



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا جب جمعہ کا دن آتا ہے تو مسجد کے ہر دروازے پر فرشتے کھڑے ہو جاتے ہیں اور سب سے پہلے آنے والے اور پھر اس کے بعد آنے والوں کو گھروار لگتے جاتے ہیں۔ پھر جب امام (خطبے کے لیے منبر پر) بیٹھ جاتا ہے تو یہ فرشتے اپنے ہاتھوں پر رکوع لکھتے ہیں اور ذکر سننے لگ جاتے ہیں۔  
(کنز العمال، حدیث نمبر 3211)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

## Invoking Article 6 part of SC verdict: Asif

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif says initiating action against Imran Khan and others under Article 6 of the Constitution is not a plan of the coalition federal government, but part of the Supreme Court's verdict. All political parties must develop a consensus on the issue of why the situation had reached a point where politicians were mulling over the initiation of Article 6 proceedings against their counterparts.



## Govt planning to rig Punjab by-polls: Asad

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar says the incumbent government is planning to rig the Punjab by-polls by using provincial machinery. Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz is an illegal CM from the day one. Our contenders for the Punjab by-polls are receiving threat phone calls. PTI has accepted Hamza as Punjab's CM until Punjab by-polls and Hamza Shahbaz is equal to a caretaker CM.

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## US dollar climbs to Rs210.95



### Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistani Rupee (PKR) has depreciated by Rs1.15 against the US dollar on Friday in interbank despite IMF's nod to revive the loan programme. According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the greenback closed at Rs210.95 against the Pakistan rupee in the inter-bank market after gaining 0.55%.

The rupee made a nominal recovery against the dollar a day earlier after Pakistan and the Fund reached a staff-level agreement, closing at 209.80, according to the central bank.

The disbursement of the \$1.17 billion loan is still subject to the IMF Executive Board's approval — meaning that there is still time before Islamabad gets the amount.

The market believes that a loan tranche worth \$1.17 billion from the IMF is "not sufficient" for Pakistan. "Investors are closely looking at international oil prices with the hope that the reduction in global markets would help save the country's economy. If the oil prices in the international market drop to \$60-70 per barrel, then it would benefit Pakistan but this seems difficult as Brent crude is declining because of calls of recession from across the globe. "Once this subsides, oil prices will bounce back.

## Future planning

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing meeting of the Federal Cabinet on Friday.



Photo: PID

# Govt will continue providing relief to masses: PM

### Says army troops rendering great sacrifices for motherland

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed his resolve to continue to provide relief to the masses, as he fulfilled his commitment to the nation to transfer the benefit of reduction in fuel prices. The Prime Minister in a tweet said; "In line with my commitment to the nation, the coalition government has been swift to transfer the benefit of reduction in oil prices to the masses."

Shehbaz Sharif last night announced a cut of Rs 18.50 in the price of petrol and Rs 40.54 in the price of diesel in his address to the nation, which has been widely hailed and was seen as a big relief. "We will continue to provide relief as soon as we have financial cushion to do so. I believe in honest conversation with the nation," Shehbaz Sharif said in his tweet.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to the martyred Lieut-

enant Colonel Laiq Baig, saying that the officers and jawans of the Pakistan Army were rendering great sacrifices for the motherland.

Lt Col Laiq Baig, who was abducted on the night between July 12 and 13 while returning from Quetta, was shot dead while

Turkish Democracy Day an expression of trust in Erdogan's leadership: PM

two terrorists were also killed in a rescue operation.

The prime minister said the sacrifice of Lt Col Laiq Baig would not go in vain and the terrorists would be taken to task.

He said the entire nation was

determined to eliminate terrorism from the country.

PM Sharif extended condolences to the family of Lt Col Laiq Baig and prayed for the departed soul of the martyred to rest in peace.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the Turkish Democracy and National Unity Day would always be remembered as an expression of the Turkish people's unwavering trust in the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"It also reflects Turkish nation's resolve to protect and uphold democracy," he said in a tweet.

The prime minister prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs to rest in peace.

The Democracy and National Unity Day in Türkiye is marked on July 15 in commemoration of the events honouring those who lost their lives while defeating the failed coup of 2016 and to remember the bravery of the nation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has underscored his government's resolve to strengthen cooperation with Egypt in trade, investment, energy, education, and climate change.

In a meeting with the ambassador of Egypt Tarek Dahroug, the prime minister highlighted the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Egypt.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on matters of bilateral interest. The prime minister lauded the efforts of Ambassador Dahroug to promote cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt in diverse fields.

He felicitated Egypt on the assumption of the Presidency of COP-27.

PM Sharif drew attention to the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

## Senate Resolution seeking President's impeachment submitted

### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: PML-N submitted in the Senate a resolution demanding proceedings under Article 6 against President Arif Alvi, ex-prime minister Imran Khan, Fawad Chaudhry, and Qasim Suri. The development came after the Supreme Court of Pakistan issued its detailed judgment in the suo motu case on former NA deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling on the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan and said that court was not satisfied with the proof as insufficient evidence was presented to support PTI's claim of foreign interference.

Ullah Khan approached the Senate and submitted a resolution seeking Article 6 proceedings against the PTI leadership. The resolution further demanded to start an impeachment trial against President Arif Alvi. A day prior, the SC had issued its detailed judgment in the suo motu case on former NA deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling on the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan and said that court was not satisfied with the proof as insufficient evidence was presented to support PTI's claim of foreign interference.

Following the SC verdict, PML-N Senator Afnan

## Sea Guardians 2022

# Pak, China hold joint naval exercise



SHANGHAI: 'Sea Guardians 2022' bilateral exercise between Pakistan Navy and Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy was held in China's Shanghai, according to a statement issued on Friday. According to the spokesperson of Pakistan Navy, a new addition to the Navy-PNS Taimur participated in the exercise along with ships, aircraft and submarines of the Chinese Navy.

The exercise aimed at sharing professional expertise against maritime threats and further boosting maritime cooperation. The exer-

cise will play an important role in promoting safe and stable maritime environment in the region, the spokesman added.

Pakistan and China navies conducted onshore activities such as operation planning, and professional expertise exchanges. The second phase featured training courses including joint strikes against maritime targets, tactical manoeuvring, joint anti-submarine warfare and joint support for damaged vessels, according to Chinese media. This was the second exercise of the 'Sea Guardians' series.

## July 17 will mark triumph for PML-N: Maryam Nawaz

### Calls by-polls war for Punjab's growth

LAHORE/MULTAN: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Friday said that July 17 will be a day PML-N's victory. Addressing a public rally in Lahore ahead of July 17 Punjab by-elections, Maryam claimed that Lahoriters had survived a difficult period and predicted that the nation will experience good news as time went on.

"Lahore always belongs to PML-N supremo and former premier Nawaz Sharif," she said.

While applauding the Punjab CM performance, Maryam said during the occasion of Eid, Punjab CM Hamza worked day and night and cleaned the roads of the cleaned the city within 24 hours.

Maryam lambasted the PTI leadership and went on to say that the opponents will be chased away from the field and those who have a bad eye on Lahore will have to return with disappointment.

"Imran Khan himself was the biggest puppet and he had kept Usman Baidar as a puppet and now he begging



the votes from the person about which in past he used to say that the biggest dacoit," Maryam said while lashing out at Imran Khan.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz has called the July 17 by-elections in Punjab a war for the development of the province. Addressing a public gathering in Multan in connection with the upcoming Punjab by-elections, the PML-N vice president noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has provided relief to the people by reducing the prices of

petroleum products.

Maryam Nawaz thanked the people of Multan for participating in the public gatherings, saying that the government will pay off the people's debt by serving them. The PML-N leader expressed hope that the lion would roar in Multan on July 17 by-elections. "The government has successfully removed the landmines laid by Imran Khan-led regime," she said, adding that the difficult time has finally over and the government will announce 'good news' for the people of Pakistan in the coming days.

## Annual inflation rate reaches 33.12%

ISLAMABAD: The annual inflation rate, after a weekly increase of 0.01% has reached 33.12%, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data shows. According to the data shared by the PBS, the weekly inflation rate was 0.01% in the last week, taking the annual inflation rate to 33.12%. Prices of 29 essential items increased, five items decreased while 17 items remained unchanged.

The price for potatoes increased by 4.72%, chicken by 4.45% and rice by 1.17% while the price for bananas dropped by 2.82% and chickpea pulse by 0.67%.

The annual increase in diesel prices reached 141.46% and petrol by 119%. Onion prices have shot up by 89%, the PBS data shows. The annual increase in Ghee prices has been recorded to be 79% while cooking oil gained by 73%. Chicken gained by 52.61%, chickpea pulse by 51%, and garlic by 40.54%, PBS data shows. While prices of red chilli (43.42%), Sugar (15%), Jaggery (2.41%), and Moong pulse (2%) dropped annually.

## Nation won't forgive those who bring 'two families' into power: Imran Khan

### Asserts PTI will 'clean sweep' Punjab by-elections

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that nation will never forgive those who bring the two families [Sharif and Zardari] into power through conspiracy, and the US will use the incumbent government like 'tissue paper'. Addressing a public rally in Chak Jhumra tehsil of Faisalabad ahead of Punjab by-elections campaign, Imran Khan said that the two families had looted the country for 30 years, and soon after taking into the power, they have robbed Rs1100b, adding that the looters have taken the NRO after coming into the power.

"The US wants such leadership in the country that follow its order and they brought them to the power for its own use," Imran said. "We want good relations with everyone including the United States but no one's slavery is acceptable," he added. He said the ruling PML-N has come to know through different surveys that PTI is going to win all 20 seats in the by-elections in Punjab so they will rig the election badly. "On July 17, PTI will badly defeat the turncoats and the two families who are ruling for 30 years," the former PM said.

Imran Khan directed his party workers to guard every polling station on the polling day of the by-elections in Punjab till getting the final results on Sunday. Imran Khan asserted that his



party would clean sweep the upcoming by-elections in Punjab, scheduled to take place on July 17.

Addressing a public gathering in Faisalabad in connection with the upcoming Punjab by-elections, the former premier vowed to beat the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the 'turncoats' in the by-polls.

Imran Khan began his speech by thanking the citizens to participate in the public gathering 'in large numbers'. "The people of Pakistan are now aware of their rights and the conspiracies held against the country," he added.

He reiterated that the 'foreign conspiracy' was succeeded with the facilitation of Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq of Pakistan. However, the PTI Chairman vowed to fight for Pakistan 'till

the last ball".

The former prime minister noted that July 17 by-elections will not be like the past as this time, an aware nation would cast votes. "I have never seen this nation as aware in the last 75 years," he added.

Imran Khan claimed that the 'imported government' plundered Rs1,100 billion of public money through amendments in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws as they came into power, vowing that he would not let rulers usurp the public money.

He claimed the government will leave no stones unturned for rigging in the by-polls as it has realized that the nation is with PTI while urging the youth to vote for the 'bat'.

## Law &amp; Order

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah chairing a meeting to finalize security arrangements for by elections at Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Punjab by-polls

ECP rejects PTI's three petitions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday rejected three petitions filed by PTI for the upcoming by-polls scheduled to be held on July 17 in the 20 constituencies of Punjab. The PTI leader and former energy minister Omar Ayub had submitted three pleas.

The first was to appoint polling agents from outside the constituencies. The second was regarding the voters' list. The third was related to transfers and development projects. The election commission issued a written verdict on all the applications.

"The purpose of appointing polling agents from the constituency is to identify voters," the written verdict mentioned, adding that it is the right of the polling agent to object to voters' identity and can also challenge it. The commission mentioned that if the agent is appointed from outside the constituency, it would create hurdles in the identification process. It further directed all officials concerned and presiding officers to ensure that polling agents belong to the same voter constituency.

On Ayub's second petition regarding discrepancies in the voters' lists, the ECP noted that the Director MIS has said that voters' lists were frozen after the announcement of the election schedule, therefore, the petitioner's plea was no longer justified.

The written verdict further mentioned that the voters' list issued before May 20 will be used for the election in the province. Regarding the third plea, the ECP objected that the petitioner did not mention any specific developmental programme in his application, adding that if he had mentioned it, the commission would have taken a decision accordingly.

## Article 6

# Govt initiates action against PTI top brass

Federal Cabinet notes SC's decision ensures protection of constitution

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Friday has formed a special committee to prepare proposals in order to initiate action under the Article 6 against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan and other party leaders over the Supreme Court verdict on the former deputy speaker Qasim Suri's ruling regarding the no-confidence motion against former PM Imran Khan.

