and Indonesia Masters in the past month.

"I would have loved to compete again here in Kuala Lumpur this week, and then (next week's) Singapore Open," Axelsen posted on social media late on Monday. "However when I woke up this morning, my body and head were telling me that it's time to rest and recharge before I step on the court again. "I need some days off to rest, celebrate my recent wins with my family and then build up towards new goals," added the Dane, who is on a remarkable 32-match unbeaten run that has seen him sweep to three consecutive titles on the Badminton World Federation tour.

Olympic champion Axelsen outplayed Japan's former number one Kento Momota to win the Malaysia Open on Sunday, needing only 34 minutes to sweep to a 21-4, 21-7 victory.