



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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PML-N snatches PTI's seats in by-polls: Maryam

Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PMLN) Vice President Maryam Nawaz says PML-N has taken a big advantage during by-polls because in many of these constituencies PMLN had no candidate in 2018. In fact, we have snatched seats from PTI. It was a big improvement for the party to fight hard despite not having candidates in several constituencies in 2018, and we have snatched seats from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).



Rana Sana's statement political hooliganism: Sh Rashid

former Interior Minister Rashid says Rana Sanaullah's statement about Punjab MPAs' absence from assembly on the day of Chief Minister voting is a proof of political hooliganism. Kidnapping the members of Punjab Assembly or buying and selling will be the last nail in the coffin. The current Speaker of Punjab Assembly, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi will be the next Punjab CM.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 20, Wednesday, July 20, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 111 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Punjab by-polls not related to general elections

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that the result of the by-polls has no connection with general elections. Talking to media outside the National Accountability Court (NAB), the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) said that the party that wins the vote on 22 July would form the government while the loser would sit in the opposition. We would not run off foreseeing our defeat, he added.

He reiterated that NAB should be shut down, it has caused severe damage to the country's progress. No officer would work until NAB is operational, he added. He added that the controversial NAB Chairman has been removed but the circus he initiated continues. He will have to be accountable for the ills he caused to innocent people, he added. The PML-N leader said that PTI has been propagating a false narrative of accountability for four years, he added. If Imran Khan is so serious about accountability then he should public the details of his assets, he added.

The 20 seats, the by-polls were contested o, were PTI's seats, we accept whatever decision the public has made, Khaqan Abbasi said. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that former NAB Chairman Javed Iqbal has been removed but the circus he initiated continues. He added that he will have to be accountable for the ills he caused to innocent people. Abbasi reiterated that NAB should be shut down, it has caused severe damage to the country's progress. No officer would work until NAB is operational, he added. Abbasi said that the court was not able to answer my question that what is my crime.

Political scenario

LAHORE: Leaders of coalition parties addressing a news conference after a key meeting here on Tuesday



Photo: PID

Continuation

Coalition govt decides to complete tenure

Khawaja Saad says Imran tampering with constitution with judiciary support

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The ruling alliance on Tuesday has disposed of all speculations regarding the possible dissolution of the government following PTI's landslide victory in the Punjab by-elections, and unanimously decided to complete the term of the assemblies, and not to hold early general elections. The decision was made in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Tuesday, which was attended by the PDM leaders and allied partners to discuss the post-Punjab by-polls situation and future strategies.

Party sources privy to the matter

said that during the meeting a consensus has been reached that present assemblies will complete their terms and the government will not announce the early general elections under any pressure from Imran Khan. The PDM leadership strongly condemned Imran Khan's criticism of the institutions and decided to make efforts to save the chief ministership in Punjab, said the sources.

Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique announced that the federal government will complete its tenure, dismissing all speculation regarding the possible dissolution of the government following PTI's victory in the recently-concluded Punjab by-election. The

decision came after the PML-N faced defeat in the Punjab by-elections on 20 constituencies on July 17 against the PTI.

While reacting to PTI's plea against NAB amendments in the Supreme Court he said that Imran Khan is tampering the constitution with the judiciary's support and the apex court should hear the appeal on Article 63A interpretation as soon as possible.

The PTI won 15 seats, while the PML-N managed to clinch victory in only four, and an independent candidate grabbed one. The announcement was made after a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore with the

allies. Talking about the Punjab by-elections, the railway minister said that these elections cannot measure the popularity or unpopularity of PML-N as the party and the coalition government have won five out of 20 seats.

He said that the PML-N leadership has made sacrifices for democracy, adding that the party knows how to save its politics but it decided not to do so. "The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) requests to respect the decisions made by the Parliament and that it has its reservations on judicial interpretation of Article 63(A)," said Rafique, adding that "legislation is the Parliament's prerogative and it should not be interfered with."

Zardari, Ch Shujaat discuss politics



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday met Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and took him in confidence over decisions taken in the meeting of ruling alliance.