A meeting of the Federal cabinet was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and during the meeting the cabinet termed the decision of the apex court as historic and said that the verdict ensured the protection of the Constitution.

The Federal Cabinet on Friday termed the Supreme Court's decision pertaining to the ruling of the Speaker as historic and said that the decision of SC ensured the protection of the constitution.

A meeting of the federal cabinet was

held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in which the political situation of the country was discussed.

Cabinet forms special body to take action against transgressors of Constitution: Marriyum

Furthermore, the cabinet members congratulated on successful negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on which the Prime Minister prayed to Almighty for this to be the last agreement with the IMF.

The federal cabinet also endorsed the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). PM Shehbaz Sharif said they have been trying to save the country from the former government's faulty decisions. With solving problems the government will bring relief to the people,

he added.

Talking to media after the meeting, Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the cabinet has

taken steps to implement the points raised in the detailed judgment of the Supreme Court's and decided to form a special cabinet committee has been constituted to prepare proposals on the issue while the Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar will head the committee.

She further said that the Cabinet had passed an important resolution over the apex court verdict, adding that the decision of the Supreme Court proved that the previous government had violated the Constitution.

## Govt to crackdown on hate social media content

Sanaullah discusses by-elections security measures with ECP chief

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to launch a crackdown against social media users who post content that is deemed defamatory. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah chaired a meeting today (Friday), which was also attended by the federal interior secretary, Punjab IG, FIA DG and NADRA Acting Chairman Khalid Latif and other officials.

In the meeting, issues of harassment of citizens and uploading "immoral videos" on social media were discussed and it was decided to crack down on those who share defamatory content on social media and impersonate others. The officials also deliberated over issues of blackmailing and character assassination of citizens.

The participants discussed making "effective" laws to deal with cybercrime, especially harassment and uploading insulting content. It was decided to constitute a working group to bring necessary amendments to PECA 2016 on the issue of harass-

ment and defamation. The panel will make recommendations after consultation and consensus with all stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanaullah directed to take strict and immediate action against those involved in cybercrime and said that tarnishing the reputation of citizens through defamatory content and character assassination is not acceptable in any case. He said that there is a fear of disorder and chaos in society by spreading "immoral" and insulting content on social media and warned that strict action will be taken against those involved in such crimes without discrimination.

The interior minister further said that the relevant institutions should adopt a zero-tolerance policy against those who violate moral values in society. He also advised the masses to send their complaints to the contact numbers of FIA with a direction to the relevant authorities to process them without delay.

ECP should prove neutrality via actions: Elahi

LAHORE:

Speaker Punjab Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PMLQ) leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Friday urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to prove its neutrality via its actions and behavior. He further asked the ECP to not make announcements of its innocence. Speaker Punjab Assembly called on the former advocate general Ahmed Awais, during which he accused Hamza Shahbaz of flagrantly breaking the code of conduct and illegal exchanges in the by-election constituencies.

He also urged the Supreme Court to take immediate notice of Hamza Shahbaz's unlawful actions and his actions that amounted to contempt of the court.

PML-Q leader also said that the PTI candidates are receiving threats, while the workers are being arrested, adding that the ECP should immediately declare the illegal transfers null and void.



## Fuel prices

PR to cut train fares by 10pc

LAHORE: The Ministry of Railways has decided to reduce train fares by 5 to 10 percent following the reduction in prices of petroleum products. According to details, Railways Minister Saaf Rafique has directed the administration to reduce train fares after the government slashed petrol and diesel prices by Rs18.50 per litre and diesel by Rs40.54 per litre respectively.

A meeting to revise and notify the train fares will be conducted soon under the chairmanship of Secretary Railways Zafar Ranjha. Fares of freight and parcel trains are also likely to be reduced.

It is pertinent to mention that last month the Ministry of Railways doubled the train fares. The Railway Department had increased the fares of all passenger trains by 15 per cent and freight trains by 25 per cent. A day earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a reduction in the prices of petroleum products. Addressing the nation, the prime minister announced that the price of petrol was being cut by Rs18.50 per litre and diesel by Rs40.54 per litre. The new price of petrol will be Rs230.24 per litre while diesel will be available at Rs236 per litre.

## PSX closes week on a negative note

Shares of 347 companies were traded during the session

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) closed the week on a negative note as the bears and bulls locked horns to take charge of the bourse in the absence of major positive triggers that could provide direction to the market. Investors reacted with panic to the depreciating Pakistani rupee against the US dollar and political uncertainty in the wake of the upcoming by-polls in Punjab.

The benchmark KSE-100 index kicked off trading on

a positive note, however, bears soon took charge of the bourse, which then stayed in the red for the rest of the trading session. Selling pressure intensified in the second half of the session.

At close, the benchmark KSE-100 index closed at 42,074.91 points with a decrease of 274 points or 0.65%.

The brokerage house reported that the volumes remained dry in the main board although healthy volumes were witnessed in the third-tier stocks.

Sectors contributing to

the performance included banks (-69.7 points), exploration and production (-55.1 points), cement (-45.7 points), engineering (-21.5 points) and fertiliser (-19.6 points).

Shares of 347 companies were traded during the session. At the close of trading, 116 scrips closed in the green, 208 in the red, and 23 remained unchanged.

Overall trading volumes rose to 140.11 million shares compared with Thursday's tally of 227.84 million. The value of shares traded during the day was Rs5.37 billion.

## Rashid challenges govt to apply Article 6

LHC bars ACE from harassing Sh Rashid

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former Interior Minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Friday responding to Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's statement pertaining to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 challenged the incumbent government to apply Article 6.

While talking to media in Lahore, Sheikh Rashid said that the government should take aforementioned action against them 'if they have the courage for it'.

Earlier during a press conference, Rana Sanaullah said that the President, former Prime Minister Imran Khan and former deputy speaker Qasim Suri committed fraud with the Constitution.

He said the decision of the Supreme

Court raised the head of the Constitution, adding that the Constitution of Pakistan is the sacred trust of the people and there is no greater crime than this, adding that its punishment is also mentioned in Articles 5 and 6.

The former Interior Minister explained that it's all in the hands of the public and said that if the people of Lahore gave the right decision on the Election Day, all their opponents will be left in shock and they will not even mention Article 6. Furthermore, Sheikh Rashid mocked the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saying that the day when the PM spoke the truth would be the last day of his politics.

Also responding to the Supreme Court's verdict he called out to the apex court saying that it is an additional note, not a decision. Rebuking the Interior Minister he added that

Rana Sanaullah is a drug dealer and an assassin.

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday restrained the Anti-Corruption Department from harassing former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid. Justice Farooq Haider heard the petition filed in the LHC against the summons of Sheikh Rashid in anti-corruption and the court restrained anti-corruption from illegally harassing the political leader.

The court further sought reply from other parties including anti-corruption on July 27.

During the hearing, Sheikh Rashid's lawyer took the stance that the land deal has been done and payment is yet to be made. Sheikh Rashid said that he still has possession of the land as the person who bought the land has to pay 80%.

## Corona, climate &amp; conflicts

## World facing three major crises: Pakistan warns

Ahsan presents Voluntary National Review of Pakistan at UNECOSOC

NEW YORK:—Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday while underlining the need to create mechanisms to provide the high upfront capital costs to developing countries on affordable terms said that developing countries should also have level playing field for economic recovery. Speaking at an event of the United Nations on Sustainable Development Goals in New York, Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal said that the world is facing three major crises at the same time, which include corona, climate change and war conflict. "The current crisis has hit Pakistan the hardest," he added. He further pointed out that poverty in the world is on the rise again and therefore loans should

be given to the developing countries to save them from economic crisis. Ahsan Iqbal has called for equitable access to natural gas and a financing mechanism to offset the high energy prices for the most severely affected countries.

Ahsan Iqbal Friday presented the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Pakistan here at the 15th meeting of ministerial segment of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC 2022) at the United Nations. While presenting the VNR, the minister said Pakistan is a resilient Nation. "We are a nation of young people. 64 percent of population are below the age of 30. Youth of Pakistan needs good and quality education and skills to achieve sustainable development for better Pakistan".

He said despite having formidable global and national challenges, Pakistan follows its development plans in partnership with international community and local stakeholders. This year's VNR report contains localisation efforts and innovation in partnership with other different stakeholders. Response and Recovery from COVID and Way forward in the light of lessons learnt to build forward better in the decade of action. He presented Vision 2025 alignment with SDGs saying that SDGs are strategically aligned with National Vision 2025. Each Pillar is uniquely associated with different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On Policy Enabling Environment, he said

that SDGs were adopted as a national development agenda through a unanimous National Assembly resolutions in 2016. "Soon after, we have established specialised 7 SDGs support units at the federal, provincial and special areas to mainstream and localise SDGs."

On the Transformation from the last VNR, the minister said that in the last 3 years Pakistan had our first SDGs Status Report 2021. "Development Projects are SDGs integrated, data quality is improving and we are harmonising the data and survey instruments are being standardised," he said adding Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) had a latest National Socio Economic Registry that geo tagged all out of school children.

Pakistan SDGs Index is developed to monitor the progress at goal level and overall; it shows 10 percentage points improve from 2015-2020.

Cellular mobile subscribers have reached 182 million; an increase of 8.6 percent in nine months of FY2021. Similarly, Broadband (BB) subscribers reached to 100 million – increase in 28 percentage points in one year.

He also informed the panel that a center was formed that is served as a central agency to manage COVID-19. We have followed three pronged strategy, i.e., Policy of Saving Lives, livelihood and Salvaging Economy. For this purpose smart lockdowns were proposed which was an effective policy.

# All set for by-polls in 20 Punjab constituencies

*The provincial Election Commission Punjab has completed all arrangements for the by-polls to be held on July 17*

LAHORE: The provincial Election Commission Punjab has completed all arrangements for the by-polls on 20 Punjab assembly seats, to be held on Sunday, July 17.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Saeed Gul said that the training and posting process of all polling staff had been completed. He said that after a survey, the polling stations had been divided into three categories: highly sensitive, sensitive and normal,

while additional security arrangements had been made for highly sensitive and sensitive polling stations. He said that the security, transport and other plans had also been finalised in all districts.

He said that ballot papers had been printed and delivered to the returning officers concerned. "The ballot papers were being packed, which would be distributed among the presiding officers on Saturday, July 16," he added.

He said that one day before the by-polls, the election material would

be handed over to the presiding officers from the camp offices of the returning officers and it would be taken to the polling stations under the custody of security officials. After completion of polling process, the presiding officers, along with the record, would be taken to the returning officers concerned, he explained. Saeed Gul said that a separate vehicle had been arranged for every polling station, and its record was available with the administration and the commission. Special attention would

be paid to movement of the polling staff, vehicles and security personnel, he added.

He said that sufficient number of police and rangers would be deployed at polling stations. "The police would be active on duty, whereas rangers would remain present as the quick reaction force (QRF). Rescue 1122, mobile dispensaries and firefighting vehicles would remain standby to deal with any untoward incident," he added.

## Needs authorities attention

KARACHI: A view of accumulated sewerage water in a street at Shesha Market Bheem Pura area as needs attention for concern authority in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# PM AJK for modernization of Banjosa Lake

*Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan says it would be a step towards rebuilding tourism for future*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, the AJK government has started taking practical steps to promote tourism in Azad Kashmir. During a high-level consultative meeting the AJK Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to develop Banjosa Lake in Rawalakot on modern lines to attract local as well as foreign tourists.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that project should be completed in the next two months. Underlining the importance and economic value of tourism, the PM said that given the state's massive tourism potential there was a dire need to exploit ways and means to get maximum benefits from the tourism industry. He said that walking track, zoo, water sports and other entertaining facilities must be ensured. "It is time to take practical steps to boost tourism sector," he said, adding that the government would facilitate investors besides providing them full protection.



He said that the government has already started the process to facilitate visitors and provide them easy access to tourist destinations all across the state. Along with making Tourism Authority active, the PM said that new untapped

tourist spots having a massive power of captivating visitors would be introduced. The PM directed that at least 75% of the natural landscape should remain in its original shape during the lake modernization process.

Similarly, the PM said that culture of Kashmir should also be made a part of the lake modernization project. The Prime Minister said that the government will also take the services of the private sector for the promotion of tourism. There are vast opportunities for investment in tourism and other sectors in Azad Kashmir. "The government will ensure the protection of the interests of investors and the local population", he added.

