

CPEC in focus

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a review meeting on Balochistan development projects in Islamabad on Wednesday.



🔊 Online system NBP to ease govt payments

😂 Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: On the directive of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) will launch online system for citizens to make government payments without additional charges. The system will start working soon after Eid-ul-Azha, Head of PM's Strategic Reforms

S Under PTI govt

Every energy project suffers costly delays: PM

Orders inquiry into criminal delay over Gwadar breakwater project

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis- the chairman PM's inspection into prosperity was his mission due to its location, the Gwadar ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif commission to submit a compre- and their collective responsibili- port was an important and most Wednesday said that he had hensive report over such crimi- ty Briefing the prime minister in suitable hub for the global trade.

in Balochistan and Gwadar. The prime minister directed ing Balochistan's backwardness

He further resolved that turn- the snags.

The prime minister said that

Secretary Blinken speaks with FM Bilawal

Both reaffirm to further strengthen bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: US Secreand Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had a Wednesday. In this regard, Bilawal Bhutto confirmed that he received a phone call from Antony Blinken. Taking to Twitter, Bilawal wrote that " I had talked with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken today and we reaffirmed to further strengthen ties marking 75 years of bilateral relations." He further wrote that in order to strengthen bilateral relations, contacts in the fields of trade, energy, public health and security would be expanded, and we should promote our people-to-people and business-to-business contacts.

said in a statement that Bilatary of State Antony Blinken wal received a phone call from Blinken today. They reiterated mutual commitment to deeptelephonic conversation on en Pak-US ties marking 75 years and looked forward to frequent exchange of high-level visits.

FM Bilawal requested the state secretary to ease the issuance of visas for Pakistani nationals.

According to MOFA, they appreciated the ongoing visit of Special Rep Dilawar Syed and stressed solidifying trade and commercial ties. Both leaders have also reaffirmed mutual cooperation in energy, health, security and economic development. They also discussed the need for continuous engagement with the interim Afghanistan government to deal with the humanitarian crisis. APP

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Thieves can't win even with umpires' support: Imran

Says we will defeat them in Punjab by-polls

SAHIWAL: Former prime concerned with their wealth minister and PTI chairman they have no sympathy for the Imran Khan on Wednesday general public. He also reiter-

said 'even with the support of ated his claim that the Election the umpires thieves cannot win Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

Salman Sufi said Wednesday.

Sufi said efforts were afoot to transfer all government payments to the online system within six months, for which instruction had been given to the president of NBP. He said an efficient online system, which has no additional charges on consumers, was significant for cash less economy. He said the step would prove a milestone in promoting cashless economy.

criminal delay in Gwadar breakwater project as the Pakistan Tahreek-i-Insaf's government had ignored it despite availability of grants. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said \$445m grant, \$484m soft loan and feasibility were available but it baffled the mind as to ignored the project. From energy to infrastructure, every project suffered costly delays under PTI,

he added. While earlier the prime minister chaired a meeting to review different development projects and strategic value.

ordered an inquiry into the nal negligence within one week. the meeting, the secretary minis-

PM discuss political situation with Maulana Gafoor Haideri, Amir Muqam

how the previous government In a related tweet, he stressed try of maritime affairs apprised that time for presentation was the prime minister that a breakover as it was time for action. The prime minister said Gwadar under concession agreement had was not just about infrastruc- to be constructed for which \$445 ture development, being part of million grant and \$484 million CPEC, it had political, economic loan was provided by the Chinese

water project at the Gwadar port government but the project hit

Through this port, they would have to ensure supply of imported goods from the upper and northern areas of the country. He said for this purpose, there should be best and efficient road and railway infrastructures, adding that through hard work, they would have to move ahead and remove all the deprivation of the province.

The prime minister also directed for taking of all the steps to ensure Chinese investment in Gwadar, so as to promote exports and provide employment opportunities to the people especially to the residents of the area.

Punjab by-polls', scheduled to is trying to ensure the victory take place on July 17.

Addressing a public gathering in Sahiwal, Imran Khan thanked participants for coming in large numbers to the public gathering despite heavy rain and accumulated water in the jalsagah. The former prime minister

said the politics of turncoats has been exposed, adding that 'lootas' have joined Asif Ali Zardari and Sharifs for the lust for power. Lashing out at his political opponents, Khan said Asif Ali Zardari and the Sharif family are only

of the 'imported govt'.

"Even if empires are with you, we will defeat you," Imran Khan said in his message to the political opponents. Imran Khan asked the masses to check voter lists before Punjab by-polls on 20 seats. He vowed to win all 20 seats on July 17. Paying rich tributes to the journalists for standing with truth, he said the government is pressuring the journalists and those who are raising their voice for the country are being booked in cases. Agencies

Govt saves country from bankruptcy: Khawaja Saad

Announces 30pc discount in train fares on of Eid ul Adha

😂 Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Wednesday said that the coalition government's tough decisions have saved the country from bankruptcy. Addressing a press conference flanked by Advisor to the PM Qamar Zaman Kaira, Khawaja said that the country was on verge of bankruptcy but the coalition government took difficult decisions by putting their politics at stake and saved the country from default.

Taking a dig at PTI chairman, Khwaja said that Imran Khan's purpose behind introducing the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was to give him a two-thirds majority in the House, adding that Imran Khan was planning a dictatorial style of government by repealing the 73rd constituthe Eidul Azha relief package to Railways passengers, he said that the fares of all classes of all trains are being reduced by 30% on all three days of Eid.



es on the occasion of Eidul Khan's sins although we Azha, Pakistan Railways know we have very less time [to resolve the issues]." The has announced a 30 percent discount in fares. According minister said that the coalition government is trying to the railway administration, the reduction in train fares will to pull the country out of the mess that the previbe applicable to all passenger trains during the three days of ous PTI-led government Eidul Azha. The notification plunged the country into. has been issued on the direc-Khan had wanted a differtion of Minister for Railways ent style of governance in Khawaja Saad Rafique. On the country under which the other hand, three special he staged the drama of the trains will be operated on electronic voting machines (EVMs) and planned to get multiple routes before Eidul Azha, while the first special the then-opposition leaders train would depart at 10 am arrested," he said. Rafique accused Khan of seeking on July 8. It would travel from the support of the Nationtion. While speaking about Quetta to Peshwar via Multan, Sahiwal and Lahore. al Accountability Bureau's

Rafique, while comment-(NAB) "draconian laws", ing on the political developbut thanked Allah for taking ments in the country, said: Pakistan out of the "era of "We have been carrying the curse" through Khan's oustwhole burden of former er.

Govt taking steps to improve trade with Iran: Miftah

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail said here Wednesday that Pakistan was committed to take all possible measures for resolving the bottlenecks for significantly augmenting the bilateral trade volume with Iran.

The minister was talking to Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini who called on him, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry. Miftah said, the current trade volume between the two countries was not at the optimal level, the statement added.

He also highlighted deep rooted cordial and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran based on centuries old religious and cultural affinities. Miftah emphasized that Pakistan always highly values its brotherly relations with its neighboring country.

Talks with TTP in 'pre-dialogue' stage: Rana Sanaullah

Questions is it harassment if Imran questioned over corruption

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said Wednesday that the government's talks with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were at a "pre-dialogue" after political parties approved negotiations with the militants. In a press conference, the interior minister said the military leadership suggested forming a committee comprising all political parties - a proposal that was accepted by the Parliament as well as the parties. The development comes after the Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS) received a briefing from the military leadership on TTP, where the committee gave formal approval to the government for holding talks with the banned outfit.

The interior minister said the dialogue process with the TTP will be taken forward under the supervision of the Parliament, terming the briefing provided to the committee a "comprehensive one". Sanaullah said that all the negotiations would be conditional upon the Parliament's approval.

Responding to questions, the minister said that former prime minister Imran Khan cannot scare anybody through his threats, blackmailing, and conspiracy narrative. Sanaullah also said that any recording - either audio or video — made to expose a crime is



not a crime unless it is done to blackmail someone.

The interior minister made these remarks when he was asked to comment on the alleged audio of Bushra Bibi in which she could be heard directing the PTI social media head to run trends against party rivals

and declare them traitors. The audio has sparked a debate over privacy issues, while the PTI has demanded the top court take notice of the leaked audio. There are reports that alleged audio of former prime minister Imran Khan talking to his principal secretary Azam Khan may also be released. "If a recording is made to expose a criminal offence, it is not a crime and if a recording is done to blackmail, it is a crime," the minister said

He asked that is it harassment if former prime minister Imran Khan is questioned about his corruption.

Rana Sanaullah, while addressing a press conference, inquired that whether holding PTI Chairman Imran Khan accountable for his looting means that he is being cornered. Interior Minister asked Imran Khan that whether he wants to come in power or just wants an NRO for himself. He said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan cannot scare anybody through his threats, blackmailing and narrative. He said the former Prime Minister should respond to the corruption done in his tenure.

Talking about drug case against him that was registered against him during government of PTI, Rana Sanaullah said that he should be awarded death penalty if he is found guilty in the case.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said the law will take its course in corruption carried out by former Prime Minister Imran Khan in his four-year tenure.

She said the process of investigation as been started as per the law into the corruption done through Farah Gogi and Bushra Bibi. She said since the taxpayers money was plundered, the former Prime Minister will have to respond. The Information Minister said Imran Khan during his tenure victimized his political opponents through fake cases and allegations but failed to furnish any evidence before the courts.



75th birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb and Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar are reviewing the plan to celebrate the diamond jubilee celebrations of Pakistan's creation in a befitting manner here on Wednesday.



PTI govt liable for price hike, power outages: Marriyum

Reviews arrangements for Pakistan's diamond jubilee celebrations with DG ISPR

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that the PTI government is responsible for current price hike, power outages and shortage of gas. She said the government is giving priority to completion of power projects of four thousand megawatts which were delayed by the previous government. Marriyum Aurangzeb has said the law will take its course in corruption carried out by former Prime Minister Imran Khan in his four-year tenure.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad she said the process of investigation has been started as per the law into the corruption done through Farah Gogi and Bushra Bibi. She said since the taxpayers money was plundered, the former Prime Minister will have to respond. The Information Minister said Imran Khan during his tenure victimized his political opponents through fake cases and allegations

but failed to furnish any evidence before the courts. The Information Minister said the present government will steer the country out of all challenges and stabilize the economy. She said the rupee will also stabilize after agreement with the International



Monetary Fund (IMF). She said difficult decisions have been taken to take the country in the right direction. She lashed out at PTI Chairman Imran Khan and demanded that he answer to the people on how he managed to "convert Bani Gala – his residence - into money gala". The information minister said

the ex-prime minister did not curb corruption and that Khan and his aides' assets increased while the PTI chairman was in power. Aurangzeb claimed that Bushra bibi, the wife of the former prime minister, and her friend Farah Khan — who is a suspect in multiple money laundering cases - conducted business transactions in Bani Gala.

The information further said that although Khan maintains that Bushra bibi is a housewife, it was on her instructions that the diplomatic cypher was touted as a "threat letter". "Bushra bibi runs orders to run trends against institutions; it was on her instructions that the [cable] was used as a threat letter," the information minister said, asking Khan to "have some shame" for calling her a housewife.

The information minister alleged that Bushra bibi asks PTI's social media team to run trends for diverting attention away from Farah's corruption cases in a reference to the recent audio leak of a conversation between Khan's wife and PTI leader Dr Arsalan Khalid.

Punjab by-polls

PPP to support PML-N unconditionally: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime evil spread by the previous Paki-Kaira announced to extend PPP's unconditional support for Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in by-elections of the Punjab Assembly. In a joint press conferfor Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique, the Prime Minisunconditional support of his party.

Kaira said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leadership, after thorough analysis and discussions within the party, concluded that the PML-N as their ally could end the class. APP

Minister on Kashmir Affairs and stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) govern-Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman ment. He said, "We want to end the scourge of PTI government's vicious propaganda that created unwanted polarisation in the society."

Kaira said that the people completely rejected the policies of ence flanked by Federal Minister PTI and entrusted full confidence in the PPP leadership. Criticising the PTI's previous policies, the Advister's aide made announcement of er said the PPP and the coalition government did not believe in benefiting through subsidies to elite like PTI government, however, it encouraged to introduce targeted subsidies only for the lowest income

PCAA cuts pensioners' PAC for slashing POL perks prices

腾 🛚 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has reduced the perks, medical and other allowances of the retired employees. A notification was issued by the PCAA which stated that the special grant for the retired employees for constructing their houses has been ended. The authority cut pensions of retired additional directors up to Rs30,000. The decision for cutting the perks of the retired workers was taken by the PCAA board in its 192nd session. The medical facility was ended for parents and children of the retired employees.

On June 29, it was learnt that the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) applied a cut on the pension of its retired employees. The retired additional directors of executive group 7 faced a cut in their pensions and the decision was taken by the board of directors of the PCAA. "Director-General CAA Khaqan Murtaza suggested a cut in the pension," they said.

A spokesman for the aviation authority has, however, denied reports of a cut in pension despite sharing documentary proof with him. It is pertinent to mention here that the federal government had approved a 15 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees and a 5 per cent hike in pensions for the next fiscal year 2022-23



ISLAMABAD: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman Noor Alam Khan on Wednesday has recommended the government to reduce the petroleum prices in view of falling prices in the global market. During the PAC meeting, chairman Noor Alam Khan said that the prices of oil in the world market have come down twice while the government has increased the prices instead of reducing them, adding that the Ministry of Finance, Petroleum Division and the government are requested to provide relief to the people by reducing prices in the country. While talking about the NAB, he said that NAB officers would have to give details of their assets. APP

S Looming defeat

ISLAMABAD: United States Ambassador Donald Bloom on Wednesday called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. According to the Foreign Office, the state minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment and assuming duties in Pakistan. Khar reiterated commitment to widen and deepen longstanding Pakistan-US ties. She reaffirmed engage ment in trade, investment, energy and health. She also underlined importance of people-to-peoples and congressional engagement.