Asif Zardari met Chaudhary Shujaat at his residence and the meeting continued for over an hour, in which matters pertaining to the political situation in Punjab came under discussion. The family members of the PML-Q chief were also present in the meeting. The PPP co-chairman left Shujaat Hussain's residence making a sign of victory.

Fitch revises Pakistan's outlook to negative

Sees considerable risks in implementation of IMF program

NEW YORK: Fitch Ratings on Tuesday revised Pakistan's Outlook to Negative from Stable while affirming its Long-Term Foreign-Currency (LTCF) Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B-'. The revision of the outlook to Negative reflects a significant deterioration in Pakistan's external liquidity position and financing conditions since early 2022.

Fitch assumes IMF board approval of Pakistan's new staff-level agreement with the IMF but sees considerable risks to its implementation and to continued access to financing after the program's expiry in June 2023 in a tough economic and political climate. With regards to political risks, the rating agency is of the view that renewed political volatility cannot be excluded and could undermine the authorities' fiscal and external adjustment, as happened in early 2022 and 2018, particularly in the current environment of slowing growth and high inflation

According to the estimations put forth by Fitch, the CAD reached \$17bn (4.6% of GDP) in FY22, driven by soaring global oil prices and a rise in non-oil imports boosted by strong private consumption. Fiscal tightening, higher interest rates, and measures to limit energy consumption, and imports underpin our forecast of a narrowing CAD to \$10bn (2.6% of GDP) in FY23.

The staff-level agreement will potentially unlock USD4 billion in IMF disbursements to Pakistan in FY23, assuming board approval of a USD1 billion augmentation and extension to June 2023, the report added. It further noted that Pakistan's 'B-' rating reflects recurring external vulnerability, a narrow fiscal revenue base, and low governance indicator scores compared with the 'B' median. External funding conditions and liquidity will likely improve with the new staff-level agreement.

Tyranny

India fails to snub Kashmiris' struggle: PM

Urges ECP to announce ruling on PTI foreign funding case

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day is reflection of Kashmiris' pledge to continue their struggle till the idea of accession become a reality. In a tweet on Tuesday, he said the Indian oppressive state apparatus has failed to stop this journey of resistance, sacrifice and defiance. He said we salute the courage of Kashmiris.

Meanwhile, in his message on the occasion of Jammu and Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that over nine hundred thousand Indian troops have failed to shake the resolve of Kashmiri people for freedom. He said the time has rather given further impetus to their spirit for freedom. The Prime Minister said the Kashmiris are rendering great sacrifices to get their just and legitimate right for self-determination. He said Pakistan will continue



ue to extend every possible support to the Kashmiris till Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called upon the Election Commission of Pakistan to announce the "long-delayed" judgment on the PTI "foreign funding" case. "For long has Imran Niazi been given a free pass despite his repeated and shameless attacks on state institutions.

Impunity given to him has hurt the country," said the premier.

His message comes after a drubbing by the PTI on Sunday in the by-elections on 20 constituencies of Punjab. PTI secured victory on 15 seats, whereas PML-N only came away with four, unofficial results showed.

The ECP reserved the verdict in case nearly a month ago, on June 21, following a hearing by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sultan Raja. The verdict was reserved after the completion of a briefing by the financial expert brought by PTI founding member Akbar S Babar. Babar has alleged major irregularities in the party's finances, including in funding from outside Pakistan.

ECP concluded the case after seven years of trial, which started in 2014, when Babar filed it. The date the verdict will be announced is yet to be revealed.

Punjab CM election

Political parties to shift MPs to hotels

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League – Quaid (PML-Q) on Tuesday decided to shift their Punjab Assembly lawmakers to hotels ahead of Punjab Chief Minister election to be held on July 22.

Sources privy to the matter said that a parliamentary party meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, and allies expressed their confidence in Hamza Shahbaz by raising their hands.

During the meeting, the PML-N once again decided to shift its members to a hotel and also issued instructions in this regard.

On the other hand, PTI and PML-Q also decided to shift their members to a hotel and bookings were made in Gulberg hotel while the lawmakers will stay in the hotel until the election of the Chief Minister.