Earlier, office bearers of Poonch Land (Pvt) including Yasar Rafiq and Sardar Afnan Nawaz gave a detailed briefing to the PM regarding modernization of the Banjosa Lake in Rawalakot. Government Ministers Sardar Fahim Rabbani, Ali Shan Soni, Member Legislative Assembly Javed Butt and Principal Secretary to PM Syed Shahid Mohi-ud-Din were present on the occasion.

## AJK PM pays tribute to Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan

Our Correspondent

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that people like Mujahid-e-Awal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan were born in centuries. Only such revolutionary and brave people can bring nations out of the whirlpool of difficulties. In a special message on the occasion of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan death anniversary, he said that the Mujahid-e-Awal took the path of resistance and struggle in his youth and organized the struggle against the colonial Dogra rulers of that time. For many years; he regularly showed the essence of his bravery and excellent strategy on the war. He also performed historic deaths in the field of politics.

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan enhanced the prestige of this work by likening politics to worship. He was a true advocate of the independence movement, the ideology of Pakistan accession and Islam and remained steadfast to the end. His commitment to the independence movement was everlasting. The government will do its utmost to make the new generation aware of the role of my deeds Mujahid-e-Awal took and other celebrations.

## IUB providing quality education to youth, says Dr. Athar Mahboob

Our Correspondent



BAHAWALPUR: Member National Assembly Syed Mubeen Ahmad met with Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur at Baghdad ul Jaded Campus on Friday. On this occasion progress on IUB Liaquatpur Campus was discussed. The Member National Assembly thanked the Vice Chancellor on start of classes in Liaquatpur Campus from fall 2022. The University has announced admissions in 26 BS programs in Liaquatpur Campus and thousands of local students are applying to get enrolled. The Vice Chancellor said the University Management is following and practically implementing vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for providing quality education to youth at their door step. Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob also mentioned recent meeting with the Governor and Chancellor Engr. Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman who was patronizing and encouraging leading role of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in the areas of climate change, better fiscal management in universities and quality education. The Vice Chancellor also apprised that Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shehbaz has granted approval to launch IUB's program of weather generated rain enhancement over Cholistan Desert to convert it into food basket of Pakistan. Registrar Prof Dr Muazzam Jamil, Advocate Azeem Cheema and Additional Registrar Arif Ramooz were also present on this occasion.

## PDMA alerts line depts against rains, flooding

LAHORE: Provincial Disaster Management Authority has alerted the line departments to take all precautionary measures against possible threat of rains and flooding from July 15 to 17. As predicted by the Meteorological Department, thundershowers and torrential rains in different parts of Bahawalpur and DG Khan Division are expected along with thundershowers in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Multan, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad and Sahiwal divisions. Director General PDMA Faisal Farid while instructing the districts administration across the province, said that they should immediately report any possible flood situation and ensure arrangements for immediate relocation of temporary relief camps / safe places to the residents of the affected areas if required. The administration should also make necessary arrangements for the provision of cooked food in the relief camps, he said and added that timely availability of all required machinery / dewatering sets to avoid floods should be made. APP

## Ziarat Recovery Operation

# 5 BLA terrorists killed, soldier martyred

Raja Furqan Ahmed

QUETTA: At least five terrorists belonging to the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) were killed and a Pakistan Army soldier was martyred during a recovery operation in the Ziarat area of Balochistan.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during the ongoing recovery operation in the Ziarat area, on the night between July 14 and 15 (Thursday and Friday) a hideout of terrorists was identified and cleared by the security forces near Khost in Khalifat mountains. Once encircled, the terrorists opened fire on the closing-in Army troops resulting in the Shahadat (martyrdom) of Havildar Khan Muhammad. During a follow-up clearance operation, the ISPR statement said five terrorists belonging to the proscribed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) were killed in the ensuing heavy exchange of fire. The sanitization operation, however, will continue in the area to apprehend the remaining perpetrators and recover Mr Omer Javed.

On Thursday, Lieutenant Colonel Laiq Baig Mirza, a high-ranking official of the Pakistan Army, was martyred after terrorists abducted and shot him dead.

According to the military's media wing, on the night of July 12/13, a group of 10-12 terrorists abducted Lt Col Laiq Shaheed, who was serving in DHA Quetta, along with his cousin Umer Javed near Warchoom, Ziarat, as they were returning to Quetta after visiting Quaid-e-Azam's residency. On receipt of information, Army Quick Reaction Forces were immediately dispatched to chase the fleeing terrorists. They were traced moving to their hideouts in the general area of Mangi Dam. Following that, a deliberate search operation was launched by security forces using Special Service Group (SSG) troops and helicopters.

Resultantly, on night 13 July, a group of 6-8 terrorists was spotted while moving towards a nullah in nearby mountains by one of the teams of security forces. On sensing their possible encirclement, terrorists shot Lt Col Laiq Shaheed and attempted to flee the site. In the ensuing exchange of fire, two terrorists were gunned down by the security forces, while a huge cache of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), explosives and ammunition have also been recovered from their hideout. However, in the process, the remaining terrorists along with the other abductee, Omer, were able to flee for time being.

# Enemies of Sindh trying to give linguistic color to crimes: CM Murad

*ACP Karachi hosts a prestigious event on the occasion of writer Naseem Kharal's 44th Death anniversary*

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi has organized a prestigious function on the occasion of the anniversary of renowned Sindh Writer Naseem Kharal at Auditorium I in which Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Provincial Minister for Culture and Education Syed Sardar Ali Shah, former Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah, members of Sindh Assembly and eminent writers and poets attended while Amar Iqbal, Mumtaz Bukhari, Ibrahim Kharal, Shabnam Gul, Mukhtiar Malik and other writers participated. Ghulam Nabi Mughal, a renowned writer from Sindh, presided over the function.

Addressing the function, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that

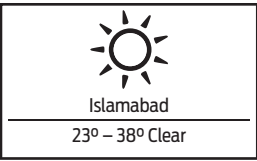
Sindh is a province that has embraced race and language, we have to adopt the land of Sindh. The enemies of this land are now trying to give a linguistic color to the crimes. We have to admit that the perpetrators have no caste, language, or nationality. Problems with police administration were then and still are today. He said that he had read Naseem Kharal's story. I have talked about social inequality. Naseem Kharal's stories will be spread all over the world with English translation.

On the occasion Provincial Minister for Culture and Education Syed Sardar Ali Shah said that When the Kharal tribe migrated from Punjab and came to Sindh, this tribe started spreading the light of literature and knowledge. Naseem Kharal's murder was a murder of dreams, the creator is first local and then global Be it fiction, prose, or poetry, every creator knows the



pulse of his society, Naseem Kharal cherishes the dreams of the poor people of his society, the process of creation is a divine attribute, he was given many titles by different writers but I think he was a good landlord but he put his heart to the people of Sindh.

"I thank Sindh government and the culture department cooperated with us," MPA Naem Kharal said that "We belong to Kharalabad. My brother was martyred at the age of 39. It was pleasant, the memories are many, Naem Kharal refreshed his brother's memories and shared some memorable moments with the audience. He said that we should build a digital library in the name of my brother in Gambat because he was a great writer. Colorful classical music was also arranged at the end of the event, which the participants enjoyed immensely.



**Police finalized security plan for PP-7 by-election**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on Monday finalized all the security arrangements in PP-7, Kahuta and Kallar Syedan to maintain peace during by-election for the Punjab Assembly while over 4,000 police officers and personnel including over 600 women police personnel would be deployed for 266 polling stations.

According to the security plan finalized for by-polls, City Police Officer, Rawalpindi, Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari, Senior Superintendent of Police Investigation, Ghazanfar Ali Shah, SSP Operations Waseem Riaz Khan and senior officers would remain present in the field to check duty of police personnel.

According to a police spokesman, male and female Police personnel would be deployed at 36 male, 35 female and 195 polling stations which would be common for male and female voters.

The spokesman informed that 102 officers and personnel of City Traffic Police would also be deployed to regulate traffic in the constituency.

37 quick response teams of Elite Commandos would perform duty to maintain law and order and deal with emergency situation.

The spokesman informed that 133 motorcycles and eight vehicles have also been provided to the security teams while 53 police mobiles would also be on patrolling duties in the constituency on the polling day. 28 police pickets have also been set up in the constituency, he added. APP

# Govt to restart PM's youth laptop scheme soon, says Shaza Fatima

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The government plans to restart Prime Minister's youth laptop scheme this year under which laptops will be distributed among high achieving students of universities.

This was announced by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja while talking to Radio Pakistan on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day which observed on Friday.

The Special Assistant said laptop is a tool that enables youth to have access to latest skills, online work and businesses.

She said World Youth Skills Day is important as Pakistan is a country with 68 percent of the population comprising youth.



Shaza Fatima stressed on enriching the youth with modern vocational and technical skills as advancement in modern

technology has advanced all sectors including agriculture, textile and manufacturing.

She said the PML N government in 2013 started Prime Minister's youth program under which 100,000 scholarships were given annually. She said that the government will soon advertise the scholarships for this year.

The Special Assistant said loan schemes for young entrepreneurs will also be revived under the Prime Minister's Youth program through which loan up to seven point five million rupees can be acquired on easy installments.

She said that special awareness programs and business plan trainings will be conducted to encourage the youth to start entrepreneurship and become job givers instead of job seekers.

## Türkiye's Democracy Day

ISLAMABAD: Women take keen interest in photographs during exhibition of Türkiye Democracy on the occasion of 15th July Democracy and National Unity Day ceremony at the embassy of Türkiye in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Health Corner

### An apple a day keeps the Psychiatrist away?

ISLAMABAD: People who frequently eat fruit are more likely to report greater positive mental wellbeing and are less likely to report symptoms of depression than those who do not, according to new research from the College of Health and Life Sciences, Aston University.

The researchers' findings suggest that how often we eat fruit is more important to our psychological health than the total amount we consume during a typical week.

The team also found that people who eat savoury snacks such as crisps, which are low in nutrients, are more likely to report greater levels of anxiety.

Published in the British Journal of Nutrition, the study surveyed 428 adults from across the UK and looked at the relationship between their consumption of fruit, vegetables, sweet and savoury food snacks, and their psychological health.

After taking demographic and lifestyle factors such as age, general health and exercise into account, the research found that both nutrient-rich fruit and nutrient-poor savoury snacks appeared to be linked to psychological health. They also found that there was no direct association between eating vegetables and psychological health.

Based on the survey, the more often people ate fruit, the lower they scored for depression and the higher for mental wellbeing, independent of the overall quantity of fruit intake.

People who frequently snacked on nutrient-poor savoury foods (such as crisps) were more likely to experience 'everyday mental lapses' (known as subjective cognitive failures) and report lower mental wellbeing. A greater number of lapses, was associated with higher reported symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression, and lower mental wellbeing scores.

By contrast, there was no link between these everyday memory lapses and fruit and vegetable intake or sweet snacks, suggesting a unique relationship between these nutrient-poor savoury snacks, everyday mental lapses, and psychological health.

Examples of these frustrating little everyday mental lapses included forgetting where items had been placed, forgetting the purpose of going into certain rooms, and being unable to retrieve names of acquaintances whose name was on the 'tip of the tongue.' (Courtesy: Science Daily)



## ICT admin prepared to cope with possible flood

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday claimed that the district administration was fully prepared to deal with the possible flood amid torrential rains as predicted by the Met Office for the twin cities a couple of days ago.

Briefing the media persons about overall flood management strategy, he said that arrangements had been finalized for evacuating the people to safe places such as schools in case of flood in rivers and nullahs.

He said that relief camps had been set up at some points in rural and urban areas of Islamabad, including Soan, H-13 and E-11. More camps would also be established at government schools in other areas where provision of all the facilities, including food and electricity would be ensured.

The deputy commissioner said that the locations for camps were selected by reviewing the past history. All the housing societies were asked to set up relief camps, he added.

He said the Rawal Dam Authority had already been taken on board which would give prior information to the administration about the opening of dam's spillways.