ECNEC okays various projects

ISLAMABAD: Executive Committee of the ECNEC Wednesday, approved various infrastructure projects of national significance. The meeting approved project on construction of Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway on BOT basis with revised cost of 308,194.00 million rupees. The project will be executed by National Highway Authority and envisages construction of 306 kilometer long, 06-lane wide, divided fenced between Hyderabad and Sukkur. The committee also approved construction of Lahore-Sialkot Motorway link Highway connecting the motorway to Narang Mandi and Kartarpur Narowal including Narowal Eastern Bypass at a revised rationalized cost of 17,379.949 million rupees. The revised project envisages rehabilitation, dualization and construction of 73-Kms long 04-lane dual carriageway, connecting Kartarpur with Lahore-Sialkot Motorway and Nankana. APP

US Ambassador calls on Khar • Our Correspondent PTI ready for grand dialogue if election announced: Fawad

Accuses Marriyum of lobbying for her husband

😂 Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Wednesday that his party is ready for a "grand dialogue" but will only come to the table if an election date is announced. Talking to the press in Islamabad, Fawad said that if the government continued making such moves one after the other, it may derail democracy in the country. "Every other day, a new scandal of this government is coming to

light. There is a solar scandal which should be investigated," said the PTI leader. The former information minister claimed that not a single corruption case was filed against any of the ministers belonging to the her husband is an Australi-PTI-led government.

Captain (retd) Safdar in Fawad alleged that billions our tenure was done by the of rupees were given to the



Sindh government. Two journalists were killed in Sindh and cases are being registered against politicians. They want a solution to political problems but the date of election should be given first," said the PTI leader. Taking a jibe at his Marriyum predecessor Aurangzeb, Fawad said that the incumbent information minister should respond as an citizen and represents the

"What happened to tobacco industry in Pakistan.

tobacco industry because of what Marriyum's lobby said

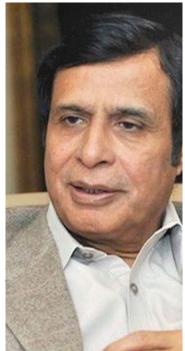
He added that due to her lobbying, foreign companies were given concessions. "Now due to the lobbying of Ali Tareen and Marriyum Aurangzeb, the tobacco industry got billions of rupees as tax concessions," claimed Fawad. On the other hand, Shireen Mazari said that the grand dialogue should be led by those who have people's mandate. There is no Opposition in the Parliament, the largest political party of the country is outside the Parliament," said Mazari as she alleged that lawlessness is at its peak during the incumbent government's tenure. "If you want to impose Martial Law then announce it clearly. Wherever we go, our cars are stopped and people are abducted," said the former human rights minister.

Punjab govt diverts resources to by-polls: Elahi

Says Hamza breaks promise made in Supreme Court

LAHORE: PTI Secretary General Asad Umar called on Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, Members of National Assembly Moonis Elahi and Hussain Elahi at their residence. The delegation included former federal minister Riaz Fatyana, opposition leader Muhammad Sibtain Khan, former provincial minister Mahmood Rasheed and Muhammad Ali Akbar Khan. The political situation in the country, including the by-elections in Punjab and the Chief Minister's election were discussed in detail during the meeting. The meeting expressed concern over the interference of the Punjab government in the by-elections in Punjab.

Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Parvez Elahi said that Hamza Shahbaz broke his promise which he made before the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court should take notice of the interference in the by-elections of the Punjab government and legal action should be taken against Hamza Shahbaz. He said that sensing the defeat, the Punjab govern-



ment has diverted the government resources to the by-elections' constituencies. On the orders of Hamza Shahbaz, the development departments and the police are interfering in the election process in the worst possible way. Both father and son together want to illegally occupy Punjab, development work and use of government resources in by-election constituencies by violating the code of conduct, the Punjab government is committing the worst fraud.

Ch Parvez Elahi said that the survey of every constituency and the voice of people are in the favor of PTI candidates. PTI Secretary General Asad Umar said that Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Sardar Dost Mohammad Mazari is repeatedly crossing the party line and is seen sitting in every party meeting of PML-N. He said that we are constantly informing the ECP about the violations of the Punjab government. The Election Commission is showing prejudice. When will the Election Commission take action against the Punjab government. Agencies

Load shedding to be reduced during Eid holidays: Khurram

Says cabinet didn't okay Rs7.91 hike in power tariff

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister nationals will see a visible reducfor Power Khurram Dastgir said Wednesday that the loadshedding rate will be visibly reduced during Eidul Azha holidays. Khurram Dastgir said in a statement that the recent spell of rainfall increased the water level in dams and Tarbela Dam is generating 3,684 megawatts of electricity. He said that the permanent shortfall of electricity is 6,000 to 7,000 megawatts.

The federal minister said that the electricity generation was increased from Tarbela Dam which will reduce the load shedding rate. He claimed that the rejecting the speculations, said

tion in the duration of power outages during Eid festival while the current shortfall is 4,000 to 5,000 MW. He added that the power supply will be improved by the next summer as 5,000 MW of additional electricity will be added to the national grid. Dastgir said that the govern-

ment will have to submit its reply to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on tariff rebasing. The coalition government wanted to shift the minimum financial burden to the nationals, said the minister. While



recommendation of NEPRA to increase the price of electricity by Rs7.91.

He said that following current rain spell, electricity supply situation has improved as Tarbela dam is at its optimal production of 3,684 megawatts electricity as compared to only 1100 MW on 1st of this month. Dastgir went on to say that refueling of K2 nuclear power plant is underway and will be completed soon adding 1100 MW electricity in the national grid. He said this will further reduce load shedding in the coun- has been made operational from try. The minister refuted the spec-

that the cabinet didn't approve ulations about increase in price of electricity saying the government has not increased prices so far though there was proposal from NEPRA.

On July 3, Dastgir had announced that loadshedding will not be ended on the occasion of Eidul Azha, however, the duration of power outages will be reduced. He had said that loadshedding could not be ended this Eidul Azha, however, people will witness a reduced duration of power outages. He had detailed that 720 megawatts power plant June 29. APP

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Mushaal appeals world for safe release of Yasin Malik

IIDA President assures to launch 'Free Yasin Campaign' in Korea, globally

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of International Interchange Development Association (IIDA) led by President Mun, Yong-Jo called on Mushaal Hussein Mullick Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization here on Wednesday and assured they would raise voice the free of incarcerated Hurrivat leader Yasin Malik at every form globally.

Speaking on the occasion, Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik, thanked the IIDA President for the support and stated that the fascist Narendra Modi Modi regime scared of Yasin's rising popularity; hence they were using all brutal tactics to silence him.

effective and powerful voice of the Kashmir freedom struggle why was why he was implicated in various

Eid Preparations



concocted and fabricated cases to dampen his courage.

Mushaal stated that her husband was kept in death cell and neither his family nor his counsel was allowed to meet him, adding that the level of barbarity could be judged from the fact that the occupation authorities She said that Yasin was the most even did not allow him much-needed medicines despite his fast deteriorating health.

The chairperson expressed her

apprehension that since dozens of hurriyat leaders were tortured to death; therefore, she worried about her husband because the fascist regime could go to any length to muzzle the voice of lion of Kashmir since he categorically stated that he could not compromise of the birth right of Kashmiris the right to self-determination come what may.

Mushaal informed the delegation that despite using all brutal tactics, the fascist government could not shake his resolve, as he conveyed the Kashmiri people that he would fight for their rights till last drop of his blood.

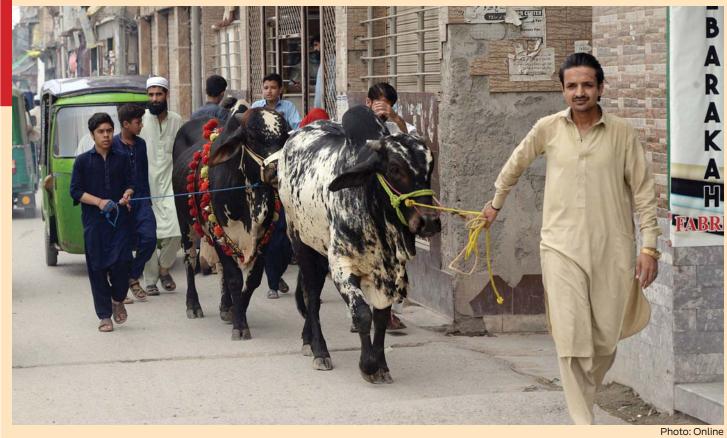
She told the delegation that they should play their role to ensure his release because his sole crime was to raise peaceful voice for the right of Kashmiri people who have been living under the unconstitutional and unlawful subjugation of Indian government. people.

The IIDA Pakistan President in Korea Sooba Khan and IIDA Standing Advisor Um, Jung Sup were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the IIDA President presented souvenirs to Mushaal and Sabeen Malik Secretary General Peace and Culture Organisation. Razia Sultana also received a token of appreciation and souvenir from the delegation. The delegation extended unconditional support for Kashmir cause and expressed deep concerns over the incarceration of Yasin Malik, his health and security.

They pledged that they would raise voice for him all over the world especially launching a free Yasin Malik campaign in South Korea and all over the world. Moreover, they showed keen interest in Kashmir issue and assured they would standby the Kashmiri

PESHAWAR: People carrying their sacrificial animals ahead of the Eid al-Adha at a road in Gulbarg area in Provincial Capital.



Talks b/w union, WSSP admin['] successfully concludes: Chairman Riaz Khan

Six of the union's eight demands were resolved, and two were promised a week after Eid: Secretary Abid Sohail

PESHAWAR: Coal Municipal Workers Union WSSP Registered CBA Peshawar emergency meeting was held at the Union's Office Wazir Bagh Workshop. Apart from all the union officials, a large number of Municipal Inspectors, Sanitary Supervisors, Water Supply Supervisors, Workshop Incharge, Water Supply Incharge Malir or Branch participated in large numbers.

All Municipal Workers Union WSSP Registered CBA Peshawar Chairman Riaz Khan Shehzad Gul said in a joint statement that the talks with WSSP CEO Ahsan Nasir, GM Riaz Ahmed, Shiraz and Saqib Nawaz and Union General Secretary Abid Sohail, Vice Chair-man Siddiqullah Mashwani and Finance Secretary Naseer Khan were successful.

The demands included Union 1), last Eid-ul-Adha food allowance No. 2) Eid-ul-Fitr and time 3) June DRA allowance 4) Normal overtime 5) Second shift overtime of June 6) Weather allowance. Orzone B started petrol and mobile oil. The demands have been accepted and their checks have also been deposited in the bank and for the remaining 2 demands the WSSP administration has promised to pay one week after Eid. No. 1) Washing Allowance of Zone C and D 2) Checks for two months DRA Allowance were also handed over to the Union. We thank him for solving the problems of the employees. Riaz Khan further said that all the employees will continue their work with full enthusiasm.

On this occasion, Chairman Riaz Khan said that this time like last Eid-ul-Adha, Peshawar will once again be number one in terms of cleanliness in all the cities of Pakistan. Government Employees Coordination Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa All Government Employees Grand Alliance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Secretariat Coordination Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Employees Federation KPK All Pakistan Class IV Association KPK.

Residents of Luckhnow Society protest against corrupt admin, illegal construction



😂 Our Correspondent

KARACHI: A protest was organized by the members residing in Luckhnow Society in which majority of the members of the society participated. According to the members, the society has about 1150 plots. Out of these, about 750 houses have been completed and families has moved in. During the protest, members of the Luckhnow Society said that there was no security at all in the Society, and that the watchmen who were posted in the name of security were not fulfilling their responsibilities. The members further said that the occupation mafia has ruled in the society, as LS216 has been seized and other plots are being sold in the market by making forged documents.

While elections have not yet taken place in the society, the corrupt administration has escaped from the elections by making various tricks and excuses and is occupying it with stay orders. Members of the Luckhnow Society expressed reservations over the administration and said that it should be rid of this corrupt administration. Illegal constructions are on the rise in the society. Constructions are started overnight by the occupation mafia, while the society lacks basic amenities, with water being the main problem, which has become more serious. The problem of water has increased in Luckhnow society. An alternative water connection is very important in society

Police presents anchor Imran Riaz Khan before civil judge

腾 🛛 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police presented anchor Imran Riaz Khan before the civil judge Attock. He was arrested on Tuesday night by Attock police for his alleged involvement in defaming and disgracing Pakistan Army.

Police on the complaint of Malik Murid Abbas had lodged an FIR against the anchor under ten different acts. Malik Murid Abbas r/o Mehrpura Attock in his complaint had alleged that a few politicians and electronic media had vowed to give impetus to the agenda of the enemy countries.

He further stated that as per the constitution of the country, propaganda against Pakistan Army was an offence. Murid Abbas further alleged that Imran Riaz Khan had used derogatory language against Pakistan Army which was an offence and was intolerable as Imran Riaz Khan was damaging the repute of our army and action against him be taken accordingly.