Sharifs not expert in running country: Imran Khan

Lashes out at govt for rupee depreciation

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday while taking a dig at the government said that the economic meltdown shows Sharifs never had any expertise in running economy or administration. Venting out his anger on the incumbent rulers in his latest tweet, the former prime minister wrote that the nation will hold accountable all those responsible for the conspiracy of the regime change and bringing Pakistan to this sorry state of affairs. Imran Khan went on to say, "When US regime conspiracy's VoNC was tabled dollar was at Rs178 but today it is Rs 224 & in freefall despite IMF agreement." The PTI chairman further said that the Sharifs only expertise is looting, money laundering & getting NROs. Imran Khan has strongly criticised the federal government over massive depreciation in the value of the Pakistani Rupee against the US dollar.

Taking to Twitter, the former premier pointed out: "When US regime conspiracy's [Vote of No-Confidence] was tabled [dollar] was at Rs 178." According to Imran Khan, the Rupee has fallen to 224 against the US dollar despite the agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) "The economic meltdown shows Sharifs never had



any expertise in running economy or administration. Their only expertise is looting, money laundering [and] getting NROs," the PTI Chairman added.

He further said that the nation will hold accountable all those responsible for regime change conspiracy and

bringing Pakistan to this sorry state of affairs. It is pertinent to mention here that the dollar rate today reached an all-time high against the Pakistani rupee and is currently trading at Rs 224 in the interbank market. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) KSE-100 index fell by 608 points.

Industrialization

President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi inaugurating the Pakistan Chemical Expo 2022 organised by Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers Association in Lahore on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PML-Q files contempt plea against Rana Sanaullah



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) on Tuesday filed a contempt of court petition in the Supreme Court against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah over his recent statement. It is pertinent to mention here that earlier on Monday, the interior minister made a statement claiming that five PTI MPs could "disappear" during the voting for Punjab's chief minister being held on July 22. Addressing a press conference, Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi said the incumbent rulers are not capable of doing politics, adding that incompetent people have been imposed on crucial seats.

"Instead of focusing on law and order situation, Rana Sanaullah is using Intelligence Bureau to harass our party leaders" he said. In this regard, former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that Rana Sanaullah's statement about the absence of Punjab MPAs on the day of voting is proof of "political hooliganism". Taking to Twitter, Sheikh Rashid said that kidnapping members of the Punjab Assembly or buying and selling will be the last nail in the coffin of democracy.

He said that he said that Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi will be the next Chief Minister of Punjab. He went on to say that dollar has reached up to Rs218 and "no one is thinking about the devastated economy". He further lamented that the country will face further problems if there will be no political stability.

Govt to decide when to hold elections: Marriyum

Says Imran wants CEC to act like ex-NAB chairman

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday calling out to all those demanding early elections in the country said that elections will be held when the government decides. Addressing a press conference here, the Federal Information Minister while criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership said that they are targeting the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to avoid and divert the attention from the foreign funding case.

Further criticizing the PTI Chairman she mentioned that Imran Khan had been attacking government institutions to save his regime. Marriyum urged to take legal action against the PTI Chairman in this regard. Also talking about the Punjab by-elections, the PML-N leader added that PTI lost five seats in the by-election. She said Imran Khan wanted Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja to act like that of former National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman Justice (retired) Javed Iqbal in the wake of pending decision in his party's foreign funding case.



She said Imran Khan had laundered billions of dollars by receiving foreign

Marriyum refutes news about power tariff hike

funding in bank accounts of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) office-bearers, which had caused a huge loss to the national exchequer. "Imran Khan tried to reach out the incumbent CEC through

back door channels as he wanted him to play a role like that of the ex-NAB chairman, but Sikandar Sultan Raja will not become another Javed Iqbal at any cost," she maintained. The minister said Tayyaba Gul was held hostage at the Prime Minister's House to blackmail the former NAB chairman for victimizing the political opponents by filing false cases. The former Federal Investigation Agency director general was also pressurized to register cases against the then opposition leaders.