## Turning point in Türkiye's history

Pakistan stands by Türkiye, say leaders on anniversary of 2016 defeated coup

# 15 July a memorable day for victory of Turkish democracy: NA Speaker PM Shehbaz Sharif, former PM Imran Khan, JI leader Sirajul Haq pay tribute to July 15 martyrs



ISLAMABAD: The Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing an event organized by Embassy of Türkiye on 6th anniversary of July 15th's failed Coup attempt "Democracy and National Unity Day of Republic of Türkiye" here on Friday.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Paçacı addressing an event on the occasion of 6th anniversary of July 15th's failed Coup attempt "Democracy and National Unity Day of Republic of Türkiye" here on Friday. Spokesman Photos by Ghulam Farid



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Türkiye arranged the sixth anniversary of July 15, 2016 aborted coup and paid rich tributes to the martyrs—some 251 lives were lost and thousands injured—and reiterated government's resolve to eliminate the last remnants of the terrorist network.

The Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf was the guest of honor. Parliamentarians, members of the Diplomatic Corps, media persons and Turkish families living in Pakistan attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said that Pakistan and Türkiye have a distinct history of shared religious and cultural traditions. He said that relations between both countries are interlinked in strong time immemorial religious and fraternal bonds. He also said that both countries share a mutual goal of democracy and stability.

The NA Speaker expressed these views on the occasion of celebrating the 6th anniversary of the July 15th's failed Coup attempt "Democracy and National unity day of Republic of Türkiye" here on Friday.

He further said that the day

reminds us of the memorable victory of Turkish democracy over the dark forces of regression and repression. He said that it was this glorious day when the entire Turk nation stood like a rock side by side with its elected and popularly chosen leader, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He said that it was the day when the Turkish people stood guard to protect their rights and elected representatives of the Grand Turkish Assembly valiantly assembled to be the vanguards of democracy in Türkiye.

While conveying felicitation to the entire Turkish nation on the 6th Anniversary of those momentous times, he said that the July 15 episode was indeed a great message to the entire world that nothing can harm a democratic order if it is tested and then trusted by the people.

Referring to the cordial relations between both the countries, the Speaker said that As Türkiye is a time-tested friend, Pakistan has always stood side by side with its Turkish brothers. While referring to the old history of cordial relations between people of both nations, he expressed his hope that the upcoming visit of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Pakistan during September this

year would prove another milestone in the mutual cooperation between both nations.

He said that this year also marks the 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations among our two modern states. He also mentioned about his visit to Turkey next week on the invitation of the Speaker of the Turkish Grand Assembly E Mustafa Sentop to participate in the trilateral parliamentary forum of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey.

Ambassador of Türkiye, Dr Mehmet Paçacı while remembering that dark and long night (he was an eyewitness on streets of Ankara that at that time) and the dreadful events it unfolded, said it was the night when integrity of Türkiye in every sense was defended by the people of the country against a vicious enemy i.e. FETO. That night disciples of Fethullah Gülen did not shy away from

using the lethal military force against the innocent civilians. They even tried to assassinate President Erdoğan and attacked the vehicle of the Prime Minister.

The saboteurs attacked the Presidential Complex, buildings of the National Intelligence Organization and Turkish national police. In those attacks several officials of the state were killed including 55 police personnel while hundreds of civilians protesting the coup attempt in Ankara and Istanbul were shot to death.

For 40 years, FETO had in a clandestine way infiltrated all the government institutions, departments, schools, businesses and paralyzed them. It also brainwashed some of the brilliant minds of Türkiye as well as the children.

While explaining the FETO's modus operandi, the ambassa-

dor said FETO opened so-called educational institutions that trained personnel for the network. These institutions ranged from kindergarten to university level. To a question, the ambassador said it all started under the guise of a charitable education effort back in the 1970s.

Their design, he said, was to take the control of the government and till that goal was achieved, the operatives were directed to remain under cover. As its strength grew, the organization began to claim a global messianic mission, depicting Fethullah Gülen 'Imam of the Universe', he said.

In the meantime, it became a full-scale crime syndicate: financing was taken care of by holding companies and donations from business people. One important source of financing was money-laundering he said and informed the Turkish law-enforcement agencies had cracked down and chopped off all its tentacles, said the ambassador adding, fighting against FETO structures abroad was among the top priorities of his country. We have also raised the issue with the US where the head of this terrorist organization is taking refuge, he said, but unfortunately, so far

we have not received any positive response, he said.

Meanwhile Pakistan's leadership on Friday reaffirmed support and solidarity for Türkiye as it marks Democracy and National Unity Day, remembering the people killed in the July 15, 2016 defeated coup.

In a statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said this day will always be remembered as an expression of the Turkish people's unwavering trust in the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

"It also reflects the Turkish nation's resolve to protect & uphold democracy. May the souls of the martyrs rest in peace!" Sharif tweeted.

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan also congratulated Erdogan and the people of Türkiye on Democracy and National Unity Day. "15 July 2016 commemorates the day President Erdogan with the support of the Turkish people defeated an attempted coup against him," Khan said.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry also reaffirmed their abiding solidarity and strong support for the people and government of Türkiye on the occasion of the sixth Democracy and National Unity Day.

"The heroic struggle of the brave Turkish people against the treacherous coup attempt of 15 July 2016 shows that with unity, courage, resolve and commitment, nations can overcome all odds and challenges," said a ministry statement.

The ministry also paid tribute to all those martyrs who laid down their lives in defense of Türkiye's democracy and stability.

"The exceptional relations between our two peoples – embedded in a common religious, cultural, linguistic, and spiritual heritage – go back centuries and have withstood the test of times. "With strong resolve of the political leadership on both sides, the historic, multi-faceted strategic relationship between the two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength," it added.

Siraj ul Haq, head of the Jama'at-e-Islami party, also paid tribute to the people killed in the defeated coup attempt. "The Pakistani nation always stood and continue to stand with our Turkish brothers and sisters in every difficult time," Haq said.

He praised the leadership of Erdogan, saying he set an example of people's support for their elected governments.

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# G20 & Looming Global Debt Crisis

Wang Yi

For the first time in two decades, the US dollar is equal to the euro in value, The Washington Post reported on Wednesday. As Europe grapples with growing recession fears and the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, analysts warned the euro's tumble to parity against the dollar could have major impacts on the European and global economies.

The US dollar's recent rally on steep Fed rate hike bets is putting pressure on central banks and currencies of a majority of economies. Besides the euro, which is closely affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the US-led sanctions against Russia, the Japanese yen and British pound are also losing terrain against the US dollar.

The strong dollar will undoubtedly bring severe impacts to the economy of European region and other developed countries, but the bigger problem with the strengthening of the dollar now is that it may lead to a cascading debt crisis in emerging economies.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund warned on Tuesday that "there is a growing risk of a debt crisis" amid the COVID-19 pandemic, tightening monetary policy and the rising cost of servicing debt in US dollars, according to media reports. Some 30 percent of developing and emerging

markets, and 60 percent of low-income countries, are at or near debt distress, the IMF chief added.

As early as January this year, the IMF warned that global debt reached a record \$226 trillion, with the highest annual increase since World War II in 2020. A global debt storm may be imminent. In addition to Sri Lanka, which is deeply in debt crisis, according to media reports, since April, Peru, Egypt and Tunisia have all experienced domestic turmoil caused by soaring food and energy prices.

Given the dominance of the dollar in the global financial system, its rally will make it more difficult for businesses and households in many economies outside the US to obtain financing. Global financial conditions tighten further as the dollar goes up, putting pressure on a wide range of emerging markets, especially those that are weaker.

When it comes to the debt issue, the first thing the international community discusses is to have an aid mechanism, which is of course necessary. But what is more critical is to find out where this debt crisis comes from. This wave of global debt is certainly partly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but more importantly, the root cause is the US-led sanctions against Russia, which caused hikes in food and energy prices fanning inflation in many economies.

Therefore, the reason why the current global debt crisis continues to deteriorate is that the US and its allies are taking

the escalation of sanctions against Russia as their top priority. Unless this approach is changed, the global debt crisis is not expected to be resolved soon.

For Europe, its current predicament lies in multiple factors. Many observers believe that the US-led NATO's adherence to cold war thinking and its continued eastward expansion are some of the reasons for the intensification of the Russian-Ukraine conflict. Europe is actually paying for the US' strategy. The US should not let European countries, let alone the vast number of developing countries, bear the consequences of this looming crisis.

In order to prevent the global economy be dragged into a disaster, major economies should conduct policy communication and coordination in the spirit of mutual respect and benefit. The G7 mechanism has been proven to be unable to reflect the spirit of the times and incapable of gathering global efforts to deal with crises. The G20 mechanism should play key role to coordinate efforts to turn the current situation around.

The G20 members represent more than 80 percent of world GDP, 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world population. It is the most powerful and representative communication and coordination mechanism in the world today. The "big trouble" the world is currently encountering needs to be addressed through consultation by all members of the G20. Western media said

that the Russia-Ukraine crisis divides the bloc into so-called pro-Russia and anti-Russian camps, but this also reminds the West that it needs to step out of the small circle of G7 and NATO and listen to different voices and the real concerns of most other countries.

Some Western countries have previously demanded that host Indonesia kick Russia "out of the G20" and threatened to "walk out of the meeting" if Russia attends. This time, foreign ministers finally sat together, which shows a kind of rationality. It is unrealistic for the G20 to completely focus on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the world cannot be permanently trapped in the confrontation it has caused.

The US and the West are acting like dealers. They deal the card "responsible for food crisis" to Russia, and deal the card "responsible for debt crisis" to China. This is a geopolitical calculation to evade responsibility. Doing so will eventually result in a backlash.

Food and energy issues are structural problems arising from the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In fact, the US Federal Reserve's continuous interest rate hikes are also a vital reason for the pressure on developing countries. To resolve the current crises, the US and major Western powers should play a leading role. But the reality is, countries including Indonesia are actively mediating between Russia and Ukraine on the G20 platform. China has fully implemented

the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and has provided the largest amount of debt relief among G20 members. On the other hand, the US and Western major powers, which are supposed to offer dividends for world peace and development, have made the smallest contribution.

The US and the Western countries should do much more, no matter from the perspective of moral responsibility or their practical ability. What they bring to the G20 should not be just disputes, but also solutions to problems.

For example, developed countries are supposed to play a greater role in reducing the debt burden on developing countries, and Washington should use more financial means to help developing countries resolve their difficulties, instead of focusing on smearing others of creating "debt trap."

G20 played an important role in dealing with the 2008 financial crisis. Now, with the world facing another upheaval, it is time for it to play its due role again. China has successively put forward the Global Development Initiative and a Global Security Initiative, calling for abandoning the Cold War mentality, opposing unilateralism, and saying no to group politics and bloc confrontation. This is both a solemn initiative and a rational voice.

*The author is an editor with the Global Times. Courtesy Global Times*

## Earth for All

In 1972, the United Nations held its first-ever environmental summit in Stockholm. In the run-up to the event, a group of scientists wrote *The Limits to Growth*, a report for the Club of Rome that became an unlikely bestseller. The authors argued that Earth's finite natural resources could not support ever-increasing consumption, and warned of likely ecological overshoot and societal collapse if the world did not recognise the environmental costs of human activity. Failure to change course would mean declines in per capita food and energy supplies, increasing pollution, lower standards of living, and the possibility of dramatic population collapses by the middle of the twenty-first century.

In the decades that followed, the report's startling conclusions were probably more criticised than commended. Many brushed them aside as a Doomsday scenario that human ingenuity and technological progress would render moot. But *The Limits to Growth* did not provide a single forecast. Rather, the authors explored several alternative paths based on different human strategies, and recent research by Gaya Herrington has shown that three of the four scenarios they outlined align quite closely with empirical data.

This is deeply worrying, because two of these three scenarios suggest a major collapse by mid-century while the third entails a smaller decline. Herrington argues that "humanity is on a path to having limits to growth imposed on itself rather than consciously choosing its own."