Lost and Found

I have lost my car i.e

(Suzuki Cultus, Silver

Color, Model 2020, Regis-

tration No ARV-453, Engine

No. 163286, Chasis No

10063267) NOC for transfer

from bank to my own name

somewhere. Whoever finds

it shall inform or send it to

Sania Rubab,

House No 456, St. 68,

Sector G-11/2

Islamabad,

Ph: 0302-5016464

my address:

A pre-monsoon mild rain shower of Tuesday night turned the Lillah-Jhelum dual carriageway into mud when hundreds of vehicles were stuck down, and commuters remained helpless for the whole night. There was no sign of concerned organiza-

tions to help the sufferers in need time. The major rain-hit section of Jhelum-Pindadan Khan was initially announced to complete this year in June however, the slow work pace is causing a turbulent situation for inhabitants. There is no alternative route available for commuters to travel between cities and every rain spell emerges a really challeng-

this route. Public raised their voices to reach out to the government, Deputy Commission-



腾 Amjad Mehmood

JHELUM/ISLAMABAD:

er, Jhelum, and FWO authorities being contractor on-site to release the funds and completion of the road in time as the poor road condition has made the peoples' lives miserable living in the surroundings of Lillah-Jhelum carriageway.

ing situation for travelers on preferences. The respecta-



They demanded that every door of the previous government should focus on and current government to this serious problem with- address our grievances as out counting on political every time when monsoon starts, the life become miserbles of rain hit area on dual able in these areas. They said carriageway while talking to the main monsoon spell is yet daily The Spokesman said, to start and commuters will we tried at our best to knock face the traumatic situation

International GCSE qualifica-

tions at three branches and will

later expand to other branches.

In addition to this, Pearson

again, therefore, they want to ask the concerned authorities of government and FWO to complete the work on the carriageway at earliest to avoid such a pathetic situation in the future.

The design, contract and budget of the Lillah-Jhelum dual carriageway are already approved including timelines for completion of the project. The current government has made significant progress in its last term for such development projects and public has tied high hopes for similar performance in its current tenure. The people have demanded that Primer Minister Mian a keen interest in the completion of Lillah-Jhelum dual carriageway to make the inhabitants' lives easier and more comfortable.

Beaconhouse School System signs MoU with Pearson-Edexcel

😂 Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pearson-Edexcel and Beaconhouse School System, Pakistan's largest network of private educational institutions, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the provision of assessment services and international academic qualifications to support students' learning by offering world class qualifications.

The MoU signing ceremony was held here on Wednesday at a local hotel, and was signed by Kasim Kasuri, Chief Executive (CE) Beaconhouse, and Emma Whale, Vice President, Pearson Schools Qualifications. The



ceremony was attended by the International GCSE examinasenior leadership team from tions to be conducted onscreen both organizations, including Premila Paulraj, Director exams via the Mocks Service, Employability & Qualifications, Pearson South Asia, and Ali Ahmed Khan, Chief Operating Officer Beaconhouse.

Under the MoU, Pearson will facilitate the digital transformation required for the

will also offer course preparation e-books to students in all available subjects, as well as online teacher training courses to prepare teachers for the relevant Pearson Edexcel exam Speaking at the signing cere-

mony, CE Beaconhouse, Kasim Kasuri stated, "At Beaconhouse, we have always strived to go the extra mile to bring better academic opportunities for our students. I congratulate my team at Beaconhouse and everyone at Pearson Education for this partnership and am confident that this joint effort will be fruitful for further educational excellence at Beaconhouse."

Residents of Lucknow Society demanded from the higher authorities that the residents of Lucknow Society should be freed from this corrupt managing committee and management.

EPCL, UET Lahore partner for industry-academia linkage



😂 Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Engro Polymer & Chemicals (EPCL), a subsidiary of Engro Corporation, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the prestigious University of Engineering & Technology (UET), Lahore, to strengthen industry-academia linkage through cooperation in research and innovation along with professional development opportunities for students.

The MoU was signed by Jahangir Piracha (CEO of EPCL) and Professor Dr. Syed Mansoor Sarwar (Vice Chancellor, UET Lahore), in the presence of officials of both institutions, and Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers Association representatives Haroon Ali Khan (Sr. Vice Chairman) and Abrar Ahmed (Vice President).

Under the agreement, EPCL and UET will jointly undertake research and development initiatives at the well-equipped testing facilities of the institute's Polymer & Process engineering faculty. This partnership will enable quantitative advancements to EPCL's PVC production process and the Quality function. It will also enhance the knowledge base and avail-

ability of technical experts for EPCL's Techno-Commercial functions. Using these facilities, EPCL may also provide technical and management consultancy, and advisory services, to PVC finished goods manufacturers for optimized performance and innovative olutions.

For capability enhancement of UET students and faculty, EPCL will also assist students with pragmatic final year projects, will collaborate with the UET to develop and improve its curriculum, including subject matter specific to polymer industries, to ensure its alignment with the industry needs.

According to Jahangir Piracha, CEO of EPCL, "We are continuously striving to introduce new market development and awareness initiatives that enhance sustainability in the construction sector. This strategic alliance with the UET has been envisioned to promote research and development in Pakistan so that the polymer sector can evolve with innovation. Moreover, we aspire to enhance the skills of our talented youth, support their learning and development, and make them more marketable for the industry."

syllabus. and online, along with mock marked by Pearson examiners. Beaconhouse will initially be offering Pearson Edexcel

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Minister for Planning, Development, and Reform, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal should take

Islamabad 23º – 38º Clear

SERVICES

Namaz	Timings
Fajr	3:21 aı
Zohr	12:12 pi
Asr	5:12 pi
Maghrib	7:22 pi
Isha	9:04 pi
	CENCY

EMERGENCY

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Women Police Stations

...... 9222596 .. 9270601-20 Islamabad Rawalpindi

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ENQUIRY Edhi Ambulance PIA Flight Info PIA Cargo.

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HOSPIT	ALS
CMH	5611111
MH	
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Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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 Tank0331-5022125 Rawalpindi..

Risks of nicotine addiction among youth escalating: Sanaullah

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Sanaullah Ghumman, General Secretary and Director Operations, Pakistan National Heart Associa-

tion (PANAH), said that the

University of Tehran ready to make IT park in Islamabad: Iranian envoy

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain

😂 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on the Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Wednesday. Senior officials of the ministry including Secretary Education Ms. Naheed S. Durrani also attended the meeting in addition representatives from HEC and NAVTTC.

Rana Tanveer welcomed the Iranian delegation and said that the two countries have cultural, linguistic and people to people love for each other. He said that Persian language is the mother of Urdu and has deep roots in Pakistan. 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. Rana Tanveer welcomed

students to further mutu-

al cooperation especially for

Skilled Vocational Training.

He said that there is significant potential in cooperation ma Iqbal as numerous bridgbetween the two countries. He said that Pakistan can learn him. He said that Pakistan is from the expertise of Iran in brotherly country for Iran. He Engineering, Nanotechnology and Aerospace technology. sity cooperation and Techni-Minister said that Pakistan is cal Institution to Technical willing to offer scholarships to Iranian students in order to the way forward. He said that enhance mutual collaboration. the University of Tehran is willexchange of teachers and

Hosseini said that People of park in Islamabad. He said Iran have deep affiliation with that MoUs should be expe-Pakistan. He said that people dited between Pakistani and

including a large number

of PARC's scientists /

have a lot of respect for Allaes and roads are named after said that University to Univer-Institution collaboration is Seyyed Mohammad Ali ing to make a Technology/IT

Iranian Universities to enhance exchanges. H.E. said that Iran and Pakistan have a border of 900 km and both countries should take advantage of that to strengthen each other.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the future is in Vocational Training of the population of Pakistan. He said that it provides the best opportunity to the people to find jobs. He said that Pakistan and Iran through NAVTTC should exchange teachers and students to learn from the expertise of each other.

Rana Tanveer praised the current governments efforts in modernising the education system of Pakistan. Federal Minister thanked the Ambassador and highlighted the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries since 1947. Rana Tanveer said that Iran was the first country to recognize the state of Pakistan. Minister said that the two countries have shared history and literature. He said that there is a bonhomie between the two people. He stated that the two countries should enhance and fine tune their mutual relation.

Self-sufficiency in
agriculture foremostUS provides mobile labs
to strengthen Pakistan's **COVID-19** Testing

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The US government has donated four mobile laboratories to the National Institute of Health (NIH) in dor Blome commended them order to diagnose COVID-19 and for their effective response to other communicable diseases, the COVID-19 pandemic and especially in remote locations highlighted Pakistan's success-

ed that USAID funded global heath chain supply program and Implementing parameter Chemonics International Inc.

On the occasion, Ambassawhere access to testing may be ful vaccination campaigns to

Health Corner

The Spokesman

COVID-triggered immune response and brain

ISLAMABAD: A study from the National Institutes of Health describes the immune response triggered by COVID-19 infection that damages the brain's blood vessels and may lead to short- and long-term neurological symptoms. In a study published in Brain, researchers from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) examined brain changes in nine people who died suddenly after contracting the virus.

The scientists found evidence that antibodies - proteins produced by the immune system in response to viruses and other invaders - are involved in an attack on the cells lining the brain's blood vessels, leading to inflammation and damage. Consistent with an earlier study from the group, SARS-CoV-2 was not detected in the patients' brains, suggesting the virus was not infecting the brain directly.

Understanding how SARS-CoV-2 can trigger brain damage may help inform development of therapies for COVID-19 patients who have lingering neurological symptoms.

"Patients often develop neurological complications with COVID-19, but the underlying pathophysiological process is not well understood," said Avindra Nath, M.D., clinical director at NINDS and the senior author of the study. "We had previously shown blood vessel damage and inflammation in patients' brains at autopsy, but we didn't understand the cause of the damage. I think in this paper we've gained important insight into the cascade of events."

Dr. Nath and his team found that antibodies produced in response to COVID-19 may mistakenly target cells crucial to the blood-brain barrier. Tightly packed endothelial cells help form the blood-brain barrier, which keeps harmful substances from reaching the brain while allowing necessary substances to pass through. Damage to endothelial cells in blood vessels in the brain can lead to leakage of proteins from the blood. This causes bleeds and clots in some COVID-19 patients and can increase the risk of stroke.

For the first time, researchers observed deposits of immune complexes - molecules formed when antibodies bind antigens (foreign substances) - on the surface of endothelial cells in the brains of COVID-19 patients. Such immune complexes can damage tissue by triggering inflammation.

The study builds on their previous research, which found evidence of brain damage caused by thinning and leaky blood vessels. They suspected that the damage may have been due to the body's natural inflammatory response to the virus.

To further explore this immune response, Dr. Nath and his team examined brain tissue from a subset of patients in the previous study. The nine individuals, age 24 to 73, were chosen because they showed signs of blood vessel damage in the brain based on structural brain scans. The samples were compared to those from 10 controls. The team looked at neuroinflammation and immune responses using immunohistochemistry, a technique that uses antibodies to identify specific marker proteins in the tissues.

As in their earlier study, researchers found signs of leaky blood vessels, based on the presence of blood proteins that normally do not cross the blood brain barrier. This suggests that the tight junctions between the endothelial cells in the blood brain barrier are damaged.

Dr. Nath and his colleagues found evidence that damage to endothelial cells was likely due to an immune response - discovering deposits of immune complexes on the surface of the cells. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Tree plantation campaign commences at III II

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A tree plantation to plant sapling to save nature. He campaign at the International urged the entire team of Department Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) of Environmental Science and IIUI commenced here at the new campus on Wednesday that was inaugurat- indigenous fruit trees, flowering trees ed by Vice President Administration and other plants of medicinal and and Finance, Prof. Dr. N.B. Jumani economic value. He also appreciatby planting a sapling.

the environment related issues and we must be among the forward ranks community to be active to plant ed the enthusiasm about the current campaign "IIUI Clean & Green" of the Department of Environmental Science and emphasized that all of us should participate in this mega campaign to make Clean and Green Pakistan. On the Occasion, Dean Faculty of Basic and Applied sciences and a known expert on Environment and climate, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irfan said that trees are important as they purify the climate. He said emerging trends of urbanization are contributing to pollution, and we need to On the occasion, Dr. N.B Jumani revisit our priorities about climate.

The Chairman PARC gets farewell on his retirement from PARC service

腾 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Addressing employees were also presto a ceremony organized

goal: Dr. Ghulam

tobacco industry has been using innovative tactics to sell its products everywhere. The government urged to impose an immediate ban on the new nicotine pouches to protect the youth from diseases. Ghumman further said that nicotine pouches are manufactured in Scandinavian countries that are now making their way into countries with large young population like Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that nicotine pouches were banned in Russia due to serious health repercussion specially among children and youth.

ent on the occasion by employees association Speaking in the event, Deputy Director General of PARC (EAPARC) held at NARC Auditorium in NARC Dr. Shahzad Asad the honor of Dr. Ghulam expressed that under the Muhammad Ali Chairpatronage and leadership of Dr. Ghulam Muhamman PARC on his retirement from PARC service, mad Ali, PARC has played he said that owing to the its outstanding role in hard-work of these scienagricultural research and development. Togethtists Pakistan is now self -sufficient in major food er with the scientists of PARC, we will be engaged crops like wheat, rice, in achieving the agriculsugarcane, maize etc. Our scientists are always ready tural goals of the country to take any challenge faced under modern agricultural by the agricultural sector research techniques so that in Pakistan. Dy. Direc- the country can achieve the tor General NARC, Dr. level of R&D at par with Shahzad Asad, Secretary international PARC Muhammad Ishaq organizations.

limited.

The mobile laboratories, provided through the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) were formally received by the Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel. The ceremony in this regard was held at NIH attended by U.S Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, Federal Health Minister, Abdul Qadir Patel along with other officials from the federal Ministry of Health and NIH.

The state-of-the-art facilidiagnoses, reduce testing turn- remote areas during emergenresearch healthcare workers. It was stat-

quickly inoculate its citizens. He commented on the success of the U.S-Pakistan collaboration to strengthen health care systems as part of the 75 years of bilateral relations between the two countries. Today's donation supports this partnership by providing Pakistan with new tools to respond quickly to future threats.

"These mobile laboratories will strengthen the diagnostic capacity of the provincial health departments," Ambassador Blome said. "They will enable the government to respond quickly ties will improve the accuracy of and effectively in hard-to-reach around time, and better protect cies, or an outbreak and epidemic."