Imran Khan, she said, was attacking the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as it had reserved the decision in the PTI's foreign funding case, which it could announce any time.

She claimed that the PTI chief had a mindset of despotic German dictator Hitler. It was beyond understanding that he (Imran Khan) had launched a scathing attack against the same CEC, who was appointed by him. "He (Imran) will take no time to attack the Supreme Court, if it gives a decision against him," she said. The minister said Imran Khan's demand for the incumbent CEC's resignation manifested that he would want the head of any institution to quit whichever gave a decision against him.

CM Punjab election

PTI moves SC against pre-poll rigging

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has moved the Supreme Court (SC) against the 'pre-poll rigging' in the election of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) on July 22. According to details, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has moved the Supreme Court to ensure 'transparent' election of the Punjab Chief Minister. The Imran Khan-led party has filed a contempt of court petition in the Supreme Court on the 'official announcement' of rigging in the Punjab CM election.

In the petition, the PTI noted that on July 1, the apex court had directed the provincial government to ensure transparent election. However, the plea alleged, the government ministers are creating obstacles in compliance with the court orders. The PTI has requested the Supreme Court to fully implement July 1's decision and direct the government to ensure transparent Punjab CM poll on July 22.

The political party has also requested the Supreme Court to hear the contempt petition against the government ministers tomorrow.



row. It is pertinent to mention here that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would not let the PML-Q's Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi become the provincial chief executive easily on July 22. Sanaullah said that PML-N fell short of 5 votes while Pervaiz Elahi has 188 votes in the provincial assembly.

He added that Pervaiz Elahi would have found himself in difficulty to get the chief ministership if five lawmakers did not reach the provincial assembly on July 22.

On July 17, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) got successful to achieve the required number of PA seats to form its government in Punjab and oust Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Chief Minister (CM) Hamza Shehbaz.

Power crisis

Sindh extends curbs on market timings

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has extended the restrictions imposed on market timings in the province for another month in the wake of power crisis across the country. According to a notification issued by the Sindh Home Department, all markets, bazaars super or departmental stores, and shopping malls shall be closed by 9:00pm. It added that marriage halls and banquets shall be closed by 10:30pm, while hotels, restaurants, gyms, cinemas, theatres, and other places of amusement and entertainment shall be closed by 11:30pm.

"All the billboards and advertisement hoardings, illuminated through electric connections, shall be turned off by 9:00pm," the notification added. Meanwhile, medical stores, pharmacies, hospitals, laboratories, petrol pumps, bakeries, milk shops, and all information technology companies dealing with software development are exempted.

Rs 221.99

Rupee nosedives against US dollar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Amid the political uncertainty in the country due to the by-elections in Punjab, the Pakistani rupee has dropped to a record low against the US dollar with the exchange rate sliding to Rs221.99 on Tuesday. As per the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed with a fall of Rs6.79 or 3.06% to settle at Rs221.99. The political uncertainty in the country due to the by-elections in Punjab and the import payment pressure took the currency to its new low.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 216 and Rs 219 respectively. Similarly, the price of the euro was increased by Rs 9.04 and closed at Rs 227.27 against the previous day's closing of Rs 218.23.

The Japanese Yen gained 06 paise to close at Rs1.61, whereas an increase of Rs 9.40 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 266.64 as compared to its last closing of Rs 257.24.

NAB challenges PAC's mandate in IHC

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Acting chairman of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has challenged the mandate of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Petitioner Zahir Shah has made National Assembly secretary, Parliamentary Affairs secretary, Chairman PAC and others party in the plea, which states that the notice issued by the PAC was beyond its jurisdiction. The Public Accounts Committee in its proceedings on June 24 went beyond its mandate, the NAB chief said in his petition.

He pleaded to the court to declare the minutes of the PAC meeting on July 07 as void and restrain the parliamentary body from any action. Earlier, on July 13, NAB Director General Shahzad Saleem approached the Islamabad High Court against the Public Accounts Committee's



decision to summon him in the wake of sexual harassment allegations levelled by Tayyaba Gul.