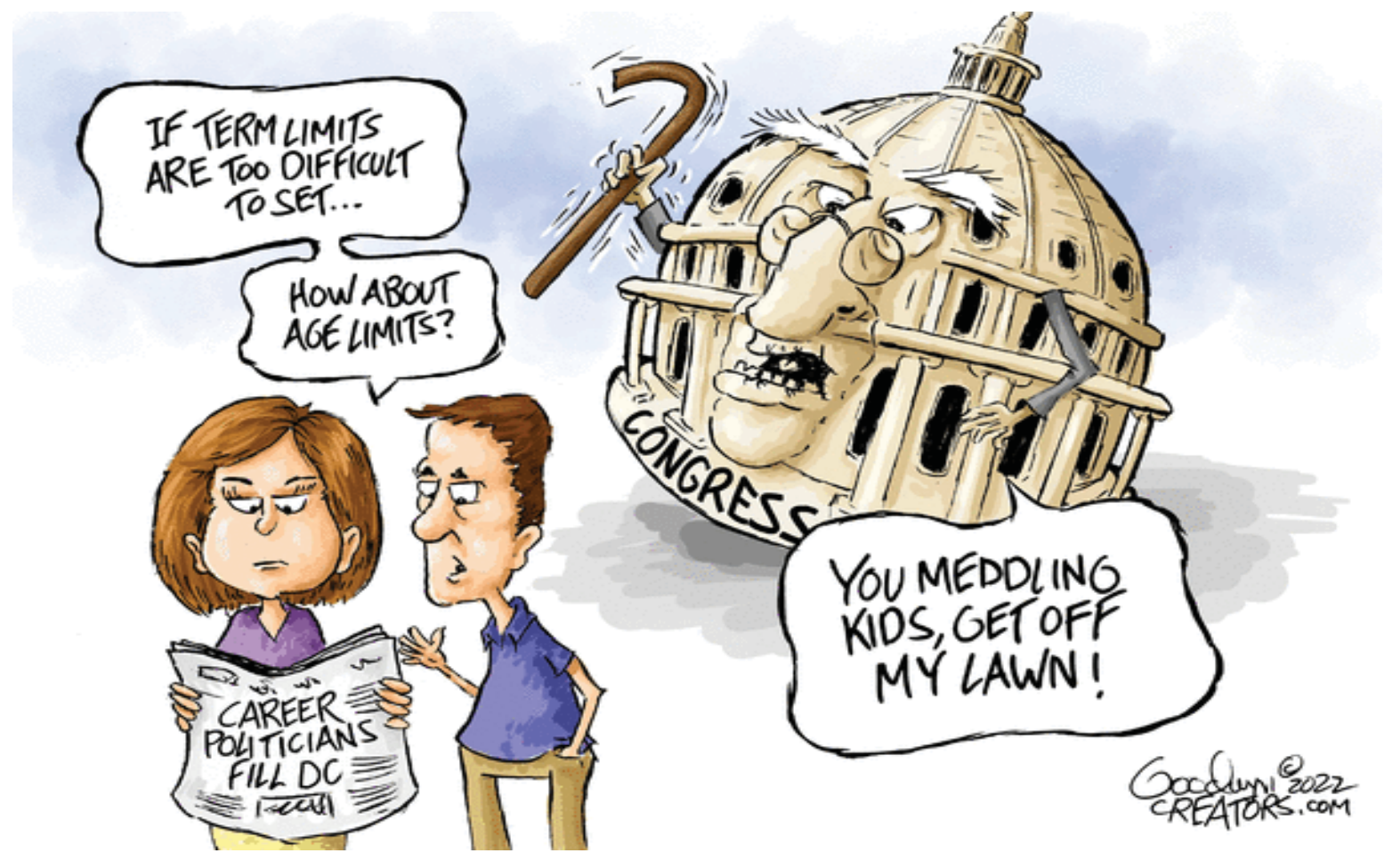
The fourth scenario, which involved significant economic and social transformations, allows for widespread increases in human welfare within Earth's natural boundaries. This is the motivation behind *Earth for All*, a new report produced by the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission (of which I am a member) and a team of computer modellers.

The report's authors argue that achieving well-being for all on a (relatively) stable planet is still possible, but will require major changes in economic organisation. In particular, it calls for five major initiatives to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, empower women, transform food systems, and overhaul energy systems by "electrifying everything."

To flesh out these aspirations, the report advocates specific and interlinked strategies for achieving each one. Of course, this will require significant new investments, led by massive increases in public spending. Higher taxation, especially of the extremely wealthy and of large firms, must therefore be an important part of the agenda. Restricting the wealth and consumption of the super-rich is also important for limiting carbon dioxide emissions and unnecessarily wasteful consumption.

In addition, creating global liquidity (such as by issuing more special drawing rights, the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset) and dealing with the sovereign-debt overhang would give developing-country governments more fiscal space. Global food systems are clearly broken. They currently create unhealthy and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, as well as enormous waste, and must be upgraded accordingly.

Regulation of markets for the public good will be critical in this process. More systematic and effective regulation is necessary not only with respect to food, but also in markets for goods and services, finance, labour, and land, and to those connected to nature and the environment.



## Asian & European Populism

Ashok Swain

The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whom Donald Trump had once described as 'Britain's Trump', has been forced to resign after almost three years in office following the Conservative Party revolt against his leadership. After Trump lost his reelection bid in 2020, some right-wing populist leaders in Europe have been defeated in elections to retain power. Except for Viktor Orbán's fourth-term win in Hungary, in the last two years, populist leaders have lost in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Israel, Italy, and Slovenia.

Populism, however, is showing no signs of declining popularity worldwide, and populist leaders are as powerful as ever, particularly in Asia. Moreover, the departure of some populist leaders from the president's or prime minister's post does not mean that right-wing populism lacks popular support in Europe.

In the last month's local election in Italy, the position of the far-right Brothers of Italy party has increased significantly. In places where right-wing populists joined hands and fought elections together, they did very well.

In France, a newcomer to the right-wing populist leaders' club, Eric Zemmour, with his extreme Islamophobic utterances, received huge attention in the last presidential election. If Zemmour and Marine Le Pen had joined hands, Le Pen would have received more votes than Emmanuel Macron in the first round of the election on April 10 this year.

Not only do Asian populists have the

upper hand on the domestic political front, but they also remain under the radar of the so-called Free World...

The number of populist-led governments worldwide has decreased from 19 in 2019 to 12 now — this downward slide is primarily in Europe. The departure of populist leaders hasn't yet helped democracy recover in some European countries. Though European populists have lost elections, they continue to appeal to the existing economic and social divisions in their countries. Populism has become so entrenched in these countries that reversing the decline of democratic institutions and political culture will take a long time.

The discussion on the rise of right-wing populism is predominantly Eurocentric. In Asia, it is rampant and more entrenched, but the discussions have been largely ignored. Populist leaders are in power in Asia, from Turkey to Indonesia and India to the Philippines.

Populists in power or competing for power in Asia follow the European formula to gain support. They position themselves as outsiders vis-à-vis traditional political elites, offering simple approaches to complex societal and economic challenges and blaming the ills on the vulnerable sections of society. However, some key differences make Asian populists more popular and difficult to dislodge. While European populists paint immigrants as outsiders against the 'true people' of the native land, the target of Asian populists is not immigrants but the ethno-religious minority population.

Populists in Asia divide their countries based on religion, posing themselves as the protector of the majority group's cultural values and economic interests. Religious cleavages are their

primary political weapon, and populist politicians proudly display ethno-religious chauvinism. While European populists highlight the cultural differences vis-à-vis the immigrant population, Asian populists not only focus on the religious differences of the minority groups but also question their loyalty to the country itself.

For the mainstream political parties in Europe, it is easier to counter populists if they push for restrictive immigration policies. And, if the economy starts doing well, the immigration issue takes a back seat. However, recovering lost grounds for the mainstream parties in Asia is not easy. They face ideological and historical restraints to support discriminatory policies against minorities, who are, unlike incoming immigrants, citizens of the country.

Not only do Asian populists have the upper hand on the domestic political front, but they also remain under the radar of the so-called Free World as they don't oppose trade or immigration, or regional organisation, unlike European populists. Asian populists don't use anti-immigration or anti-multilateralism rhetoric to gain or sustain power. They thrive on selling ethno-religious chauvinism, making them almost unbeatable in regular electoral politics in Asia's struggling democracies.

Over and above, the lack of a free press and the presence of weak constitutional institutions also put Asia's populist leaders in a more comfortable situation. Only an economic crisis of Sri Lankan proportion may remove them from power, but not through a fair election, as is possible in Europe.

*The writer is a Professor of Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, Sweden. Courtesy Gulf News*

## Remembering Sardar Qayyum Khan: a man with a vision

Today, we commemorate the seventh death anniversary of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Sahib, former Prime Minister and former President of Azad Kashmir who passed away on July 10, 2015. "Sardar Qayyum Khan Sahib was a fascinating personality, and recognizable leader with wisdom, sharpness, and foresight. He was a preeminent politician of Azad Jammu Kashmir who rendered his services for upholding the human and political rights of the people of the State.

His advocacy of the cause of Kashmir at the corridors of power at international capitals have had a lasting impact on the policy makers, where he used to make a persuasive and convincing case for the resolution of Kashmir dispute. I remember a conversation between Sardar Sahib and Professor Rajmohan Gandhi (the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) on July 24, 2003, in Washington. Professor Rajmohan Gandhi said that India and Pakistan together with Kashmiris could have decided among themselves a plan to resolve the Kashmir problem and implemented it. Sardar Sahib agreed with Professor Gandhi that the chapter would have closed down and bilateralism might have worked. But Sardar Sahib added that since bilateralism has failed and that gave rise to multilateralism or internationalism as one would like to call it, now we have no choice but to pursue that option too.

He was a courageous leader who understood the long road ahead of laboring for the minds and hearts of people when he told us in Washington in 1994 that our top priority should be to make sure that the leadership of the State of Jammu & Kashmir is at one page.

He was a man with a vision. When asked by Amr Mousaa, then the foreign minister of Egypt during the Islamic Summit in Tehran in 1997, 'who will represent Kashmiris if they are giving a seat at the negotiating table?' The answer is simple. All Parties Hurriyet Conference will be our sole representative in any dialogue between India and Kashmir,' Sardar Sahib replied.

When Azzedine Laraki, then the Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) asked Sardar Sahib that he would be speaking during the Islamic Summit in Tehran on

behalf of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, Sardar Sahib suggested that Ghulam Muhammad Safi, the Convener of APHC has the mandate to represent the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Safi Sahib was the one who spoke before the 56 Heads of State and Government in Tehran. The session was chaired by none other than Yasir Arafat, Chairman of PLO.

By far the most vivid recollection I have of Sardar Sahib was his response to a question asked at Washington Kashmir Peace conference about Line of Control (LoC). Sardar Sahib responded, "I, as a Kashmiri, don't recognize the control line. Kashmiris on both sides do not recognize it. We have not been a party to it. We were not signatories to it. We still call it the ceasefire line and there is fighting there which keeps the issue very much not

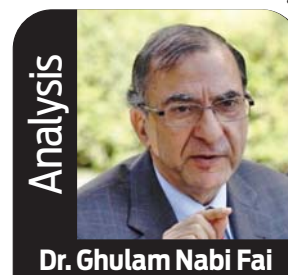
only alive but makes it dangerous as well." The participants were fascinated by his response.

Sardar Sahib was always against the option of maintaining the status quo. "Let me say that if stability and peace in the region is of any importance then it is inconceivable without resolving the Kashmir issue peacefully. Status quo would be no solution if someone thinks so and let me also say that we in India and Pakistan have tried our best to set things return to peace. But failed. So, the sooner the solution is found, the better as a way forward for Kashmir," Sardar Sahib explained.

Sardar Sahib was always in favor of including Kashmiris in the negotiations. He asked, "I really do not understand why Kashmiris are neglected, why they are not given an opportunity to meet freely and to interact freely so that they can become the bridge between New Delhi and Islamabad.

When asked: how to bring normalcy to Kashmir? Sardar Sahib responded, "I am not sure that there can be normalcy without addressing the core issue of Kashmir. A delay in addressing the issue has further added to the gravity of the situation. Now is the time to avoid mental or intellectual luxury. We have had enough of it," Sardar Sahib was a giant among Kashmiri politicians. We will miss him a lot!

*The writer is Secretary General World Kashmir Awareness forum Washington, DC and can be reached at gnfai2003@yahoo.com*



Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

# Biden lands in Saudi Arabia amid tension on oil

US President will discuss energy supply, human rights, and security cooperation in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: US President Joe Biden arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday, the latest stop on his first Middle East tour as US leader, where he is set to meet with the Kingdom's leadership.

Biden arrived at King Abdulaziz International Airport in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah on the third day of a four-day swing through the Middle East. He spent the first two days meeting with Israeli officials and traveled to the West Bank on Friday to meet with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and others before flying to Saudi Arabia.

President Joe Biden will discuss energy supply, human rights, and security cooperation in Saudi Arabia on Friday on a trip designed to reset the US relationship with a country he once pledged to make a "pariah" on the world stage.