As many as 15000 plant saplings of indigenous fruit trees, flowering trees and other plants of medicinal and economic value will be planted in the new campus. IIU Clean & Green Program was initiated by Ecology & Biodiversity Laboratory of Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences (FBAS) along with IIU Horticulture Section in collaboration and sponsorship by Environment and Mangrove Protection "SEMP" and Standard Chartered Bank"SCB".

said there is a dire need to address He said plantation is a sacred cause

NPO's key initiative is "Improving Competitiveness" through SNP

1st Productivity Movement of Pakistan: A way to Unlocking Economic Potential through Productivity and Competitiveness

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) is working under the Ministry of Industries & Production, Government of Pakistan as Liaison Office of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan. One of the NPO's key developmental initiative is "Improving Competitiveness through Sustainable National Productivity (SNP)"- launching first productivity movement in Pakistan. It is a PSDP funded project with an objective to achieve competitiveness through sustainable national productivity. Moreover, under Planning Commission's Strategic initiative tional Experts through APO Assisof "Turn Around Pakistan", Among 7 Pillars of Turn around Pakistan, the pillar VI namely as "Improving National Competitiveness" has been assigned to NPO. It is aimed at "Improving Productivity (News Letter and Jour-Competitiveness through Enhanced Productivity, Innovation and Quality for Export led Growth".

NPO is also working as the member of Planning Commission's Working Group on "Reforming Policy Incentives for the Industrial Sectors" for preparation of "Three Year Rolling Growth Strategy (3YRGS) Agenda for Economic Diversification, Transformation and jobs-led Growth" comprises of the "Formulation of National Program on Targeted Productivity Enhancement", "Productivity Measurement System", and "Corresponding Productivity Based

Incentives to Various Segments of the Pakistan Economy".

To further elaborate the SNP project, keeping in view the international benchmarks and practices it has following four stages. (i) Awareness stage (ii) product identification, design and development stage (iii) implementation stage(iv) continuous improvement stage. The project is in progress now a ays at first stage of awareness phase.

Kev activities of awareness phase / stage of Improving Competitiveness through Sustainable National Productivity (SNP)"- include activities such as Launch of Productivity Movement, Engagement of National/Internatance, Productivity Portal, Productivity (Curriculum and Booklets) for Schools & Industry, National/ International Conference, Documentaries, nal), Awareness Sessions, Seminars, and Trainings on Productivity Tools & Techniques, Online Courses, Print & Social Media Campaigns, Productivity Competitions (Poster, Article, Debate), Productivity Walk and day/weeks Celebration etc.

In year 2021-2022, In order to increase awareness among all stake holders, among category of general awareness 4021 individuals have been educated and been given awareness about the I concept of productivity. 1284 students of schools and technical institutes haven been imparted educa-



tion focusing on productivity concept through various sessions spreading all over the Pakistan with a focused targeted audience of industrial workers, 217 industrial workers have been trained through renowned productivity experts on productivity tools and techniques and good practices. It is aimed at to spread awareness among 10,000 peoples, industrial training to 400 workers and educate 3000 students of technical schools and colleges on productivity concept.

Moreover, various productivity awareness tools are being used to spread awareness to inculcate the culture of productivity. SNP has developed an online portal which is live now and is a knowledge hub to get awareness and support on the matters of productivity. Under this project, productivity week was celebrated. During this productivity week, walks in major cities (Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Faisalabad and Multan) were conducted to promote the message, these walks were coupled with awareness sessions by renowned national productivity experts. Different productivity competition (poster, debate and article) was held.

Two booklets on productivity for industry and schools have been developed and are in printing phase where as two curriculums have been developed countries are moving towards Knowl-/ adopted and been reviewed by international productivity experts are also in printing and dissemination phase.

A productivity journal in collaboration with APO is in designing phase and the research work by Pakistani experts in the fields of productivity would be showcased in it

With a year full of productivity awareness activities, it is believed that with same enthusiasm support and synergy the SNP would continue its journey in current years to propel the next stages of the project

In its 2nd phase SNP would be dovetailed with National Productivity Master Plan which is being developed with the help of APO and Korean development institute. In this regards NPO has organized "Press Briefing on the Role / Importance and updates on 1st Productivity Movement of Pakistan (Awareness Phase), A way to Unlocking Economic Potential through Productivity and Competitiveness" in Islamabad Hotel.

CEO NPO, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry has briefed the Role and Importance of Productivity Movement of Pakistan. CEO also presents the SNP progress updates and achievements for the financial year 2021-2022 to the journalist and print media professionals.

CEO NPO, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said that in this modern era of globalization, many developed

edge Based Economies (KBE) taking competitive edge by rapid improving their competitiveness and innovation capabilities through enabling environment for technological investment, human resource development, and business regulations covering good processes, procedures and systems.

The CEO, NPO also said that Pakistan is also recognized globally as a high potential economy but unfortunately in past many years, the country has not been able to utilize its potential and gain competitive advantage in global and regional market. The major reasons behind country's slow growth rates of output are lack of innovation, low level of investment, technological inefficiencies and limited R&D resulting in lower productivity and non-competitiveness. These competitive weaknesses highlighted in Global Competitiveness index 2019-World Economic Forum as Pakistan ranks 110 out of 141 countries due to low labor market efficiency (120), technology adoption (131), and higher education & trainng (125).

The CEO NPO, also shared that the Government of Pakistan is very much committed towards improving the economic landscape of Pakistan through focusing sustainable development approaches of increasing business competitiveness, investment facilitation, value addition, export promotion and import substitution.

Editorial/Opinion

Thursday, July 7, 2022

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Lahore Office:	7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.		
Email:	spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com		
Whatsapp:	0346-500840	8	

Cutting edible import bill

akistan's annual requirement of edible oil is about five million tons (MT) with approximately 16kg per capita use and most of its chunk is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. In 2006 edible oil's import bill was only US\$ 615 million that jumped to US\$ 3.8 billion in 2022 with the country presently producing around six MT. If edible oil prices increase by five percent annually, the country's imports would further jump. In this situation, sunflower, olive, canola and other products would go beyond common man's reach.

Despite ecological diversity, suitable climate and vast fertile land, Pakistan is unfortunately among the lowest edible oil producing countries. Having only 20 percent domestic production of the total requirement, the country spends approximately US\$ 4 billion annually on import of edible oil to meet the pressing demand of its around 220 million population. Respective governments and policy makers could not fully benefit from over 4.4 million hectares fertile land suitable for cultivation of olive, sunflower, soybean, corn, canola and other oils. Spain was producing about 45 percent of world's total edible oil by utilizing 2.6 million hectare land. On the contrary, Pakistan despite having vast tracts of fertile land, was importing around 80 percent of the required commodity. It is welcoming that in recent years, the government realized this challenge and focused to fully utilize olive potential land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Merged Areas, Balochistan, Punjab, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan through substantial plantation of edible oil plants and declared several areas as Olive Valleys. About 100,000 and 300,000 hectare land in Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan is now being used for sunflower and canola cultivation respectively. Besides introducing edible oil policy and training of farmers, a five-year mega project 'Enhancement of Productivity of Oil Seeds' was launched in 2019-20 to promote edible oil farming. The first olive promotion project worth Rs 3.82 billion funded by the Government of Italy was launched on June 1, 2012 to cultivate oil seeds on over 1,500 hectare land. The project was handed over to Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) on February 12, 2012 and completed on June 30, 2015. To capitalize on this project, the Pakistan government launched 'Promotion of Olive Trees Cultivation on Commercial Scale (POTCCS)' project worth Rs 3.2 billion in 2015 for increasing production of edible oil. Thousands of olive grafting trees mostly of Italian variety planted under POTCCS could be seen on the mountains of Talash in Lower Dir, on way to Chitral.

The fertile land is mostly preferred for sunflowers' cultivation as it required less water than others. Sunflower is a cost-efficient crop with three months tenure. Farmers can easily earn Rs 200,000 to Rs 250,000 from one acre sunflower as compared to Rs 130,000 to Rs 150,000 from one acre olive. Progressive farmers had started shifting to commercial cultivation of edible oil crops in Pakistan. At present eight to ten varieties are under cultivation while research on around 50 more varieties was underway to ascertain their weather adaptability and climate change resistance. A four-year 'Edible Oil Seeds' PSDP project has also been launched across the country with 50% shared financing by Federal and Provincial Governments. Around 70 million wild olive plants are discovered in merged tribal districts and in Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Karak, Nowshera, Hangu and Chitral districts. It means, these areas are suitable for olive cultivation. Over 1.2 million olive plants on 1,300 hectares are planted in KP and each tree produces three kilogram oil and olive tree starts production in five years and continues with it till decades. A farmer can earn Rs 450,000 from 1,500 kg olive.

S Americans fret

Democracy under attack in the US

George Soros

he United States has been constantly evolvdemocracy ing ever since it was founded in 1776, but its surviv-

al as a democracy is now gravely endangered. A set of loosely interconnected developments at home and abroad is responsible for this crisis. From abroad, the US is threatened by regimes led by Xi Jinping in China and Vladimir Putin's Russia who want to impose a self-styled form of government on the world. But the threat to the US from the domestic enemies of democracy is even greater. They include the current Supreme Court, which is dominated by far-right extremists, and Donald Trump's Republican Party, which placed those extremists on the Court.

What qualifies the majority of the Court as extremists? It is not merely their decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that recognised a woman's right to choose whether to give birth. What qualifies them as extremists is the arguments they used to justify their decision and the indications they gave of how far they might be willing to go in carrying out those arguments.

Justice Samuel Alito, the author of the majority opinion, based his ruling on the assertion that the Fourteenth Amendment protects only those rights that were generally recognised in 1868, when the amendment was ratified. But this argument endangers many other rights that have been recognised since then.

Carried to its logical conclusion, this line of reasoning could even allow states to ban inter-racial marriage, as some did until 1967. It is also clear that this Court intends to mount a frontal attack on the executive branch. One of the most consequential rulings of the Court's just-completed term denied the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to issue regulations needed to combat climate change. It doesn't take long to find the common denominator in the Court's recent decisions: support causes promoted by Trump's Republican Party and weaken or outlaw

causes favoured by the Democratic Party. Consider gun laws. The Court's radical wing listens closely to the pro-gun lobby. So, though a recent epidemic of mass shootings created such

a national outcry that even some Republicans supported a new federal gun law, the Court compensated the Nation-

al Rifle Association for the loss in a landslide. That would allow ing and election-certification by striking down a longstanding New York law that placed strict restrictions on carrying concealed handguns (New York State immediately passed new gun laws, that are likely to end up before the Supreme Court). The Supreme Court used to be among the most highly

There is only one way to rein in the Supreme Court: throw the

Republican Party out of office in a landslide.

respected institutions in the US.

Through its recent decisions, the extremist majority has driven its approval rating to a historic low, and disapproval of the Court to new highs.

The dissenting opinion in the case that overturned Roe flatly stated that the majority decision "undermines the court's legitimacy." Unfortunately, the minority is likely to remain in the minority for a long time, because the extremists are younger and hold a 6-3 majority. There is only one way to rein in the Supreme Court: throw the are now going even further, Republican Party out of office by attacking the vote-count-

Congress to protect through legislation the rights that had been entrusted to the protection of the Supreme Court. It is now clear that doing so was a big mistake. Congress must act, starting with protecting a woman's right to choose. If the filibuster must be amended to achieve that, so be it.

But when it comes to organising a landslide victory against the radicalised Republicans, opponents face almost insuperable obstacles. Republicans have not only stacked the Supreme Court and many lower courts with extremist judges. In states such as Florida, Georgia, and Texas, they have enacted a raft of laws that make voting very difficult. While these laws focus on disenfranchising African Americans, other minorities, and young voters generally, their ultimate goal is to help Republicans win elections. As a Florida federal judge recently wrote in striking down one of these laws, they were enacted "with the intent to restructure Florida's election system in ways that favour the Republican Party over the Democratic Party."

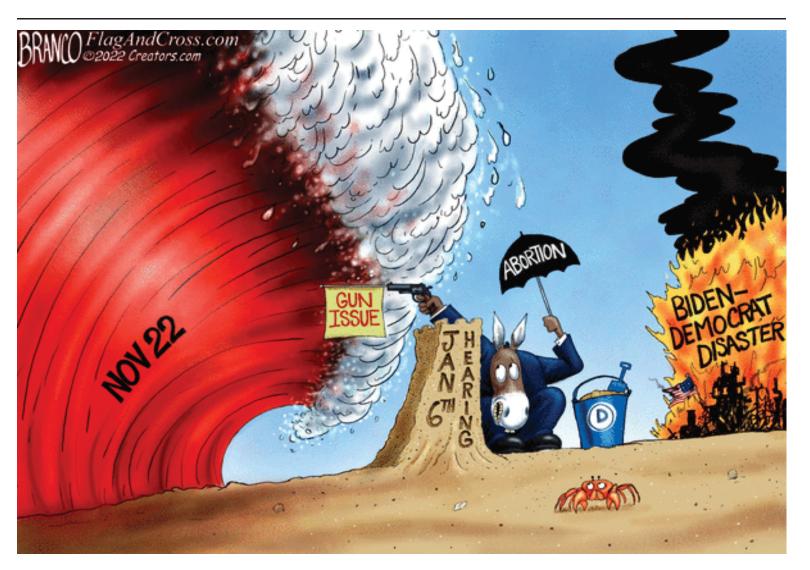
These laws would be bad enough if they only targeted who can vote. But Republicans

process. From changing the law to make subversion of the electoral system easier, to recruiting believers in Trump's big lie that the 2020 election was stolen from him to oversee the process, we are watching Republicans attack our system of democracy from every angle. And here, too, the radical Supreme Court has done its part, gutting the federal Voting Rights Act and allowing naked partisan redistricting to weaken minority voting power.

Fortunately, I am not alone in claiming that the survival of democracy in the US is gravely endangered.