The petitioner made National Assembly secretary, PAC Wing and others party in the plea, which stated that the notice issued by the PAC was beyond its jurisdiction. Saleem Shehzad pleaded the court to declare the PAC summon as null and void.

The coalition government is on ventilator: Fawad

Claims five govt MNAs in contact with PTI

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday claimed that five members of National Assembly belonging to ruling coalition are in contact with his party.

Addressing a press conference in federal capital, Fawad Chaudhry said that government is on ventilator and PTI has the power to send this government packing anytime.

The PTI leader further said that they have given few days to Chief Election Commissioner to resign or PTI will send him packing. He also stressed that all political parties should sit together and establish a new ECP. Fawad also claimed that from July 22, PTI will

have government in Punjab and the new provincial government could ban entry of Rana Sanaullah and Ata Tara. Fawad Chaudhry said that the PTI — once it forms its government in Punjab — may impose a ban on Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Punjab Home Minister Attallah Tarar's entry into the province next week.

The PTI leader's comments came during a press conference in the federal capital after the interior minister made a statement last night, claiming that five PTI MPs could "disappear" during the voting for Punjab's chief minister.

Voting will take place on July 22 and it is expected that PTI candidate Pervaiz Elahi may win after the party's landslide victory in Sunday's Punjab

by-polls which placed it as the largest party in the provincial assembly.

The PTI leader said that the CM election session's presiding officer, Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Dost Mazari, should ban Sanaullah immediately after the statement he made last night.

Fawad said that if Mazari doesn't do so, the PTI may ban Sanaullah and Tarar from entering Punjab a day after the party's government is formed in the province on July 22.

The former information minister also berated the government for making "false cases" against the PTI leadership — during the events leading up to the "Azadi March" on May 25 and during the Punjab by-polls.

NAB amendments

Supreme Court seeks government reply on PTI's petition

CJP says issue will be referred to Parliament

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday sought reply from government over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) petition seeking to declare amendments to NAB law unconstitutional. Three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial conducted hearing on the petition and remarked that Law Minister has said that the new amendments are as per the rulings of the apex court; however, PTI counsel rejected the notion and said that the changes were made in a hurry and are against ruling of the court.

CJP remarked that the court can nullify laws that are enacted to benefit certain individuals; however, he stressed that hurdles should not

be created in functioning of the government as public servants are hesitant to take decisions due to NAB laws. The court remarked that anyone who commits corruption should be severally dealt with but a necessary decision taken by him should not also be set aside. SC adjourned the hearing till July 29 and sought reply from the government on the petition.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said it was his opinion that the matter of revisiting the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) law will be returned to the Parliament, as there is no alternative to the forum. "In my opinion, this matter will be referred back to Parliament. There is no substitute to Parliament [...] and we cannot take away its powers," the CJP said while hearing PTI's plea challenging the

amendments made to the NAB law.

A three-member Supreme Court bench — comprising CJP Bandial, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and Justice Ijazul Ahsan — heard the petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan. The PTI chairman had filed a petition in the apex court under Article 184 (3) of the Constitution, claiming that the bill has "virtually eliminate[d] any white-collar crime committed by a public office holder". The Parliament's joint session last month passed the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which curtailed the anti-graft watchdog's authority and reduced remand days among other amendments.

However, the PTI, whose lawmakers had resigned en masse from the National Assem-

bled, were not present to oppose the changes and later opted to challenge the amendments in the top court.

The SC, after hearing the arguments of PTI lawyer Khawaja Harris and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, adjourned the hearing till July 29 (Friday) 11am, while also issuing notices to NAB, the federal government, and the attorney-general to present their side of the story at the next hearing. At the outset of the hearing, CJP Bandial asked whether Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar's claim — that all changes made to the NAB law have a supporting reference of SC orders — was true.

In response, PTI's lawyer Harris said: "I don't think this is the case. The amendments are in contrast with the Supreme Court's orders, but

they are not in line with them." Justice Ahsan remarked that several changes were approved "in haste". Justice Shah asked: "Isn't it the lawmakers' job to make law and that the courts have repeatedly asked them to draft NAB laws?"