Biden will hold meetings with Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS, along with other government officials, a senior Biden administration official told reporters.

The visit will be closely watched for



body language and rhetoric.

White House advisers have declined to say whether Biden will shake hands with the prince, the kingdom's de facto ruler. Biden will meet with a broader set of Arab leaders at a summit in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah on Saturday.

"The president's going to meet about a dozen leaders and he'll greet them as he usually does," the administration official said.

At the start of Biden's trip to the Middle East, officials said he would avoid close contacts, such as shaking hands, as a precaution against COVID-19. But the president ended up engaging in hand-shaking in Israel.

Biden said on Thursday his position on Khashoggi's murder was "absolutely" clear. Biden made his "pariah" comment less than two years ago after the journalist's killing and while

campaigning for president.

Biden said that he would raise human rights in Saudi Arabia, but he did not say specifically if he would broach the Khashoggi murder with its leaders.

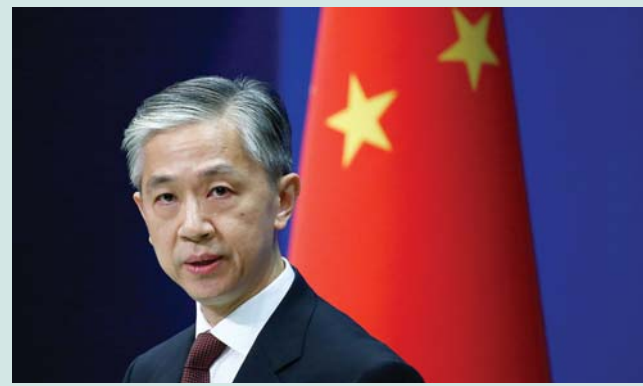
Saudi ambassador to the United States Reema bint Bandar Al Saud, writing in U.S. magazine Politico, reiterated the kingdom's "abhorrence" of the killing, describing it as a gruesome atrocity, and said it cannot define U.S.-Saudi ties.

She said the relationship should also not be seen in the "outdated and reductionist" oil-for-security paradigm.

"The world has changed and the existential dangers facing us all, including food and energy security and climate change, cannot be resolved without an effective U.S.-Saudi alliance," she said.

Energy and security interests prompted the president and his aides to decide not to isolate the kingdom, the world's top oil exporter and regional powerhouse that has been strengthening ties with Russia and China, particularly at a time of Gulf concern over perceived U.S. disengagement from the region.

## Middle East is not someone's backyard: China



BEIJING: The people of the Middle East are the masters of the region, and the Middle East is not someone's backyard, let alone a so-called "vacuum," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Friday. Wang made the remarks at a routine press briefing when asked to comment on U.S. President Joe Biden's remarks that the United States can continue to lead in the Middle East and not create a vacuum "that is filled by China and/or Russia, against the interests of both Israel and the United States."

Noting that currently the Middle East situation is still far from peaceful, the COVID-19 pandemic has held back regional development, and the Ukraine crisis continues to impact regional security, Wang said what the people of the Middle East desire most is development and what they need most is security.

Wang called on the international community, especially the major powers, to respond to the urgent needs of the people in the Middle East, and help the countries and people within the region resolve the two major issues, development and security, and provide constructive assistance.

China has always supported the people of the Middle East in independently exploring their own development paths, and supported the countries within the region in resolving regional security issues through solidarity and coordination, Wang said.

He said China has made unremitting efforts and played its due role in maintaining peace, promoting development and a just and reasonable settlement of hotspots in the region.

"China is willing to work with the international community to continue to contribute more positive energy to the realization of peace and development in the Middle East," the spokesperson added.

## Biden's trip

# Iran unveils naval drone division

TEHRAN: Iran's navy on Friday unveiled its first division of ships and submarines capable of carrying armed drones, as US President Joe Biden tours the Middle East. The United States and Israel, the sworn enemies of Iran, have previously accused the Islamic republic of using drones and missiles to attack US forces and Israel-linked ships in the Gulf. "The first drone-carrier division of the Iranian navy consisting of ships and submarine units carrying all types of drone for combat, detection and destruction has been unveiled," state television said.

"All types of the latest advanced drones produced by the military and the defense ministry have flown over the Indian Ocean's waters to demonstrate their capabilities," it added, showing images of drones taking off from a naval vessel. The announcement comes as Biden undertakes his first presidential



visit to Israel, where he and the Jewish state's caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Thursday signed a security pact reinforcing their common front against Iran.

Biden's trip also included a presenta-

tion of Israel's "Iron Beam" air defense system, which uses lasers to intercept drones and missiles.

"As we are aware of the aggressive attitude in the (United States) system of domination, it is necessary to increase

our defensive capabilities day-by-day," Iranian army commander Abdolrahim Mousavi said on television.

In October 2021, the United States imposed sanctions targeting Iran's drone program, accusing it of supplying the technology to its allies in the region, such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, the Houthis of Yemen and the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Monday said Iran plans to deliver "hundreds of drones" to Russia to aid its war on Ukraine.

In response, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said "there has been no special development in that regard recently," without specifically mentioning drones.

Iran began developing its drone program in the 1980s during the Iran-Iraq war.

# Ukraine war overshadow G20 talks; Indonesia seeks consensus

NUSA DUA, INDONESIA: G20 finance leaders meeting in Bali must make progress tackling the global economic threats sparked by Russia's war in Ukraine or the humanitarian consequences would be catastrophic, host Indonesia said on Friday.

Some Western ministers blasted Russian officials attending the talks, with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen saying Russia's "brutal and unjust war" was solely responsible for the economic crisis the world now faced.

Finance leaders from the Group of 20 major economies are meeting on the resort island, as host Indonesia tries to find common ground in a group frayed by the Ukraine war and rising economic pressures from soaring inflation.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which the Kremlin calls a "special military operation,"



has overshadowed recent G20 meetings, including last week's gathering of foreign ministers.

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said the world had high hopes the group could find a solution to the threat of war, rising commodity prices and the spillover effects on the ability of low-income countries to repay debt.

"We are acutely aware that

the cost of our failure to work together is more than we can afford. The humanitarian consequences for the world, and especially for many low income countries would be catastrophic," she said.

G20 members include Western countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia and accuse it of war crimes in Ukraine — which Moscow denies — as well

as nations like China, India and South Africa, which have been more muted in their responses.

Sri Mulyani called for G20 members to talk less about politics and "build bridges between each other" to deliver more technical decisions and concrete action.

Yellen said Russian finance officials at the meeting shared responsibility for the "horrific consequences" of the war.

"By starting this war, Russia is solely responsible for negative spillovers to the global economy, particularly higher commodity prices," Yellen said.

Russian Deputy Finance Minister Timur Maksimov was attending the meetings in Bali, while Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov was participating virtually at the time, a source familiar with the matter said.

Maksimov addressed the gathering and there was no

walk out by other leaders, the source said.

Western countries have repeatedly said there cannot be "business as usual" at the G20 meetings due to Russia's presence.

Canadian Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland told Russian officials that she held them personally responsible for "war crimes" committed during Russia's war, a Western official told Reuters.

Freeland, whose maternal grandparents were born in Ukraine, told the opening G20 session that the war was the "single biggest threat to the global economy right now," the official said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov walked out of one session of a G20 meeting with his counterparts in Bali last week, following what he called "frenzied criticism" of his country over the war.

# Heatwave scorches Europe; health warnings issued

WMO issues warning on air quality in towns and cities

LEIRIA/LONDON: Hundreds more people were evacuated from their homes as wildfires blistered land in France, Spain and Portugal on Friday, while officials in Europe issued health warnings for the heatwave in the coming days.

More than 1,000 firefighters, supported by water-bomber aircraft, have battled since Tuesday to control two blazes in southwestern France that have been fanned by scorching heat, tinderbox conditions and strong winds.

While temperatures dipped a little in Portugal, they were still expected to top 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in some places, with five districts on red alert and more than 1,000 firefighters tackling 17 wildfires, authorities said.

In Spain, the Environment Ministry said it was helping tackle 17 wildfires across the country.

Meanwhile, the worst drought in over 70 years reduced Italy's

longest river, the Po, to little more than a trickle in places.

Italy has declared a state of emergency along the Po, which supports about a third of the country's agricultural production, after facing its hottest July since 1800, with temperatures expected to rise next week.

Officials are worried about the effects on people's health and on healthcare systems already challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic as the searing heat sweeps the continent, with warnings issued for worse to come in Britain in particular.

The World Meteorological Organization said the heatwave would worsen air quality, especially in towns and cities.

"The stable and stagnant atmosphere acts as a lid to trap atmospheric pollutants, including particulate matter," Lorenzo Labrador, WMO scientific officer,

told a Geneva press briefing.

"These result in a degradation of air quality and adverse health effects, particularly for vulnerable people."

Portuguese Health Minister Marta Temido said on Thursday the health system faced a "particularly worrying" week due to the heatwave and said some hospitals were overwhelmed.

From July 7 to July 13, Portugal registered 238 excess deaths due to the heatwave, the country's DGS health authority said. Spain registered 84 excess deaths attributable to extreme temperatures in the first three days of the heatwave, according to the National Epidemiology Centre's database.

Britain's weather forecaster issued its first red "extreme heat" warning for parts of England on Monday and Tuesday, read more

"Exceptional, perhaps record-breaking temperatures

are likely early next week," Met Office Chief Meteorologist Paul Gundersen said.

"Nights are also likely to be exceptionally warm, especially in urban areas," he said. "This is likely to lead to widespread impacts on people and infrastructure."

The highest recorded temperature in Britain was 38.7 C (101.7 F) recorded in Cambridge on July 25, 2019.

Hannah Cloke, climate expert at Britain's University of Reading, said the heatwave showed climate change was here and there was an urgent need to adapt.

"We are seeing these problems now and they are going to get worse. We need to do something now," she told Reuters.

"It's harder to cope with these types of temperatures in the UK because we're just not used to them."

In Portugal, the highest



temperature on Thursday was recorded in the northern town of Pinhao at 47 C (116.6 F), just below the record.

Raymond Loadwick, 73, a retiree from Britain now living in the Portuguese district of Leiria, had to leave his home with his dog Jackson when flames started to burn down a hill packed with highly flammable eucalyptus and

pine trees on Tuesday.

When he returned a day later, his white horse stood untouched but the vegetation around it had turned to ashes and his fruit trees were burned down. Loadwick is scared fires will happen more often in the future: "You have to be on your guard," he told Reuters.

In France's Gironde region, 11,300 people have been evac-

uated since the wildfires broke out around Dune du Pilat and Landiras. Some 7,350 hectares (18,000 acres) of land have been burnt. Authorities said the fires had not yet been stabilised.

In Spain, the wildfires that have been burning in parts of Extremadura, which borders Portugal, and the central Castille and Leon region forced the evacuation of four more small villages late on Thursday and on Friday.

The flames are now threatening a 16th-century monastery and a national park. Several hundred people have been evacuated since the fires started and 7,500 hectares of forest have been destroyed in the two regions.

In Catalonia in the northeast, authorities suspended camping and sporting activities around 275 towns and villages to prevent fire risks and restricted farm work involving machinery.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,074.91	42,348.91
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,499.48	42,027.37
Index Value	Change
4,217,976,692	-274.00
Percentage	Time
-0.65%	15 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,151.21	+111.40
Percentage	Time
+1.58%	15 Jul, 3:56 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
31,188.61	+562.94
Percentage	Time
+1.82%	15 Jul, 10:55 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
26,788.47	+145.08
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	15 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	141.29	142.54
Bahrain Dinar	557.34	561.84
Canadian Dollar	159.95	161.3
China Yuan	31.02	31.27
Danish Krone	28.23	28.58
Euro	207	209.5
Hong Kong Dollar	26.7	27.05
Indian Rupee	2.62	2.7
Japanese Yen	1.48	1.52
Kuwaiti Dinar	679.81	684.81
Malaysian Ringgit	47.16	47.61
New Zealand \$	128.29	129.49
Norwegians Krone	20.45	20.75
Omani Riyal	545.01	549.51
Qatari Riyal	57.57	58.07
Saudi Riyal	55.2	56
Singapore Dollar	149.37	150.67
Swedish Korona	19.82	20.12
Swiss Franc	213.18	214.93
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	56.7	57.7
UK Pound Sterling	246	249
US Dollar	209	211.5

**E-commerce potential**

# Alibaba.com to hold Lahore Seller Summit on July 20

Event to explore the new era of B2B e-Commerce with local exporters

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a global leading B2B e-commerce marketplace, is hosting an event in Lahore to discuss the new era of B2B e-commerce with existing and potential exporters in the region. The attendees will get to know the significance of digitisation as it proved to be the backbone of many businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Salesforce, the global e-commerce market grew by 11% in the third quarter of 2021 alone. The seller event, which is scheduled to take

place offline at Lahore and will be livestreamed concurrently on 20 July 2022, is organized in collaboration with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industries (LCCI) and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association (SMEDA). It will cover topics including the potential of e-commerce, how to start exporting using Alibaba.com, what to expect from B2B e-commerce,

and tips and advice on achieving sustainable growth.