The American public has been aroused by the decision overturning Roe. But people need to recognise that decision for what it is: part of a carefully laid plan to turn the US into a repressive regime. We must do everything we can to prevent that. This fight ought to include many people who voted for Trump in the past. I am a supporter of the Democratic Party, but this is not a partisan issue. It is about re-establishing a functioning two-party political system which is at the core of American democracy.

The writer is Founder and Chair of the Open Society Foundations.Courtesy Gulf Times



Migrants & risks of treacherous ourneys

Kerry Boyd Anderson

ecent weeks have highlighted the dangers that migrants face when attempting to travel across borders without legal documentation. In Texas last week, at least 53 people died in a tractor-trailer that lacked a functioning cooling unit the worst known case of deaths from a single human trafficking incident in modern US history. Also last week, at least 30 migrants were left dead or missing after Doctors Without Borders rescued others from a sinking boat in the Mediterranean Sea. Around the same time, Libyan officials found 20 migrants who had died of dehydration in the desert near the border with Chad. The deaths in Texas and the Mediterranean included men, women and children.

Around the world, millions of people migrate within and between countries. Even those who do so with legal documentation face some risks, including potential exploitation. Those who migrate without legal permission face far more risks, but they continue to attempt journeys anyway. Some countries have tried to harden borders and take other measures to stop irregular migration, but many migrants are not deterred. The International Organization for Migration's Missing Migrants Project has recorded 49,353 migrant deaths and disappearances since 2014, though the actual number could be much higher.

The top cause of death is drowning, followed by environmental exposure, violence, sickness and transportation accidents. The central Mediterranean route, moving people from North Africa to Italy or high rates of homicide and violence.

Malta, is the most dangerous in the world; combined with the eastern and western Mediterranean routes, this sea alone accounts for more than 24,000 deaths and disappearances since 2014. Migration is a global phenomenon. After the Mediterranean, Africa is the second-deadliest region for migration, followed by the Americas, Asia, Western Asia and Europe, according to the Missing Migrants Project.

Traffickers sometimes hold and abuse migrants while demanding more funds from their families and some migrants are forced to work for no pay. Many migrants exhaust all their savings or their families' savings to pay human traffickers to help them reach their destination. Despite these sums, some fail to reach their destination. If they succeed, they face the threat of deportation if discovered. Irregular migration seldom results in a stable and secure life. So why do millions of people still attempt irregular migration, all around the world, despite the costs and risks? Some potential migrants may not be fully aware of the risks.

However, in today's globalized world, with access to information and personal networks that often include people who have migrated before them, many migrants know the risks and choose to continue anyway. Many experts who work with migrants say they are at least generally aware of the risks, and some migrants repeat journeys they have previously undertaken. The reality is that the risks of the journey are often equal to or less than the risks that migrants face at home. For example, many of the migrants attempting to cross from Mexico into the US including some of those who died in the tractor-trailer are from Central American countries with extremely

At home, many face death threats, violence, sexual violence, racketeering and being forced to join gangs. For many children and adults, these threats at home are certain risks; in comparison, the risks of migration are no worse, and a new country at least offers some hope.

Many migrants are fleeing war, persecution and extreme violence; therefore, violence on the journey seems comparatively manageable. Many migrants who have attempted dangerous sea crossings say they knew that they might die onboard overly packed, small boats in large seas, but they also knew they might die at home. At least they saw hope for a better life if they reached their destination.

Other migrants travel in search of opportunity more than escape. These economic migrants are likely to have a lower tolerance for potential death and violence. However, many young people around the world see no opportunity to provide for their families or buy a car or house let alone to achieve larger aspirations if they remain at home. Even those who do not face extreme risks at home will often embrace the risks of migration in the hope of a better life for themselves and their families.

Countries that try to put up barriers and raise the risks will mostly fail to deter migrants who are fleeing far worse situations at home. Many people do not want to leave their homes and families but see no other choice. Any effective solution to the problems of migration will have to accept that reality, as well as the global nature of migration. Helping people to find security and opportunity at home should be the ultimate goal.

The writer is former deputy director for advisory with Oxford Analytica. Courtesy Arab News

Meat to feed! e are not entitled to the best creation of 'Ashraful-Makhlooqat'

on the planet earth, if we don't feel the pangs of starvation of destitute. Every year, millions of

sacrificial animals are slaughtered on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, to commemorate the unprecedented and extraordinary sacrifice offered by Svedna Ibrahim (AS) and his son SyednaIsmaeel (AS). The 10th of Dul-Haj is a red letter day in the history of Islam. The great event is monumentalized to pay obeisance to the magnanimous father-son duo of prophets (AS) and their complete submission to the commandments of Allah (SWT). Syedna Ibrahim (AS) didn't bother to butcher his son, to fulfill the wish of his Lord. Ibrahim

(AS) bore the palm in the most difficult trial, and lived greatly up to the expectations of his Creator and Sustainer.

His ritual is indeed very dear to Allah (SWT) because His slave and prophet put his dearest possession at stake, at the beck and call of Allah (SWT). Eid-ul-Azha is a major religious festival that brings unique pleasure to the Muslims and lesson of utmost sacrifice but its divine purpose is not served at all if the poor remain

deprived of their share in the sacrificial meat. Every year, the question of how to distribute the meat of sacrificed animals be it from a cow, sheep or goat, for Eid al-Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice, comes to the forefront once again. Every year, we see people making the same mistakes over and over again. We commit the mistakes by forgetting the actual essence of this festival.

We ignore the real cause of slaughtering animals and we rather look at our rights. Our societal customs have often corrupted the noble motives and objectives; much of the sacrificial meat is exchanged between rich relatives and the destitute families remain deprived of their right bestowed upon them by the Divine commandment. Despite skyrocketing prices of the sacrificial animals, millions of Muslims across the globe and two million Hajj pilgrims offer sacrifice on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha every year. The rich and affluent believers are required to sacrifice best possible animals in the way

of Allah so that the poor ones, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, could eat meat to their fill at least once a year.

Unfortunately we have virtues at discount and vices at a premium. Our fathers and forefathers used to win the pleasure of Allah (SWT). But, we prefer our bloating bellies and a chunk of favorite friends and relatives over the divine appeasement. Next door neighbors, poor and needy are often ignored when we distribute the sacrificial meat. Savory foods and drinks undoubtedly give some good time to our taste buds, but, an act of sincere charity solaces rusty souls. Unlike our ancestors, we don't let our neighbors to peep into our cold stores via freezers and refrigerators.

Many people preserve meat through some traditional ways which ultimately spoils, but, don't allow



na

starved to have it. It is against the basic spirit and motive of the grand holy sacrifice of Eid-ul-Adha. If I recall some memories of my forefathers they would distribute most of the meat, and would keep a short end of the stick for themselves. But, we don't let our braziers to cool down. We grab the share of our neighbors. We have forgotten the basic tenets of sacrifice. Generally sacrificial meat is divided in three equal shares for self, relatives and

the needy. Many people distribute one third of the meat among the needy, but today mostly people distribute what is left after best or the worst part is assigned to the poor especially for those who come at our doors or wait at their homes for meat to eat.

It is not a sin to consume our own legitimate share. We can taste our favorite foods and cuisines, but not at the cost of others rights. Let's prefer divine pleasure over the flavor of mouth. Let's not hem and haw about the distribution of the sacrificial meat. Let's pledge this vear to have your animal slaughter and distribute its meat not just to eat but to maximum feed. Allah (SWT) will surely reward us from his treasures here and hereafter, because the essence of Eid-ul-Azha is beyond sacrificing an animal and feasting.

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International

Thursday, July 7, 2022

7 killed in Ukraine as Russia pounds rebel-claimed province

Russian forces target cities and villages in southeast Ukraine

shelling killed at least seven people in Ukraine over the past 24 hours and wounded 25 more, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday.

The country's presidential office said Russian forces targeted cities and villages in southeast Ukraine, with most civilian casualties occurring in Donetsk province, where Russia stepped up its offensive in recent days.

Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said in a Telegram post that two people died in the city of Avdiivka, which is located in the center of the province, and the Donetsk cities of Sloviansk, Krasnohorivka and Kurakhove each reported one civilian killed.

"Every crime will be punished," he wrote. Kyrylenko urged the province's more than 350,000 remaining residents to flee late Tuesday, saying that evacuating Donetsk was necessary to save lives and allow the Ukrainian army to put up a better defense against the Russian advance.

Donetsk is part of the Donbas, a mostly Russian-speaking industrial area where Ukraine's most experienced

👺 Spokesman Report

n the Korean war (1950-1953),

which was in effect a confron-

atomic bomb, the people of the

Democratic People's Repub-

lic of Korea and soldiers of the Korean

People's Army won victory by defeat-

ing the aggressors, who were boasting

numerical and technological superior-

ity, by dint of political and ideological,

The victory was an outcome of the

brilliant leadership of President Kim Il

Sung, who brought up the Korean people

and the Korean People's Army soldiers to be heroes. During the war he proposed

conducting an aircraft-hunting move-

ment to deal heavy blows to the US impe-

rialists who were bragging about their

aerial supremacy.

strategic and tactical superiority.

the Victorious War

KRAMATORSK/MOSCOW: Russian soldiers are concentrated. Russian of the two self-proclaimed separatist President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared the complete seizure of the region's other province, Luhansk, after Ukrainian troops withdrew from the last city under their country.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai denied Wednesday that the Russians had completely captured the province. Heavy fighting continued in villages around Lysychansk, the city Ukrainians soldiers withdrew from and which Russian troops took on Sunday, he said. "The Russians have paid a high price, but the Luhansk region is not fully captured by the Russian army," Haidai said. "Some settlements have been overrun by each side several times already.

He said up to 15,000 residents remain in Lysychansk and some 8,000 in the nearby city of Sievierodonetsk, which Russian and separatist fighters seized last month.

Pro-Russian separatists have fought Ukrainian forces and controlled much of the Donbas for eight years. Before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Putin recognized the independence republics in the region.

Since Russian forces failed to make inroads in capturing Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, Moscow has concentrated its offensive on seizing the remaining Ukrainian-held areas of the Donbas.

To the north of Donetsk, Russian forces also hit Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, with missile strikes overnight, the Kharkiv regional governor said Wednesday on Telegram.

Three districts of the city were targeted, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Three people, including a toddler, sustained injuries, according to the governor. A university building and an administrative building were destroyed.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leven said the 27-nation European Union needs to make emergency plans to prepare for a complete cut-off of Russian gas in the wake of the Kremlin's war in Ukraine. The EU has already imposed sanctions on Russia, including on some energy supplies, and is trying to find other sources. But von der Leyen said

the bloc needed to be ready for shock disruptions coming from Moscow.

A top Kremlin official warned the U.S. Wednesday that it could face the 'wrath of God" if it pursues efforts to help establish an international tribunal to investigate Russia's action in Ukraine, while the Russian lower house speaker urged Washington to remember that Alaska used to belong to Russia.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, denounced the U.S. for what he described as its efforts to "spread chaos and destruction across the world for the sake of 'true democracy."

The entire U.S. history since the times of subjugation of the native Indian population represents a series of bloody wars," Medvedev charged in a long diatribe on his Telegram channel, pointing out the U.S. nuclear bombing of Japan during World War II and the war in Vietnam. "Was anyone held responsible for those crimes? What tribunal condemned the sea of blood spilled by the U.S. there?"

Slovakia's junior coalition party threatens to quit govt

BRATISLAVA: A junior partner in Slovakia's ruling coalition, the liberal SaS party, on Wednesday threatened to pull out of the government if finance minister Igor Matovic does not step down by the end of August. SaS has 19 lawmakers in the 150-seat Slovak parliament and its

departure would deprive Prime Minister Eduard Heger's government of a majority. Matovic is chairman of the prime minister's OlANO party.

"Our coalition's biggest problem is called Igor Matovic... Prime Minister Eduard Heger should be solving the problem, unfortunately, nothing is happening," SaS leader and Economy Minister Richard Sulik said at a televised news conference after his party leadership meeting.

Sulik said that his party was pulling out of the coalition agreement, and it wanted a new agreement in place by the end of August, which would not include Matovic in the government.

Sulik has often clashed with Matovic, including in June, when the finance minister leaned on lawmakers from a far-right opposition party to push through a bill aimed at helping people hit by high energy prices and soaring inflation.

In a statement issued before the SaS announcement, Heger's OlANO rejected the departure of Matovic from the government, and it said it would not support a snap election.

In a comment posted on OlANO Facebook page, Heger called for stability, saying the government has started reforms and projects favourable for the country, which need to be completed. The current government took office in March 2020.

Palestinian killed during Israeli raid in West Bank

RAMALLAH: A Palestinian man was killed by the Israeli military during a raid in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, the Palestinian health ministry said.

Rafiq Riyad Ghannem, 20, was "shot by the occupation (Israeli army)" near the northern West Bank city of Jenin, the ministry said in a statement, adding that he was killed in the town of Jaba.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

On Sunday, a 17-year-old Palestinian died after being shot a day earlier in another Israeli army raid in the same town.

At least 50 Palestinians have been killed since late March, mostly in the West Bank, among them suspected militants and non-combatants. Israeli security forces have launched near-daily raids in the West

Bank following a spate of attacks in Israel in recent months.

Nineteen people — mostly Israeli civilians inside Israel — have been killed mainly in attacks carried out by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs. Three Arab Israeli attackers have also been killed.

Palestinian president, Hamas chief hold meeting

ALGIERS: Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh met publicly for the first time in over five years, on the sidelines of Algerian independence anniversary celebrations.

Algeria's state broadcaster reported late Tuesday that representatives of the Palestinian Authority and the Islamist Hamas movement also attended this meeting, which it called "historic." The pair, who officially last met face-to-face in Doha in October

2016, were brought together in a meeting with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, whose country marked the 60th anniversary of independence from France.