In response, Harris said: "Through this NAB law, fundamental rights are being violated." Following Harris's arguments, Justice Shah asked whether the parliamentarians should not be allowed to use their powers for lawmaking. At this, Harris asked that if the Parliament decides that there should be no punishment for murder, then will they be allowed to do so. Justice Shan responded that if the Parliament abolishes the death sentence as the punishment for murder, then what can the court do about it.

Best Smart Ticketing Program

Zu Peshawar gets global recognition

TransPeshawar won Award for "Best Smart Ticketing Programme" (200K+ journeys) for 2022 at Transport Ticketing Global

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: TransPeshawar and LMKR are proud to announce yet another international honor for the Peshawar BRT System.

TransPeshawar won the Award for "Best Smart Ticketing Programme" (200K+ journeys) for 2022 at the Transport Ticketing Global. Transport Ticketing Global, UK presented the award to TransPeshawar for easing the lives of a large segment of society using innovative solutions. LMK Resources Pvt. Ltd. is the technology partner of TransPeshawar for smart ticketing solution & services for the Peshawar



BRT system.

The winners were announced during the 10th annual awards which took place on 28th June, 2022 in London. The Best Ticketing Program award recognizes any public transport authority and their technology partner that have launched a successful smart ticketing programme in the last 2 years.

The network to which the programme applies should serve 200,000 or more daily journeys. The award takes into account user-adoption, duration, sustainability and any other factors that make the project stand out.

TransPeshawar won among a group of finalists which included JakLingko, Thales and Jatelindo Perkasa Abadi (Indonesia), MetroRio (Brazil), The South Australian Public Transport Authority (SAPTA), (Australia), Cubic Transportation System and MTA, (New York), Opal Digital Card and Contactless Transport Payments, (New South Wales) and Innoforce, (Kazakhstan).

Transport Ticketing Global is a global smart ticketing and mobility community that gathers a truly global audience of leading smart ticketing and mobility experts from 71 countries. The Tenth annual Transport Ticketing Awards celebrated the achievements and innovation and collaborative efforts of our community. The award recognized the incredible work done around the world to keep passengers safe and moving.

A representative of LMK Resources Pvt. Ltd. received the award on behalf of TransPeshawar at the Annual Transport Ticketing Global Summit 2022, in London.



Sajeela Naveed Director General, PID in a group photo with participants of 31st Senior Management Course (NIM) during their visit to PID Lahore office on Tuesday.

Kashmiris linked their fate with Pakistan even before its creation: AJK President

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Terming 19th resolution a historic document, the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri leadership had decided to link their fate with the yet to be born state of Pakistan.

The AJK president made these assertions while talking to a delegation of Azad Kashmir TV Journalists Association here on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the president while highlighting the historic importance of the resolution said that the resolution was adopted unanimously by the political representatives of Kashmir during an extraordinary meeting which was held at former AJK president Sardar Ibraheem Khan's residence at Abi-Guzar in Srinagar on 19th July 1947.

"It is indeed a matter of great honour and privilege that my father Ch. Noor Hussain was one of the youngest political representatives who attended this history meeting", the president said adding that on this day we reaffirm our pledge to continue the struggle till the Kashmir dispute is resolved in line with the UNSC resolutions.

Referring to his visit to Srinagar, the president said, "Srinagar High Court Bar Association had organized a function in which I was invited, on this occasion when I asked for presenting a resolution".

He said that the participants present in the function not only endorsed the call for resolution of Kashmir in line with the UN resolutions but vehemently rejected India's illegal occupation. "The surprise for me was that the resolution stated that Kashmir will be a part of Pakistan".

Anwar Maqsood announces Saadhay for 14 August



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Esteemed scriptwriter, television presenter, humorist, and actor Anwar Maqsood's iconic 14th August play trilogy is all set to launch its final leg as the series concludes with its last epic performance. Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Pakistan with the final part of the theatrical masterpiece trilogy, KopyKats Productions and Anwar Maqsood's 'Saadhay 14 August' premieres in Karachi on 14th August 2022. The play is directed by Dawar Mehmood and will be staged at the Arts Council of Pakistan in the city of lights.