The event will feature a line-up of experts in the export and e-commerce fields, including are Song Song, Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan; Ethan Wang, Product Operation of Alibaba.com Pakistan; Sheharyar Tahir, Head of External Relations of SMEDA; Mian Rehman Aziz, Senior Vice President of Lahore Cham-

ber of Commerce, MdAmmar Khan, CEO of Raaziq Intl. Logistics; Barrister Ahmed Uzair, an Export Law specialist of AUCI Law and Muhammad Sajid Minhas, an exporter who has Ali Gold Supplier member for more than 15 years.

According to details, with the economy and export of Pakistan booming, the national export, the trading amount is now reaching the peak value in the past 10 years. Businesses that are equipped to navigate the e-commerce market will be better positioned to benefit from the favorable trading environment.

## IMF deal to push Pakistan out of economic crisis

Elite capture has ruined the country, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said despite the lack of trust between Pakistan and the IMF, a staff-level agreement has been finalised with the lender which is a welcome development.

After the approval of the IMF board, a formal agreement is expected in August, after which Pakistan will be able to obtain loans from other international institutions and friendly countries, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan needs \$41 billion this year to repay its old debts and finance trade deficit therefore the deal with IMF was very important for which Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Miftah Ismail deserve praise.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the agreement would bring relief to Pakistan and open the way for borrowing from other sources such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Saudi Arabia, UAE,



Qatar and the international market.

But because of the current global crisis, the country's weak financial position and the habit of violating agreements, loans can be more expensive than usual, he warned.

He said that the removal of the hurdle in obtaining new loans will stop the rupee from depreciating, but it is difficult to expect a significant decline in the dollar's value.

After a sharp rise in fuel prices and taxes, hopes for an agreement with the IMF were

raised and now IMF's loans could start from August, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF wants inflation to remain at 7 percent, while reducing government spending, decreasing demand and cutting poverty.

Increasing tax revenues, improving social safety, implementing development programs, improving governance, reducing deficits, and reforms in the anti-corruption, NAB and the power sector are also on the wish list of the lender.

It also includes targets that need to be met in order for the program to continue, however, the economic history of the country has witnessed that no government except a few have tried to put the country on track, and no attention has been paid to reforms, instead of reducing the gap between rich and poor it was widened, and borrowing has been increased.

He said that huge benefits are being given to the elite, which has made the country dependent on borrowing.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the expertise of economic managers in Pakistan depends on who can borrow and getting a loan is the only merit of an economic manager in Pakistan.

## SECP enhances investment limits for insurance firms

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), to encourage participation of insurance companies in the Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) market, has allowed insurance companies to invest in open-ended mutual funds including ETFs.

After these new amendments to the Insurance Rules, 2017, the insurance companies have now been allowed to invest 10% of their total investments in any one open-ended mutual fund including units of ETF. If insurance companies choose to invest in a mutual fund and ETF, managed by the

same Asset Management Company (AMC) it may invest maximum up to 15% of their total investments.

Furthermore, if insurance companies already have investments with an AMC, they may also invest additional 5% of their total investments in ETFs offered by that AMC.

The insurance companies' participation in the capital market, as institutional investors,

will strengthen Pakistan's capital market. The SRO1011(I)/2022, to effect amendments to the Insurance Rules, 2017 and to notify the admissibility limits for investment in the ETFs, has been placed on SECP's website.



## Trade deficit soars by 57% YOY to \$48.66b, says FPCCI

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that curtailing trade deficit in the fiscal year 2022 - 23 would be the biggest economic challenge for the government; without which the country will remain under a constant threat of default and its foreign exchange reserves (FER) will not build up to a secure level.

FPCCI Chief has noted with profound concerns that the trade deficit for the fiscal year 2021 - 22 has clocked at a record \$48.66 billion as per the revised figures and that translates into more than \$4 billion a month on an average; while it was \$30.96 billion in the previous year, i.e. 2020 - 21 and this shows a huge increase of 57 percent. No country in the world with the size of the economy like Pakistan can sustain or afford that kind of trade imbalance without further slipping into the vicious cycle of trade



deficit, exchange rate volatility and current account deficit (CAD).

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that though exports also posted some encouraging growth in the previous year and touched \$31.8 billion, he is skeptical that exports in the year ahead may not be able to hold its ground due to significant increase in the cost of doing business on the

back of enormous increase in petroleum, electricity and gas prices simultaneously. We are not competitive anymore, he remarked.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh explained that the testimony to the fact that our exports are extremely dependent on textiles is that two third of the total growth in the exports in the previous year has come only from value-add-

ed textiles; which must be appreciated. However, we must also be worried over the lack of diversification and broadening efforts in our exports basket.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh emphasized that there are only few countries in the world where we enjoy any meaningful bilateral trade surplus. Whereas, we must diversify our exports, incentivize exporters & export-oriented industries, establish new industrial enterprises & revive sick units, tap new markets, promote services' export and make full use of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) & free trade agreements (FTAs) - wherever they exist.

President FPCCI has demanded that interest rates on export finance scheme (EFS) and long-term financing facility (LTF) should be brought back to 3 percent and 5 percent, respectively. He maintained that it is absolutely imperative to restore the confidence of exporters at the moment.

## TECNO to launch Camon 19 Neo

**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: TECNO's most anticipated 32MP Softlight Selfie Camera - Camon 19 Neo is all set to be launched in Pakistan.

TECNO Camon 19 series was launched globally last month, leaving the local fans in anticipation. Keeping in check the increasing demand of the consumers, TECNO is launching the Neo version of the series in Pakistan. Other variants will be coming soon as well.

Camon 19 Neo is projected to bring Ultra Shine to your photography with the 32MP Softlight Selfie Camera and 48MP Bright Night Portrait. Moreover, with an FHD+ display, powerful battery, processor, and storage, the phone is all set to take the competitors by a storm.

Kelvin Zeng, CEO of TECNO Mobile Pakistan, shared his views on this occasion, "We are really excited to bring this new device to our Pakistani consumers. The series is yet to be brought to the country but the Neo version will prove

itself to be a value-for-money device with its advanced camera technology and stylish design."

Camon 19 series has also received the IF Design Award for the amazingly stylish smartphones with classy yet modern aesthetics. The series is expected to come to Pakistan very soon. So stay tuned and follow TECNO Mobile on official social media platforms.



## Emirates statement on operations at London Heathrow

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Emirates values our partnerships with airport stakeholders across our network with whom we engage continuously, and collaboratively, to secure our flight operations and ensure minimal customer disruption, particularly over the peak travel months.

It is therefore highly regrettable that LHR last evening gave us 36 hours to comply with capacity cuts, of a figure that appears to be plucked from thin air. Their communications not only dictated the specific flights on which we should throw out paying passengers, but also threatened legal action for non-compliance.

This is entirely unreasonable and unacceptable, and we reject these demands. At London Heathrow airport (LHR), our ground handling and catering - run by dnata, part of the Emirates Group - are fully ready and capable of handling our flights. So the crux of the issue lies with the central services and systems which



are the responsibility of the airport operator.

Emirates is a key and steadfast operator at LHR, having reinstated 6 daily A380 flights since October 2021. From our past 10 months of regularly high seat loads, our operational requirements cannot be a surprise to the airport.

Now, with blatant disregard for consumers, they wish to force Emir-

ates to deny seats to tens of thousands of travellers who have paid for, and booked months ahead, their long-awaited package holidays or trips to see their loved ones. And this, during the super peak period with the upcoming UK holidays, and at a time when many people are desperate to travel after 2 years of pandemic restrictions.

Emirates believes in doing the

right thing by our customers. However, re-booking the sheer numbers of potentially impacted passengers is impossible with all flights running full for the next weeks, including at other London airports and on other airlines. Adding to the complexity, 70% of our customers from LHR are headed beyond Dubai to see loved ones in far flung destinations, and it will be impossible to find them new onward connections at short notice.

Moving some of our passenger operations to other UK airports at such short notice is also not realistic. Ensuring ground readiness to handle and turnaround a widebody long-haul aircraft with 500 passengers onboard is not as simple as finding a parking spot at a mall.

The bottomline is, the LHR management team are cavalier about travellers and their airline customers. All the signals of a strong travel rebound were there, and for months, Emirates has been publicly vocal about the matter. We planned ahead to get to a state of readiness to serve customers and travel demand,

including rehiring and training 1,000 A380 pilots in the past year.

LHR chose not to act, not to plan, not to invest. Now faced with an "airmageddon" situation due to their incompetence and non-action, they are pushing the entire burden - of costs and the scramble to sort the mess - to airlines and travellers.

The shareholders of London Heathrow should scrutinise the decisions of the LHR management team.

Given the tremendous value that the aviation community generates for the UK economy and communities, we welcome the action taken by the UK Department for Transport and Civil Aviation Authority to seek information from LHR on their response plans, systems resilience, and to explain the seemingly arbitrary cap of 100,000 daily passengers. Considering LHR handled 80.9 million passengers annually in 2019, or a daily average of 219,000, the cap represents greater than a 50% cut at a time when LHR claims to have 70% of ground handling resources in place.

### Global economy set for weak growth, says ACCA survey



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: All the main global indicators fell in the Q2 Global Economic Conditions Survey (GECS), pointing to a decisive deterioration in the global economic outlook.

Weak growth looks the most likely outcome for the rest of 2022, according to the latest edition of the Global Economic Conditions Survey (GECS) from ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and IMA (Institute of Management Accountants).

The Q2 Global Economic Conditions Survey (GECS) - conducted in mid-June - pointed to a decisive deterioration in the global economic outlook due to the effects of war in Ukraine and the surge in inflation across much of the world.

But while risks have risen, indications are that a global recession will be avoided. However, while confidence among financial professionals has dropped sharply, the level remains above the low-point reached at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two "fear" indices - reflecting level of concern that customers and suppliers may go out of business - were little changed in the Q2 survey, both edging slightly higher. Both indices have fallen back from the extreme levels seen in 2020 but are still above pre-pandemic levels.

The largest fall in confidence occurred in the Middle East, a region more exposed to trade with Russia/Ukraine while North America and Western Europe recorded especially large falls due to big jumps in inflation in recent months.

## Pak vs SL

## Babar Azam rebuffs security concerns in Sri Lanka

The first of two-match series slated to begin July 16 at Galle Int'l Stadium

## Spokesman Report

GALLE: Pakistan will be marking return to Test cricket after more than three months when they take on hosts Sri Lanka at Galle International Cricket Stadium on 16th July in the first of the two Tests. Though Pakistan returned with a series win 2-1 the last time they toured the island nation in 2015, Sri Lanka, following their comeback win against Australia at the very same venue, promise to pose a tough challenge to the visitors. Pakistan captain Babar Azam, however, feels Pakistan are well prepared for the challenge.

The two matches are of significance for both sides as they form part of the ICC World Test Championship. Sri Lanka, following their series levelling win earlier in the week, are sitting third on the nine-team table with 54.17 win percentage points, while Pakistan, with 52.38, are just a rung below.

Babar is the top run-getter for Pakistan in the current ICC World Test Championship cycle with 682 at an average of 62. He has made a century—that second innings 196 in that epic draw against Australia in Karachi—and five half-centuries. The bowling charts are dominated by tall



pacers Shaheen Afridi who has 37 scalps – including two five-fers – at 18.02 runs per dismissal.

“Our preparations have been very good and we are ready for the Test series,” Babar said while speaking to PCB Digital ahead of a practice session on the eve of the Test series. “The warm-up match helped us in getting used to the Sri Lankan conditions, and our camps in Rawalpindi and

Lahore also played a role in preparing us for the series. We have worked hard and put in the effort.”