Abbas' secular Fatah party, which dominates the Palestinian Authority that rules the Israeli-occupied West Bank, has been at loggerheads with Hamas since elections in 2007, when the Islamists took control of Gaza.

China criticizes U.S. attempt to ban Dutch tech exports

a month. At that time a conservative law

political, military and financial blow at the US imperialists; I hope that all the service personnel and people will become heroes by fighting against the US impetation between a rifle and an rialists bravely.

It was a way of calculation of Kim Il Sung that the more the heroes are, the faster the revolution progresses, and the law of direct proportion acts on the relations between the number of heroes and the interests of the revolution. Once when he met model combatants, he told them that on their return to the front they should not only fight more bravely but also make the soldiers of their units heroes and model combatants.

According to data, more than 600 soldiers became heroes during the Korean war. Of them, 5 were twice heroes, 13 women heroes, and 20 labour heroes including 2 women heroes.

There are scores of teenage heroes Later a proposal was put forward like 18-year-old Ri Su Bok who blocked to award the title of hero to those who enemy gun muzzle with his chest to had shot down three enemy aircraft in make a breakthrough for his unit.

I am a young man of liberated Korea. My life is valuable.

There were more than 420 heroes in their twenties like Ko Hyon Bin who hoisted the DPRK flag on the rooftop of the Capitol Building of the puppet regime, and more than one hundred in their thirties and forties; and many members of the youth league became heroes. Standing at the vanguard of the ranks of heroes were more than ten soldiers like Kim Kun Ok who recorded a miracle in the naval fight by sinking an enemy heavy cruiser and destroying a light cruiser with four torpedo boats, and Kim Ki Ok who shot down the enemy's latest-type aircraft F-80.

In the battles to defend Wolmi Island with four guns to check a large-scale landing operation of the US 50 000 soldiers, hundreds of vessels, 1 000 aircraft and even the soldiers of the old Japanese army, the heroic soldiers of the coastal artillery unit of the KPA deterred the enemy attacks for three days, thereby contributing to implementing the strategic intention of the Supreme Headquarters.

from the services, ar The here and corps of the Korean People's Army, who dedicated their youth and life during the war number more than 500 in all. Heroes were also produced from Party and government organs, social and state security and prosecutors' organs, rail transport sector, people's guerrilla units, factories, enterprises and countryside. The exploits of the heroes are handed down to posterity along with V-day,

Martyrs'Week commences SRINAGAR: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the

world over are observing Martyrs' Week to pay tributes to their martyrs who laid their lives for the freedom of their motherland from oppressors on different occasions of the history. Call for the observance of the

Martyrs' Week has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by all segments of life.

Despite raids and crackdown operations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Martyrs' Week commenced with prayer sessions and Quran Khawani being held at mohalla, village and ward levels for the Kashmiri martyrs across the territory. Similar functions are also being organized in Pakistan, AJK and other parts of the world.

As per the calendar issued by the APHC in connection with the observance of the Martyrs' Week, on 8th July (Friday), martyrdom anniversary of popular youth leader, Burhan Wani, and his associates will be observed as Resistance Day while the

BELUNG: Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on

Exploits shining in the history of Kashmir

specialist opposed the proposal, claiming that there were not many heroes in other countries, and that if those who had shot down three enemy aircraft in a month were awarded the title, there would be too many heroes in the country. Kim Il Sung said: What is wrong to have many heroes in the country? 1000 heroes mean 3 000 enemy aircraft shot down, and 2 000 heroes mean 6 000 enemy aircraft shot down: it would be a

My hope for the brilliant tomorrow also valuable.

But my life, my hope and my happiness are not more valuable

Than the destiny of the motherland. What would be a more valuable life, more beautiful hope and greater happiness

Than to sacrifice my youth, the one and only life, for the one and only moth-July 27. erland?

13th July shall be marked as Kashmir Martyrs' Day in memory of the martyrs of 1931.

On July 13 in 1931, the troops of Dogra Maharaja had killed 22 Kashmiris, one after another, outside Central Jail in Srinagar during the court proceedings against one Abdul Qadeer who had asked the Kashmiri people to defy the despotic Dogra rule.

Wednesday censured the United States for pushing a Dutch supplier to stop selling chipmaking gear to China, calling the U.S. moves a typical example of "tech-terrorism."

Zhao made the remarks at a regular press briefing when answering a query on reports that the U.S. is pushing the Netherlands to ban ASML Holding NV from selling mainstream technology, the most advanced systems, or DUV to China.

"It is another example of the United States abusing its national power and relying on technological hegemony to engage in coercive diplomacy," Zhao said.

Address by President of Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev

跨 Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: Dear Compatriots and Deputies of Jokary Kenes! Today, I appeal to all those who are not indifferent to the fate and future of our dear Motherland; peace and stability in our precious land. The alarming events that took place in the Republic of Karakalpakstan has caused pain in the heart of every one of us, for all citizens of Uzbekistan.

As you well know, these days are important for the continuation of the political process in our country - the national discussion of amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The constitutional reform was initiated to further the country's socio-political and socio-economic development, ensuring citizens' rights and freedoms, and implementing the noble idea - The human interests are above all!

Despite the creation of conditions for the free expression of will and opinions of citizens based on democratic principles and legal norms, under the pretext of disagreement with the constitutional reforms, the certain forces, for their own selfish purposes, are trying to destabilize the situation in Uzbekistan, choosing the path of aggression and violence. The destructive forces, using proven technologies of spreading a fake information and opportunities of social networks, purposefully involve citizens in unconstitutional activities

Their main goal is to split society, reduce trust in the state's creative policy and damage Uzbekistan's territorial integrity. As previously reported, on July 1,



2022, in Nukus, under cover of populist slogans, manipulating the consciousness and trust of citizens, a group of people, contrary to the legitimate demands of the authorities, organized unrest and attempted to seize the buildings of the local government.

On July 2, 2022, despite demands to stop disturbing public order, these persons continued their destructive actions in the main streets of the administrative center of the Republic. Moreover, some participants in the events tried to provoke clashes with law enforcement officers, force their way into the guarded areas, and pelt the buildings with stones and other objects.

As they moved through the streets, rioters have inflicted significant damage to the infrastructure, breaking windows and setting fire to buildings. In order to seize weapons, several groups attempted to storm the buildings of the Nukus Department of Internal Affairs and the National Guard Department. Taking advantage of their relative numerical superiority, they have attacked law enforcement officers, beating

them with particular cruelty and inflicting severe bodily injuries. Unfortunately, there were casualties among civilians and law enforcement officers.

In order to ensure the safety of citizens, to protect their rights and freedoms, and restore the rule of law, in accordance with the Constitution and the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the State of Emergency», I have signed a decree on introducing a state of emergency on the territory of the Republic of Karakalpakstan from July 3 to August 2, 2022.

I hope that during the implementation of this Decree, the multi-ethnic people of Karakalpakstan will mobilize all their strength and capabilities, and unite for the sake of peace and stability, ensuring civil accord the basis of the well-being and prosperity of the country. Dear compatriots! I want to emphasize once again that the draft of the Constitutional Law "On Amendments and Additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan" has been made public and is under public discus-

sion. It will be amended and final- Uzbek soums have been allocated into a modern, dynamically in our native Uzbekistan, for the ized based on the proposals and opinions of the people of Uzbekistan.

Then the draft will be submitted to a referendum in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and our citizens will express their will by free voting. Only after this will the amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan acquire legal Force. This approach fully meets the principle that "The people is the sole source and author of the Constitution". And our compatriots can proudly say: "The Constitution of New Uzbekistan is my Constitution".

The process of discussing amendments and additions to the Constitution continues. At the meeting with Deputies of Jokargy Kenes, the representatives of the elderly and activists of Karakalpakstan, taking into consideration the study of opinions of residents of the Republic, I have proposed to leave without changes the acting versions of articles 70, 71, 72, 74, 75 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, concerning the legal status of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis will consider this issue in the coming days.

Dear Deputies and residents of Karakalpakstan! As you well know, in recent years, we have worked together on large-scale constructive work to ensure the comprehensive social, economic, cultural and innovative development of Karakalpakstan. Its practical results are felt today by every resident of the country. For the last five years, about 11 trillion

to the local budget of this region. The program of social protection of the population is consistently implemented. Much work is being done to reduce poverty.

In particular, material assistance was provided for approximately 65,000 families included in the «Iron Book», 17,000 families with disabled children under the age of 16, and those who lost their breadwinners. By 2020 alone, the total per capita income in Karakalpakstan has increased almost three times. Over the past five years, the volume of construction work has increased 3.5 times.

Dozens of new industrial enterprises, modern agricultural clusters and joint ventures were created. In addition, thousands of facilities were built, reconstructed and repaired in the Republic, including kindergartens, general education and specialized schools, universities, health, science, culture and sports institutions. Since 2017, preschool enrollment has risen from 32 per cent to 75 per cent.

Under the «Obod Kishlok» and «Obod Makhalla» programs, the Republic of Karakalpakstan has extensively worked to develop social infrastructure, providing the population with electricity, natural gas and portable water, and improving irrigation and reclamation networks. The active work on protecting and restoring the ecological system and sustainable social and economic development of the Aral Sea region is being carried out.

In particular, once backward Muynak has acquired a completely new appearance and turned

developing region. The area of 1,733,000 hectares of greenery has been planted on the dried-up part of the Aral Sea. A five-year national program to restore flora and fauna of the region is being

developed. For the first time, the issue of its development is defined as a priority of state policy. The Aral Sea area problem is regularly raised from high international tribunes. I firmly state that the positive changes in Karakalpakstan will continue to be carried out at an accelerated pace. After all, the fate of Karakalpakstan is the fate of Uzbekistan, and the happiness and well-being of the Karakalpak people is the happiness and well-being of the entire Uzbek people. I believe in the wisdom creative potential of our people of the people of Karakalpakstan,

hardened in the trials of life. I urge them to show prudence, not to yield to provocations, including those of external hostile forces and movements, and not to become their victims. The calls for separatism, mass disorders, forceful methods of confrontation with the authorities will be strictly suppressed under the current legislation, and the perpetrators will face inevitable punishment. I am convinced that in this

difficult period the hard-working, wise, noble and generous people of Karakalpakstan will continue to adhere to the inviolable values of unity and indivisibility of the fates of the Uzbek and Karakalpak peoples. What has happened calls us to be even more vigilant and attentive. Today as never before, we need a strong will, solidarity and unanimity for the sake of peace and harmony achieve these great goals.

sake of the future of our children and grandchildren.

I would like to take this opportunity to address all my fellow compatriots who consider Uzbekistan their Motherland, our respected fathers and mothers, our dear brothers and sisters. and our youth. It is no secret that tough competition, threats as interethnic and inter-confessional conflicts, separatism, nationalism and radicalism are on the rise in various regions of the world.

In such an alarming situation, strengthening friendship and harmony between the representatives of different nations and religions, ensuring stable and continuous development in our beautiful country, and increasing the and their confidence in the future is not only a task but also a human duty of each and every one of us, primarily of leaders and decion-makers.

This is the only way for us to respond to all modern challenges and threats, develop a steadfast immunity to various destructive ideas in our society, especially in our young people, to achieve even higher results, and keep the path of democratic reforms chosen by our people.

Dear Compatriots! All of us share the same Motherland. We are united by one great goal peace in our Motherland, the country's prosperity, and the people's well-being. Together we will surely build a new Uzbekistan and a new Karakalpakstan. I am sure that our brave and noble people, who have overcome many difficult trials in their history, will

Economy/Commerce

Thursday, July 7, 2022

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

Pakistan: PSX 1	Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close				
41,159.79	41,102.57				
Day's High	Day's Low:				
41,334.90	41,102.57				
Index Value	Change		Change		
1,970,562,114	+57.22				
Percentage	Time				
+0.14%	6 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm				
Europe: FTSE 100 Index					
Index Value	Change				
7,134.22	+107.58				
Percentage	Time				
+1.55%	6 Jul, 3:34 pm GMT+1				
USA: Dow Jones	ndustrial Average				
Index Value	Change				
30,985.44	+11.56				
	Time				
Percentage	Time				
Percentage +0.037%	Time 6 Jul, 10:35 am GMT-4				
+0.037%	6 Jul, 10:35 am				
+0.037%	6 Jul, 10:35 am GMT-4				
+0.037% Asia Pacific: Nikk	6 Jul, 10:35 am GMT-4 cei Stocks Average				
+0.037% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value	6 Jul, 10:35 am GMT-4 cei Stocks Average Change				
+0.037% Asia Pacific: Nikk Index Value 26,107.65	6 Jul, 10:35 am GMT-4 cei Stocks Average Change – 315.82				

Open Market Forex Rates				
Currency	Buying	Selling		
Australian Dollar	139.81	141.06		
Bahrain Dinar	548.93	553.43		
Canadian Dollar	157.99	159.34		
China Yuan	30.72	30.97		
Danish Krone	28.46	28.81		
Euro	213.5	217.5		
Hong Kong Dollar	26.08	26.43		
Indian Rupee	2.59	2.67		
Japanese Yen	1.47	1.51		
Kuwaiti Dinar	671.7	676.7		
Malaysian Ringgit	46.37	46.82		
NewZealand \$	126.79	127.99		
Norwegians Krone	20.76	21.06		
Omani Riyal	536.79	541.29		
Qatari Riyal	56.22	56.72		
Saudi Riyal	54.5	55.3		
Singapore Dollar	146.76	148.06		
Swedish Korona	19.77	20.07		
Swiss Franc	213.04	214.79		
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04		
U.A.E Dirham	55.7	56.5		
	0.40	054		

UK intends to double bilateral trade up to £7b with Pakistan

Commercial Counsellor says UK was uniquely placed to support Pakistan in transforming its economy

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: UK is the third largest global trading partner of Pakistan and is keen to double its bilateral trade up to £7 billion with Pakistan in a few years to achieve mutual prosperity for both countries.

This was said by Mahesh Mishra, Counsellor and Group Head (Economic and Trade), British High Commission while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

The Commercial Counsellor said that the UK was uniquely placed to support Pakistan in transforming its economy. He said that the UK is also 3rd largest investor in Pakistan and more investors want to explore Pakistan for JVs and investment. He said that around 1.6 million Pakistanis living in the UK are sending remittances of about USD 4.5 billion and providing important support to Pakistan's economy. He said that the UK has placed Pakistan in the "Enhanced Framework" to provide the same level of market access (preferential tariffs) for exports to the UK as were available to it under the EU's GSP Plus scheme. He



Pakistan in cooperation with the World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank for its economic reform programmes. He said that he would love to work with the private sector of Pakistan to further promote bilateral trade ties between the two countries.

highlighted the UK's development support to Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that given at the occasion and offered useful suggestions the strength of Pakistan and UK, their bilateral trade is still below their actual potential which can be improved with strong mutual efforts of private sectors of both countries. He said that Pakistan is an attractive market for aviation and other sectors to further strength-Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad business & investment and stressed that the en economic ties between the two countries.

investors of the UK should come to Pakistan with technology transfer to capitalize on these opportunities. He emphasized for frequent exchange of trade delegations and participation in each other's exhibitions to explore new areas of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and UK. He said that both countries are doing trade in limited items and they should focus on diversification of trade to achieve better results. He also highlighted the opportunities of JVs and investment in CPEC projects for UK investors.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Mian Shaukat Masud, Zafar Bakhtawari & Shaban Khalid former Presidents ICCI, Aamir Hussain, Ashraf Farzand, Hamayun Kabir, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz & Akhtar Hussain, Executive Members ICCI also spoke to improve bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and UK. They urged for enhancing cooperation in marble & granite, pharmaceutical, steel, textiles, tourism,

AgriTech report signifies use of tech to boost 25+ million livelihoods



Telenor Pakistan, Tabadlab and the GSMA jointly unveil the report to carve out the future of agriculture in the country

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Advancing its ambition to further innovation and empower the agriculture sector, Telenor Pakistan, in collaboration with Tabadlab and the GSMA, has unveiled a report, 'AgriTech: Crafting Pakistan's Journey to Impact'. The report identifies existing challenges to the sector and evaluates the impact that AgriTech will have on accelerating growth. The authors find that adopting modern agricultural techniques and targeted AgriTech interventions can boost national outputs and improve socioeconomic outcomes.

The report launch event was held at Telenor Pakistan's 345 Campus in Islamabad. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Plan- adoption. In addition, the report edgeable and competitive, transning and Development, attend- shows how agritech operates at forming Pakistan's agricultured the event as the chief guest. while management and partic- ogy and agriculture ecosystems, further empower the farmers be to further improve Agritech



study and insights from the Pakistan. GSMA and Tabadlab's Centre for Digital Transformation to carve the ideal path forward for Pakistan's agricultural sector. It highlights how technology and digitalisation boost the nation's crop yields. The report highlights the importance of aligning public ing the dynamics of the agriculand private sector approaches ture sector. Technology enables towards agritech for increased farmers to become more knowlthe intersection of the technol- al landscape. This report will

vation and learning on digitalisation from Norway, and I look forward to its talented workforce playing a pivotal role in a brighter Pakistan".

Speaking at the report launch, Telenor Pakistan ĈEO Irfan Wahab Khan stated, "The report presents the blueprint for a better-performing agriculture sector that can result in higher yields for farmers and have an impact of up to USD 10 billion on the nation's GDP. We know there is an eagerness to make the digital shift, thanks to the immense success of Khushaal Zamindaar in guiding farmers with data-driven best practices in farming. There is also an opportunity for agritech services to become entry points for farmers to become financially included, given that currently, they constitute less than 30%. So, the next step should

RCCI President Ch. Nadeem A Rauf presenting chamber memento to Muhammad Naseer Director General TDAP Islamabad during his visit to RCCI.

B Digital Lending **SECP cautions Digital** Lending NBFCs of regulatory action

😂 Staff Reporter

During the meeting, SECP ISLAMABAD: The Securiadvised the digital lending ties and Exchange Commis-NBFCs to adopt best lending sion of Pakistan (SECP) has cautioned digital lending NBFCs of regulatory intervention, if full disclosure and fair business practices are not ensured by the industry as a whole.

SECP called

practices, ensure full disclosures and fair treatment of borrowers, avoid excessive pricing, deploy a robust complaint resolution mechanism, and ensure privacy protection and data security. The lenders were informed

to by lending platforms.

209.5 US Dollar 206

251

UK Pound Sterling 248

SNGPL declares profit before tax of Rs15.84b for FY 2020-21

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: During the year ended June 30, 2021, SNGPL has earned profit before tax of Rs. 15.84 billion, profit after tax of Rs. 10.99 billion and EPS of Rs. 17.32 as compared to profit before tax of Rs. 8.42 billion, profit after tax of Rs. 5.99 billion and EPS of Rs. 9.46 during the corresponding period of last year. Based on the declared profit, the Company has proposed a final cash dividend of 50% (in addition of interim cash dividend at the rate of Rs. 2.00 per share of Rs. 10/- each i.e. 20% already paid) for FY 2020-21.

Some of the significant factors which helped the Company achieve the results are set out below: Decrease in UFG percentage from 12.32% to 8.60% reducing UFG disallowance from Rs. 11.7 billion in FY 2019-20 to Rs 3.4 billion during the year ended June 30, 2021. The substantial reduction in UFG was made possible due to concerted efforts of the Board and the Management in setting an ambitious target for UFG reduction and achieving tangible results in respect of them. Re-negotiation of finance costs on the borrowing facilities coupled with reduction in interest rates by SBP helped Company reduce the finance cost by over Rs 8 billion.

Moreover, SNGPL has also declared its quarterly results for the first quarter ended September 30, 2021. During the period under review, the Company has earned profit before tax amounting to Rs 4.27 billion, profit after tax of Rs. 3.03 billion and EPS of Rs. 4.78 against a profit before tax amounting to Rs 4.47 billion, profit after tax of Rs. 3.18 billion and EPS of Rs. 5.01 for the corresponding period.

Despite all the economic challenges and financial constraints, the Company has not only maintained its pace but is accelerating its momentum and is confident of promising results in future. It is considered that the results have been achieved by timely completion of targets of infrastructure development and continuous focus of the Board of Directors on various initiatives taken by the Company. Management and staff of the Company are confident that performance of the Company will further enhance in the years ahead.

also present.

ipants from Telenor Pakistan, making it essential to under- of Pakistan in breaking barrithe GSMA and Tabadlab were stand and analyse drivers and ers and revolutionising the Agri trends of digital technologies sector. Telenor Pakistan is a criti-

The AgriTech report combines as means to unpack agritech in cal stakeholder in bringing inno-

Delivering his keynote at the

launch, Ahsan Iqbal, Feder-

al Minister for Planning and

Development, commented, "In

this age, technology and inno-

vation are the most significant

game-changers that are redefin-

adoption throughout the county and fortify an industry that employs 40% of the nation's labour force."

ing of the chief executives of that SECP does not want NBFCs engaged in digital to stifle this nascent induslending to discuss recent try with excessive regulatomedia reports about exor- ry burden, but would expect bitant interest rates, inade- the industry to itself practice quate disclosures, and coer- caution and develop standcive collection practices, ards that protect borrowers purportedly being resorted through adequate disclosure.

SBP issues final

instructions with

extended timelines

₿ IFRS-9

Climate change becomes major threat to food security

Getting wheat for rice can save billions of dollars, says Mian Zahid Hussain

🐞 Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and Former Provincial Minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said climate change has become a major threat to Pakistan's national security and food security.

Despite the severe water shortage in the country, more than half of the water is being wasted which must be stopped, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that foreign companies which are interested in supply-

ing wheat to Pakistan are buying which is in a shambles thererice worth billions from Pakistan and if the barter system is adopted, valuable foreign exchange can be saved.

community, the veteran business leader said that despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan imported \$12 billion worth of wheat, pulses,

which is astonishing.

He said that domestic

fore so foreign investment in this sector is the only option for which incentives, diplomacy, and better security, must be

Zahid Mian Hussain said that Pakistan is very dependent on the irrigation system but the condition of irrigation infrastructure is pitiful which needs

and prosperity of the farmers.

repair of the irrigation system million acres of water but half

of which is wasted which could fill many dams like Tarbela and Mangla. The flow of Indus and its tributaries have been 151,800 cusecs this year as against the last five-year average of 264,000 cusecs; the average storage of water in dams this year has been 148,000 acre-feet as against the average of 2.4 million acre-feet in the last ten years, he informed. Such a severe shortage

of water is a matter of grave concern and a sign of impending famine, he said adding that situation may worsen in the future therefore, immediate and effective measures are needed to save and store water.

KARACHI: State Bank spokesperson informed in of Pakistan (SBP), while a handout.

Under the revised timeextending implementalines, banks having asset tion timelines, issued final size of PKR 500 billion or instructions for implementation of Internaabove as per their Annual tional Financial Report-Financial Statements as of ing Standard, IFRS-9 on December 31, 2021, and Wednesday. Final instrucfor all the Development Finance Intuitions (DFIs), implementation date is set as January 1, 2023 while for all other banks and Microfinance Banks (MFBs), SBP has revised the implementation date of IFRS 9 as the banking industry, SBP January 1, 2024.

tions on IFRS 9- a Global cotton, etc. last year, but not to be improved on a war foot-Standard set by the Interenough attention is being paid ing so as to improve agricultural Pakistan loses 20 billion dollars to increasing local production, production, ensure food security of water every year and the water

He noted that the irrigation resources do not allow the system provides at least 40

ACCA's new report highlights lessons learned from pandemic

😂 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The realities of senior public sector finance leaders' management of the COVID-19 pandemic are shared in a new report from ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and CA ANZ (Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand).

Published in Leading recovery: the evolving role of senior finance leadership in the public sector, attendees at various global roundtables identified three major areas where the public sector faces difficulties in the years ahead: recruiting and retaining finance professionals, preparing for reducing budgets for public services and adapting to wider societal changes.

Looking back, they reveal how on purpose, then place and break

professional accountants led with agility to enable their organisations to support governments' aims of saving lives and protecting livelihoods. Increased spending, streamlined decision-making processes and better integration of the finance function epitomised the work of senior finance leaders and their teams during this time.

Building on the experience of the pandemic, ACCA and CA ANZ sav there are six key lessons for public sector finance leaders to focus on. They need to transform systems to build organisational resilience and make better use of data. They must rethink leadership approaches, to empower staff and provide visible leadership. And they need to ensure their organisations adapt to new ways of working to focus

down barriers.

ACCA and CA ANZ have also identified an 'ABCD' of skills which public sector finance leaders of the future will need to develop: adaptability, business sense, communication, and determination.

Commenting on the report, ACCA's head of Pakistan, Assad Hameed Khan says: 'It's crucial to reflect on what senior public sector finance leaders, working at different levels in different countries, have learnt from the crisis and how those lessons can be applied in the future. This timely new report looks ahead to the future challenges public sector finance leaders will face and the key future skills required to succeed.

Public financial management reforms in Pakistan, of which ACCA continues to be part, have

terms of existing and future public zons, from the traditional tasks of financial management systems as a finance professional to a wider well as human capital development organisational perspective. This and capacity building. This report is definitely a must-read for public sector finance leader and professionals in Pakistan.'

Helen Brand OBE, chief executive of ACCA says: 'It's very heartening to read the recollections of these public sector finance leaders who remained so dedicated to their organisations, their customers and clients during the pandemic's turbulence. They are well prepared for the future, but they are also not complacent and see the clear need to learn continuously.'

Ainslie van Onselen, Chief Executive of CA ANZ adds: 'Our report's ABCD framework can help aspiring finance leaders in the public sector

been gaining momentum both in to ensure they broaden their horibreadth and depth helped leaders during the pandemic and prepares for future resilience too.

At the roundtables, members of ACCA and CA ANZ also commented on the value of their professional bodies to help them understand the 'basics' and develop their knowledge in their careers through continuing professional development (CPD).

Helen and Ainslie jointly conclude: 'Professional accountants have a wider set of skills beyond technical knowledge, and bring strong strategic advice to support the organisations they serve; these skills can be developed and refined through experience and reflection.

national Accounting Standards Board (IASB) - were issued for ensuring smooth and consistent implementation of the Standard in

Talking to the business adopted.

Sports Thursday, July 7, 2022

The Spokesman **Pakistan Test team leaves for**

Sri Lanka

First Test will start on July 16 in Galle

LAHORE: The Pakistan Test squad has left for Sri Lanka ahead of the two-match series against the Islanders.

The first Test will begin on July 16 in Galle, meanwhile Colombo will host the second Test from July 24. Pakistan will also play a three-day warm-up match in Colombo between July 11 and 13. The series will be played under the ICC Men's World Test Championship Cycle of 2021 - 2023.

Initially, Pakistan were also set to play a three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka. However, the series was scrapped in May on request of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). The decision was taken because SLC is keen on holding the next edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) one week before the scheduled time.

This will be Pakistan's final away assignment of the current ICC World Test Championship cycle.

In a pre-departure press confer-



ence, Pakistan's all-format captain Mohammad Nawaz will be crucial for Babar Azam had said that he believes that spinners will play a key role in Sri Lankan conditions.

four fours and one six.

Babar said leg-spinner Yasir Shah and left-arm spinners Nauman Ali and

them in Tests against Sri Lanka. He said that the national team has practised at special pitches for the spin challenge. "Spin pitches were specially prepared at the National High-Per-

formance Center (NHPC) while practice matches were also played on similar kinds of tracks in Rawalpindi. Conditions in Sri Lanka are quite similar to Pakistan, so we have prepared well to play spin in Sri Lanka."