Babar Azam expressed confidence in the security arrangements for the national Test squad that is visiting Galle for a Test series, as Sri Lanka goes through country-wide protests against the president and prime minister seeking their resignations. Babar said that the team is being “looked

## Salman Ali Agha to make Pakistan debut

All-rounder Salman Ali Agha will make his Pakistan debut on Saturday. Salman was added to the 18-player squad for this series following an impressive run in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy first-class tournament in the last three years. In 18 matches, since 2019-20 season, the right-hander has scored 1,629 runs at a strong average of 56.19. The 28-year-old has smashed five centuries and eight half-centuries. His off-spin snared 25 wickets.

after well” by the local authorities.

Pakistan, recently, has shown strength in all facets with their batters, bowlers – spinners or pacers – and fielders stepping up on crucial moments. The Pakistan captain says this has made his life easy. “I am incredibly proud of this team as a captain. Every player in this side is taking responsibility and trying to finish the game for Pakistan. Whether it is our bowlers or batters, they make sure that they put in all of their efforts and that makes my life easy. We will give our best in this series.”

## SPSI signs MOU with six Int'l Indonesian Universities

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Sports Promotion Society International (SPSI), Founder & President, Faisal Fayyaz, signed MOU with Six International Indonesian Universities.

According to Faisal, There are other affiliations and collaborations are in process for the promotion & development of physical education & sports sciences specifically for the young generation of Pakistan and international collaborators by following the United Nations SDG Goals with international universities & sports bodies of Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, India, Iraq, Egypt, Romania, Ukraine, Oman, Germany, etc. The names of the International Universities are 1. State Islamic Institute of Madura, Indonesia, 2. Universitas Islam Madura, Indonesia, 3. Siliwangi University, Indonesia, 4. Universitas Ai Asya-

riah Mandar, West Sulawesi, Indonesia, 5. Universitas Kristen Toraja, Indonesia, 6. Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidenreng Rappang, Indonesia.

Recently, Faisal Fayyaz, Founder and President of Sports Promotion Society International and Pakistan Sports Promoters had received National Youth Empowerment Award 2022 on the basis of Physical Education, Science, Technology, Gymnastics and Sports Sciences by Rising Pakistan, Educasa International and Minhaj Youth League. His services to the youth at the grassroots level were appreciated. Faisal Fayyaz, International Sportsman, gymnast, Coach and Sports Administrator, as well as Researcher in Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Educational Technologies and Computer Sciences, and Ambassador of several International Bodies. Faisal Fayyaz is also an editorial member of

the Asia Pacific Journal of Advanced Education and Technology.

Faisal Fayyaz of Pakistan successfully presented his research on May 10 at the Regeneron ISEF in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, representing Pakistan at the C101 Auditorium, World Congress Center where he was appreciated by the international audience, directors, teachers, school and college. Meanwhile, Faisal Fayyaz also visited the World Olympic Park, World Aquarium Center and Atlanta Sports & Gymnastics Academy. Faisal has twice received special awards from the President of Pakistan, especially in the field of gymnastics and computer science.

Faisal had received Roll of Honor and special award Henry Lal Gold Medal from Chief Executive & President of Pakistan General Parvaiz Musharaf. He also received five Roll of honor that he earned while staying in his educational institutes like

Govt College Lahore, FC College Lahore, Punjab University, & Govt College of Physical Education Lahore.

He also the grand prize winner in Microsoft Pakistan Developer Conference 2005 and received this prize from acting president & Chairman Senate Mian Somro in Pearl Continental Hotel Karachi while late Arfa Karim was also accompanying at that moment with Faisal. Faisal Fayyaz is well renowned Computer Science Professional, Researcher, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert, Wakelet Community Leader, Project Management Professional, Cambridge certified Computer Science teacher, physical education, sports sciences & educational technologies mentor. He has organized a lot of research conferences in the field of Computer Science, Educational & Informational Technologies, Gymnastics, Sports & Physical Education for the development of young generation.

## Tokyo to host 2025 world athletics champs



EUGENE: The 2025 World Athletics Championships will return to Tokyo, the sport's global governing body announced Thursday.

The World Athletics Council confirmed that Tokyo would stage the championships for the second time after beating out competition from Kenya, Poland and Singapore.

It means Tokyo's Olympic Stadium will get the chance to host a major athletics event in a packed venue, four years after staging the pandemic-delayed Olympic games in an empty arena.

“Within an extremely strong field of candidates to host the World Athletics Championships 2025, Tokyo offered a compelling bid,” World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said in a statement.

“I hope this will be a shining light for Japan as they celebrate 100 years of the Japanese Association of Athletics Federations (JAAF) in 2025, by bringing world-class athletics back to the people in Tokyo.”

## Everton not for sale, says Moshiri

Premier League club's majority shareholder insists any new investment would only be minority stake

LONDON: Everton majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri has insisted the Premier League club is not for sale after talks with a consortium looking to take over at Goodison Park.

Former Manchester United chief executive Peter Kenyon was the frontman of a group that entered into exclusive negotiations to purchase Everton.

The consortium, bankrolled by real estate tycoon Maciek Kaminski and mining magnate John Thornton, had reportedly hoped to complete a £500 million (\$591 million) deal for Everton.



But, in a message on Everton's website on Thursday, Moshiri said that any new investment would only be a minority stake.

“There has been much talk of investment in our football club

recently—even takeovers—but I want to clarify that there is no ‘for sale’ sign currently hanging outside Everton Football Club,” Moshiri said.

“It will always be pragmatic

to explore all potential investment opportunities and, as I have been transparent about, I am focused on completing the financing for our fantastic new stadium as well as strengthening the playing squad, and that might include a minority investment. That will continue.

“But I want to reassure all of you that Everton Football Club is not for sale.”

Everton have posted total losses of more than £370 million over the last three financial years following huge investment in the playing squad for little reward.

Moshiri has become the

target of fierce criticism from Everton fans, with the club's narrow escape from relegation last season failing to save him from further abuse.

But Moshiri has called on Everton's disgruntled supporters to judge after boss Frank Lampard has completed his transfer dealings in the summer window.

“My commitment to the club remains strong and focused and (director of football) Kevin Thelwell and the chairman are currently working hard to bring in new players to improve Frank Lampard's squad,” Moshiri said. AFP

## Rahimyar Khan White win Open Division Kabaddi match

## Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Rahimyar Khan White team defeated Rahimyar Khan Green team by 39-37 in a thrilling Open Division kabaddi match played in Chak No 139-Alf, Rahimyar Khan (RYK) the other day.

Former MPAs Mehmood ul Hasan Cheema and Mian Imtiaz Ahmed were the guests of honour at the largely attended kabaddi match.

Liaquat Ali Numberdar, Nasir Nussain, Abid Bajwa, Sajid Bajwa, Asif Hussain, Anser Bajwa, Abid Hussain Jatt, Kashif Goraya, Mukhtar Ahmed Babbi, Ahsan Pervaiz, Faisal Cheema and a hundreds of kabaddi enthusiasts were there to witness the exciting kabaddi encounter.

The captain of winning team Matansar Cheema received a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 50,000 from the guests of honour while the skipper of runner up team Sunny Jutt was given a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 30,000.

Matansar Cheema and Sufyan Cheetah were declared best stopper and best raider of the match respectively and both were given trophies and cash prize of Rs 5,000 each.

Senior kabaddi player Ghazanfer Bajwa was the coach of Rahimyar Khan Green team while M Rafi was the coach of Rahimyar Khan White team.

## Shaheed Benazirabad clinch CCA Sindh-leg title

## Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Shaheed Benazirabad won the Sindh-leg of the two-day City Cricket Association Tournament 2022-23 on the virtue of a better run-rate after their final against Hyderabad ended in a draw at the Hanif Mohammad HPC National Stadium Ground in Karachi.

After the first day's play was washed out due to rain, the match started on day-two. Shaheed Benazirabad's captain Haris Khan won the toss and opted to field first. Hyderabad managed to score 277 for six in 57 overs on the back of captain Fardeen's 62-ball 61, which included seven fours and one six. Dawood Khan top-scored with a quick-fire 75 off 56 balls and struck eight fours and two sixes.

For Shaheed Benazirabad, right-arm leg-spinner Jawad Ali bagged four wickets for 60.

In return, half-centuries by Haris (60,68b, nine fours) and Saddam Hussain (58,113b, eight fours, one six) helped Shaheed Benazirabad post 171 for seven in 45 overs. When stumps were drawn for the day Shaheed Benazirabad were declared winners on the basis of better run-rate.

After the win, Shaheed Benazirabad's captain Haris Khan said: “The players had the commitment to do well in the tournament and ended up winning the tournament. Our coach guided us really well and we executed the plan successfully on the field.”

## Arshad Nadeem in US for athletics championship

KARACHI: Pakistan's olympian javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem has reached the United States to partake in the World Athletics Championship.

The championship is scheduled from July 15 to 24 in Oregon. The Pakistani athlete will participate in the qualifying round of the javelin throw event on July 21.

Before leaving for America, Arshad trained in Punjab Stadium for six months under the supervision of coach Salman Butt and Dr Asad Abbas.

Arshad had suffered from an elbow injury during his training in South Africa. Pakistan Athletics Federation (PAF)'s president Akram Sahi assured Arshad to get his elbow surgery done after Commonwealth and Islamic Games.

After World Athletic Championship, Arshad will directly go to Birmingham to participate in Commonwealth Games. Thereafter, he will fly to Turkey to participate in Islamic Games. Agencies

## 1st National Inter Club Hockey C'ship 2022 opens

LAHORE: The national level round of 1st Chief of Army Staff (COAS) National inter club Hockey championship 2022 has formally commenced here at National Hockey stadium complex on Friday.



The championship started with 72 districts and 718 clubs contesting at the district, divisional and provincial level all over Pakistan.

The 10 qualifying teams from various regions of Pakistan will contest for the National level title.

A colorful Opening Ceremony was held at National Hockey stadium complex Lahore where pipe and brass bands of Pakistan Army displayed a splendid performance for the audience.

The participating teams led by their respective team captains carrying their club flags marched into the ground to display their participation.

A melodious National Anthem tune was played to boost the patriotic sentiments among the people.

Former Olympian Akhtar Rasool was the chief guest at the occasion.

A short documentary was played for audience to show the Glorious moments of Pakistan hockey. A large number of spectators attended the show to support participating teams and national game. Agencies

## Pakistan women will start UK tour campaign today

Pakistan to play Australia in tri-series opener

## Spokesman Report

BELFAST: The Bismah Maroof-led Pakistan will start their UK tour campaign on Saturday (16 July, 2022) with the first match of the tri-series against Australia at the Bready Cricket Club, Magheramason. Hosts Ireland are the third team in the tournament that will provide an ideal opportunity to both Pakistan and Australia to solid preparations ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, later this month.

Pakistan reached Belfast earlier in the week and spent the last two days preparing for the tough tournament opener against the T20 world champions Austral-

ia. History is on Australia's side heading into the match as they have a 100 percent win record against Pakistan with 10 wins from as many matches.

The two sides last competed in a T20I series in 2018 in Malaysia which the Australians won 3-0, while the last T20 encounter between both sides was staged in the ICC Women's World T20 in the West Indies in November the same year, Australia won that match by 52 runs.

Pakistan though come into the tournament in a confident mode following their 3-0 win over Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series staged in Karachi last month.

The 15-member squad for the tri-series and Commonwealth Games is full of exciting talent led by youngsters Tuba Hasan and Ayesha Naseem who both made match and series winning contributions against Sri Lanka.

Tuba, the young leg-spinner who was named the player of the series against Sri Lanka in what was her debut series, would be the one to look out for once again. Ayesha is a formidable striker and provides firepower to the batting line-up.

Pakistan team had a 10-day camp in Islamabad before travelling to the UK while head coach David Hemp and the support staff also worked with the players in short specialised

camps in Lahore and Karachi in the lead-up to the tour.

As per the tri-series format, Pakistan will play both Australia and Ireland twice, all six tournament matches will be staged at the Bready Cricket Club. The team that finishes on the top of the three-team table at the completion of the six matches will be declared winners.

Pakistan squad: Bismah Maroof (captain), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Anam Amin, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Gull Feroza (wicketkeeper), Iram Javed, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (wicketkeeper), Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadia Iqbal and Tuba Hassan.