Babar said he is eager to gain a top position in Test format as well. "I am working really hard to make my performance equal to white-ball format. Gaining top position and making Pakistan proud is such a great feeling. I will try my best to continue performing for my country."

On the other hand, 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.

Management of junior hockey team announced 😂 Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan Hockey Federation has announced the management of junior hockey team.

According to a statement issued by the Pakistan Hockev Federation, Pakistan Junior Hockey Team Manager will be Olympian Manzoor Hussain Jr., Head Coach Rehan Butt, Coaches Olympian Kashif Jawad and Olympian Waqas Sharif. After the Eid-ul-Adha, after the stage of trials to be held across the country, the junior camp will be announced in consultation with the team manager Olympian Manzoor Hussain Jr.

Olympian Kaleemullah has been appointed as the chairman of the selection committee of the national hockey team after the approval of the PHF president

Shehroze, Fazal reach Camp 3 of Nanga Parbat

GILGIT: Pakistan mountaineers Shehroze Kashif and Fazal Ali have reached Camp 3 of Nanga Parbat after they went missing and lost contact with track for hours on their way back to Camp 3 on Tuesday morning.

Shahroze's father confirmed the news that Shehroze and Ali Fazal have reached Camp 3 of Nanga Parbat on their own.

As per the Twitter account of the mountaineer, " the duo survived the night at 7350m with their sheer willpower and resilience and resumed descent in the early morning as soon as weather opened."

Shehroze, who became the youngest mountaineer to successfully summit the ninth highest peak in the world - Nanga Parbat, lost contact with the track on his way back from the mountain.

Earlier, Shehroze Kashif's father on Wednesday confirmed that the location of his son has been traced and he can be seen descending to the Camp 3 with his companion Fazal Ali on their own.

Indonesia qualify for their first ever ICC World Cup

JAKARTA: The inaugural edition of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa next year has their latest participant in the form of Indonesia.

Their thrilling win over Papua New Guinea helped the Indonesian women book a spot in next year's T20 World Cup.

Eighteen-year-old bowler Ayu Kurniartini possessed nerves of steel as she went into the final over with PNG needing just two runs to win.

Kurniartini picked up two wickets off the first two balls of the over and closed the game, booking her team a place in their first-ever ICC World Cup at any level.

Indonesian captain Wesikaratna Dewi was ecstatic with the result and has her sights set on the future.

"I am so happy and so proud of the team, said Dewi. "I cannot believe that we have reached this point, but we are now determined to make all of Indonesia proud of our success at the World Cup."

Both teams put on a show in the best-of-three event with PNG's Dika Lohia winning both the Best Bowler and Player of the Tournament. Her match-winning five-wicket haul finishing with 5/8in Game 2 was backed up with an unbeaten 25 in a successful run chase.

Persatuan Cricket Indonesia (PCI) have certainly taken a big step towards fulfilling their vision of developing 'an Indonesia sport uniting the country through international success that generates national pride.

Acting Chairperson of PCI Abhiram Singh Yadav said, "We have worked very hard to get to this place and this represents a new milestone for women's sport in Indonesia. I can't wait to showcase our unique Indonesian style and culture with the rest of the world in South Africa."

ICC Tournament Director Rob Gomm said: "The thrilling conclusion to this event has capped off a fantastic week in Ba

😂 National U19 Cup Central Punjab U19 Blues, KP U19 Whites to play final

腾 🛛 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U19 Whites beat Balochistan U19 Whites by 10 wickets at the Saeed Ajmal Academy in Faisalabad on Wednesday to make it to the final of the National U19 Cup.

The other finalist team was Central Punjab U19 Blues who topped Pool A after their final group match against Sindh U19 Blues Naveed Cricket Academy in wickets each. Sheikhupura.



Ajmal Academy in Faisalabad, after opting to bat first, Balochistan were bundled out for 56 in the 20th over. Only Tanveer Khan (10, 27b, two fours) managed to enter into double figures.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U19 Whites' Tahir Ali and Jawad was abandoned due to rain. Ali bagged three wickets The final will take place on apiece. Mohammad Tahir Friday, 8 July at the Rana and Yasir Ahmed took two

In return, it took 7.4 overs All Pool A fixtures were for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa abandoned due to rain. U19 Whites opening batters the play couldn't resume at 0900, while the first ball

out losing any wicket. Ali Zoraiz scored an unbeat-Right-handed Afkar Durani en 60-ball 54, hitting eight returned unbeaten on 31 off fours.

After the conclusion of 25 balls faced which included fifth and final round, Khyber In first abandoned match Pakhtunkhwa U19 Whites kept their 100 per cent of Pool B, Northern U19 winning record and topped Blues after opting to bat first Pool B. From Pool A, Central were 99 for one in 16 overs when play was stopped due Punjab U19 Blues topped the to rain and it couldn't resume table with nine points from later due to persistent rain. five matches, winning four Opening batter Hussnain matches and got one point Nadeem returned unbeaten from abandoned match.

on a 51-ball 55, hitting nine The final will take place between Central Punjab In another abandoned U19 Blues and Khyber Pakhmatch of the group, Central tunkhwa U19 Whites at the Punjab U19 Whites managed Rana Naveed Cricket Acadeto score 87 for one in 19 overs my in Sheikhupura on Friday, 8 July. The toss will take place when rain stopped play and

PSG look to Galtier for new approach



PARIS: Christophe Galtier's appointment as Paris Saint-Germain coach confirms a change in approach from the Qatar-owned club as they continue their search for elusive Champions League glory, but there will be huge pressure on Mauricio Pochettino's successor.

Galtier, 55, becomes PSG's seventh different manager since the Qatari takeover of 2011 as he arrives on a two-year deal. The new man in the dugout has developed a reputation as an outstanding coach over the last decade in France, enjoying eight years at Saint-Etienne and four years at Lille crowned with the Ligue 1 title in 2021. However, he lacks the international profile of Pochettino and other predecessors like Thomas Tuchel and Carlo Ancelotti, or indeed Zinedine Zidane, who had also been linked with the job. Despite that, Galtier appeared unfazed about the prospect of managing PSG's squad of superstars as he spoke on Tuesday.

"It is a privilege to have a dressing room full of world-class players," said Galtier, who took Nice to fifth in Ligue 1 and the French

Pool B fixtures: At the Saeed to achieved the target with- afterwards. Opening batter will be bowled at 0930. Hegerberg's return sprinkles

stardust on Euro 2022

LONDON: Euro 2022 will be lit up by one of the brightest stars in women's football thanks to Ada Hegerberg's decision to end a self-imposed exile from international duty with Norway.

The all-time top goalscorer in the women's Champions League stepped away from the international scene in 2017, citing concerns over the inequality of treatment given to men's and women's going all the way at the teams by the Norwegian federation. Five years on, she made her comeback in delivered goal after goal on March and in typical fashion scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 thrashing of Kosovo.

"It was important for me for it to be authentic, that Norwegian national team." it was natural for everyone involved," Hegerberg also points to the progress told AFP of her decision to that has been made off the return. "It was a great thing. Personally and also collec- influence in Hegerberg's tively, I think." Even without decision was the arrival of Hegerberg, Norway made it to the quarter-finals of of the Norwegian Football the 2019 World Cup. Now Federation (NFF). Klavewith one of the most prolif- ness, a former teammate ic goalscorers in the game of Hegerberg, had been united alongside Barcelona's outspoken in her own play-Caroline Graham Hansen ing career about inequaliin attack, Martin Sjogren's ty among the men's and side can again dream about women's teams.



fours.

women's Euro in England. the federations offering "She is world class and has equal pay to their men's and women's internationals. A the biggest football stages huge gulf in prize money still for a number of years," said exits between the men's and Sjogren. "Of course, getting women's game. UEFA will her back means a lot to the dish out just 16 million euros (\$17 million) to the federa-The 26-year-old's return tions involved at Euro 2022. compared to 331 million euros for the men's Euro last year. However, UEFA's head field in her absence. A major of women's football Nadine Kessler defended that gap Lise Klaveness as president by highlighting a five-fold increase in spending on hosting the tournament, much of which has gone on improved accommodation and training facilities for the sides involved. Two serious injuries Another factor

Hegerberg's change of mind was missing 21 months of action between January 2020 and October 2021 due to two serious injuries. After suffering an anterior cruciate ligament rupture, her comeback was halted by a stress fracture in her tibia.

Hegerberg did not take long to find her rhythm, winning her sixth Champions League title in May and The NFF are now among scoring in the final as Lyon beat Barcelona 3-1. But the long lay-off played its part in prompting a rethink over her international future. That change of heart could change the course of the whole tournament.

In 11 appearances at the women's Euro, Norway have reached the final six times and can now count themselves among the contenders once again. A blockbuster clash with England on July 11 will be one of the highlights of the group stage. But both will be confident of reaching the quarter-finals from a section also including Austria and tournament debutants Northern Ireland, who Norway face first on behind Thursday.

Cup final last season. Galtier said there would "not be a revolution", but his appointment comes after PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi outlined the new approach in a recent interview with newspaper Le Parisien.

"We don't want to be flashy anymore. No more bling-bling. No more of the shiny stuff, he said, after last year's recruitment of Lionel Messi and other star names including Sergio Ramos and Gianluigi Donnarumma did not have the desired impact. Galtier, who played briefly in China, based his success at Lille on a 4-4-2 system that depended first and foremost on a solid defence, even if his side still played exciting football going forward. A similar approach at Nice produced often turgid football, and he knows the expectations will be very different with Kylian Mbappe, Messi and Neymar at PSG. "I will adapt to the players we have here," he insist-

"First things first we need to win, but with the squad we have and the international reputation of the club we also need to play good football." Galtier's arrival follows that of Luis Campos, appointed last month to replace sacked sporting director Leonardo. Campos, from Portugal, built the Monaco team that won the league in 2017 and the Lille side that Galtier led to the title last year.

Campos already knew Mbappe from their time at Monaco and the latter's decision to snub Real Madrid and sign a new three-year contract is still easily the most important deal that PSG will do this summer. Galtier has little Champions League experience but he will be expected to build a team around Mbappe that can win that competition after some near misses and embarrassing failures over the last 11 years.

Indonesia, showcasing the best of women's cricket in the East Asia-Pacific region. I have every confidence that PNG will grow from this experience, and I wish Indonesia all the very best for the World Cup in South Africa."

Origi joins Milan after Liverpool exit

MILAN: Divock Origi has signed for AC Milan after being let go by Liverpool at the end of last season, the Serie A champions confirmed on Tuesday.

In a statement Milan said the 27-year-old Belgian international has "signed a contract with the club until 30 June 2026" worth a reported four million euros (\$4.23 million dollars) a season. Origi arrives at the Serie A team after not having played enough matches to trigger an extension to his contract with Liverpool. He was largely a bit-part player at the Reds but scored vital goals over his eight years on Merseyside which made him a favourite of fans and manager Jurgen Klopp.

Those strikes include two in an astonishing comeback against Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals in 2019, and the second is that year's final as Liverpool lifted their sixth European Cup against Tottenham. Origi made 176 appearances for Liverpool after arriving in 2014, scoring 41 times. He has been capped 32 times for his country, but all three of his international goals came in 2014.

Milan have brought in Origi to bolster a forward line which struggled for goals despite winning last season's thrilling Serie A title race. Coach Stefano Pioli's two veteran centre-forwards - Olivier Giroud and Zlatan Ibrahimovic - netted just 19 times between them in the league. Last month Ibrahimovic was ruled out for up to eight months following knee surgery, having missed large chunks of Milan's title charge with injury. Two days after the announcement of Ibrahimovic's operation director and club legend Paolo Maldini said the 40-year-old intended to continue playing, and Italian media report that Milan are ready to extend his contract by another year.

25th PSB Board meeting held

😂 Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaan-ur-Rehman Mazari has outrightly denied the reports about discontinuation of pension and other benefits to employees of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

A section of press on Wednesday reported that an in-house meeting of the IPC ministry had declared the pension to PSB officers/staff/officials illegal and directed the concerned to take up the matter of discontinuing pension payment and ed that the 14th South Asian devise another mechanism of Games (SAGs) would be staged benefit to the employees. But in November 2023. Howevthe minister, who is also presi-

25th Board meeting here refuted the news item, assuring that all allied benefits would continue to be paid to the PSB employees and no one would be ousted from the service. The terms and conditions of the employment of existing employees cannot be changed during service as has already been decided by the honourable courts in a number of judgments, the minister added.

The Board took a number of key decisions related to sports and athletes. It was decider, input will be sought from ment of rates of boarding and dent of PSB while chairing the the National Sports Federa-

tions about venues of different competitions of the games. The panel also decided that as per government policy, the PSB would sponsor the athletes, who had the potential to win medals and bring laurels for the country. However, the POA may like to sponsor moreplayers for forthcoming Commonwealth and

Islamic Solidarity Games. If the athletes will shine at the international level, the government/PSB will not only reimburse their participating expenditures but lucrative cash incentives will also be granted to them. The Board also approved the enhancepocket allowance for the camp

trainees and fixation of rates of special/extra diet to the potential athletes. The Board ratified the affiliation of Pakistan Amateur Circle Kabaddi Federation and gave it 60 days to complete the requisite documents as per approved affiliation criteria.

The Board suspended the affiliation of Pakistan Weightlifting Federation for being involved in a number of malpractices apart from doping issues. The Board unanimously agreed to grant provisional affiliation to Pakistan Long Range Rifle Association with PSB for a period of one year as provided in the Constitution of PSB.

It was decided that Ministry of



IPC would take up the case with Pakistan Rangers Troops within a of Rs.25000/- per month to the

the Ministry of Interior for vaca- week time. The Board ratified the employees of PSB as notified by tion of Liaquat Gymnasium from adoption of minimum gross salary

the Finance Division.