The plot of the live-action performance revolves around 2 characters Jinnah and Gandhi who get the people's votes on the great divide between Pakistan and India. Jinnah and Gandhi visit 4 places (Kashmir, Lahore, Delhi, and London) to gather people's reactions and fight a case against the allegations of whether the divide was a good decision or not. In the past, Jinnah and Gandhi never wanted a divide but simply desired freedom from the British. The two leaders agreed on the Muslim Govt in Muslim majority regions, but Nehru didn't agree and eventually, the solution was a sub-continent divide into 2 countries, India and Pakistan.

Needs authorities attention

KARACHI: People facing difficulties due to accumulated sewerage water at Ranchor Line Market, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Will provide Rs1bln relief to banking customers: Banking Ombudsman

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Banking Ombudsman Pakistan Muhammad Kamran Shehzad said that more than 40 thousand customer complaints were received this year in which relief of 600 million was provided and it is hoped that relief of up to one billion rupees will be provided by the end of the year. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI).

KATI President Salman Aslam, KITE CEO Zubair Chhaya, Senior Vice President Maheen Salman, Vice President Farrukh Qandhari, Former Presidents Johar Qandhari and Adviser Banking Ombudsman Nauman Qureshi were also present at the event.

Banking Ombudsman Pakistan Muhammad Kamran Shahzad further said that the institution aims to resolve disputes between banks and customers, in this regard the banking ombudsman takes action on viola-



KARACHI: KATI President Salman Aslam presenting shield to Banking Ombudsman Pakistan Muhammad Kamran Shehzad, Zubair Chhaya, Maheen Salman, Farrukh Qandhari, Johar Qandhari, Tariq Hussain, Nauman Qureshi were also present.

tions of banking and state bank laws. Consumers can register their complaints through the Banking Ombudsman website or in writing for prompt redressal. He said that the institution was established in 2005, but at that time the activities were under the State Bank. Later in 2013, the Banking Ombudsman was formally nationalized and handed over to the government.

Muhammad Kamran Shahzad further said that

the banking ombudsman is equivalent to a judge of the high court, while after the decision of the ombudsman can be appealed to the President of Pakistan. The Banking Ombudsman of Pakistan further said that so far more than 1.5 lakh cases have been decided out of which only 70 or 80 cases have gone to the Supreme Court in appeal. He said that 95 percent of the decisions have been accepted which is commendable. Earlier, KATI President

Salman Aslam said that the banking sector in the country is developing rapidly, but due to the increase in interest rates by the State Bank and the imposition of taxes on the banking sector by the government, the burden increased on consumers and the business community. He said that there is a fear that the increase in interest rate will increase the number of defaulters and large industries will face difficulties in repaying the loans. President KATI said that the banking sector is very important in the economic crisis that the country is going through. Salman Aslam said that the online facility needs to be further improved for the convenience of the users.

Zubair Chhaya, CEO of KITE, said that many companies are likely to go into default due to the recent depreciation of the rupee and record interest rates. Other sectors including pharma will not be able to get the privileges of being an export industry due to which it has become very difficult for them to operate.

IUB announces scholarship for students who get positions in boards

Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob has announced free admission and 100% scholarship in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur for students who get positions in educational boards across Pakistan.

This offer will be given to position holders students from any intermediate Board across Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor made this announcement while talking to the officials of Directorate of Academic, Directorate of Information Technology and Directorate of Communication and Public Relations in connection with the admission campaign.

He said that the position holders are the pride of students, parents and the educational institution. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur will appreciate and encourage talent and such students will be provided 100% scholarship in BS programs in all campuses of the university and no admission fee will be charged. Position holders of all education boards of Pakistan except Bahawalpur education board can benefit from this initiative.

PIAF calls for stability as feeble rupee keeps hitting economy

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Perturbed with the ongoing political uncertainties followed by unprecedented depreciation of rupee against dollar, the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol urged the treasury and opposition to resolve the issues through talks as unrest creating unstable economic conditions, calling for controlling instability of rupee against the US dollar, as the industrial expansion and economic growth is not possible without stable local currency.

Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Haroon Shafique Chaudhary and vice chairman Raja Adeel Ashfaq, observed that local currency

continued to take a massive hammering at the hands of the US dollar in the inter-bank market, hitting 224 in intra-day trading amid renewed political uncertainty that has wrecked market confidence.

He said that a steep fall in the value of Pakistani rupee against foreign currencies have been causing an addition of trillions of rupees to the public debt, besides high inflation.

He said that the rupee was being quoted at 224 during the day, a massive depreciation of Rs8.8 or nearly 4% against the greenback.

Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol feared that political climate of the country has become unpredictable due to political uncertainty, reducing the level of investment and affecting the econom-

ic growth of the country, suggesting the government as well as the opposition parties to settle issues through talks, which the right way to resolve the issues.

He appealed the political leadership to act wisely and show commitment with the country, as the lack of political stability is ruining the trade and economic activities in the country.

Quoting the international rating agencies reports, he observed that heavy import payments and renewed political uncertainty are reasons behind the massive fall of rupee. Additionally, Fitch Ratings' downgrade of Pakistan's outlook has also added to the pressure.

He said that compounding uncertainty is the downgrade of Pakistan's

outlook by Moody's last month and Fitch on Tuesday, as the Fitch Ratings agency downgraded Pakistan's outlook from stable to negative in view of the significant deterioration in the country's external liquidity position and financing conditions since early 2022.

Fitch saw considerable risks to the implementation of the IMF programme and to continued access of Pakistan to financing after the program's expiry in June 2023 in a tough economic and political climate. He added that despite the recovery in remittances, things are not looking good with regards to the political climate, he said.

Moreover, he observed that dollar demand to appreciate against the rupee also because of the higher current account deficit and burgeoning import bills.



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:31 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:17 pm
Isha 8:56 pm

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

Women Police Stations
Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY
Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

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

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

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

PTC plans to plant 5 million trees in 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited (PTC) officially marked the start of monsoon season plantation drive 2022 by opening doors of its plant nurseries providing free of cost plant saplings to individuals, public and private sector organizations.

Mohammad Qasim, CSR Manager PTC, said that we have currently the largest private sector afforestation program in the country having planted and distributed 120+ million trees and saplings since 1981. This year our plan is to plant and distribute at least 5 million trees.

Currently, the plant species available at the nurseries are beech tree, Persian lilac, mountain ebony, willow, golden dewdrop, guava and java plum. PTC nurseries are in Islamabad (Sector F-9 & Barakahu), Jhelum (main G.T. Road near PTC factory), Lahore (Behind Ring Road Head Office), Swabi (Motorway Interchange) and Faisalabad (Iqbal Stadium).

Any individual can come to any of our plant nurseries and obtain up to 25 plant saplings free of cost, he added.

Pakistan to highlight Kashmir issue at all global forums, says Kaira

Advisor to PM says brave Kashmiris passed resolution in Srinagar for accession to Pakistan 75 years ago on July 19

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Tuesday said that brave Kashmiris passed a resolution in Srinagar for accession to Pakistan 75 years ago on July 19.

In his message regarding Kashmir's Accession Day to Pakistan, he said that for the right of self-determination, Kashmiris have sacrificed their life, property in the last seven decades.

The commitment of Kashmiris to Pakistan is eternal, Qamar said adding that India



cannot break strong ties of Kashmiris with Pakistan under any circumstances.

The burial of martyrs in the green crescent flag is an open expression of the commitment of Kashmiris to Pakistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira said.

He said, Kashmiris hoist the flag of Pakistan on every street and intersection of Occupied Kashmir.

Kashmiri youth are determined like their forefathers for the right of self-determination and accession to Pakistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira said adding that all Indian tactics to break Kashmiris' resolve for self-determination will fail. Pakistan will continue to support Kashmiris at all forums of the world, the advisor said. APP

Helping needy

ISLAMABAD: Deserving People are eating free food at Tuesday Weekly Bazaar at sector H-9 in Federal Capital.

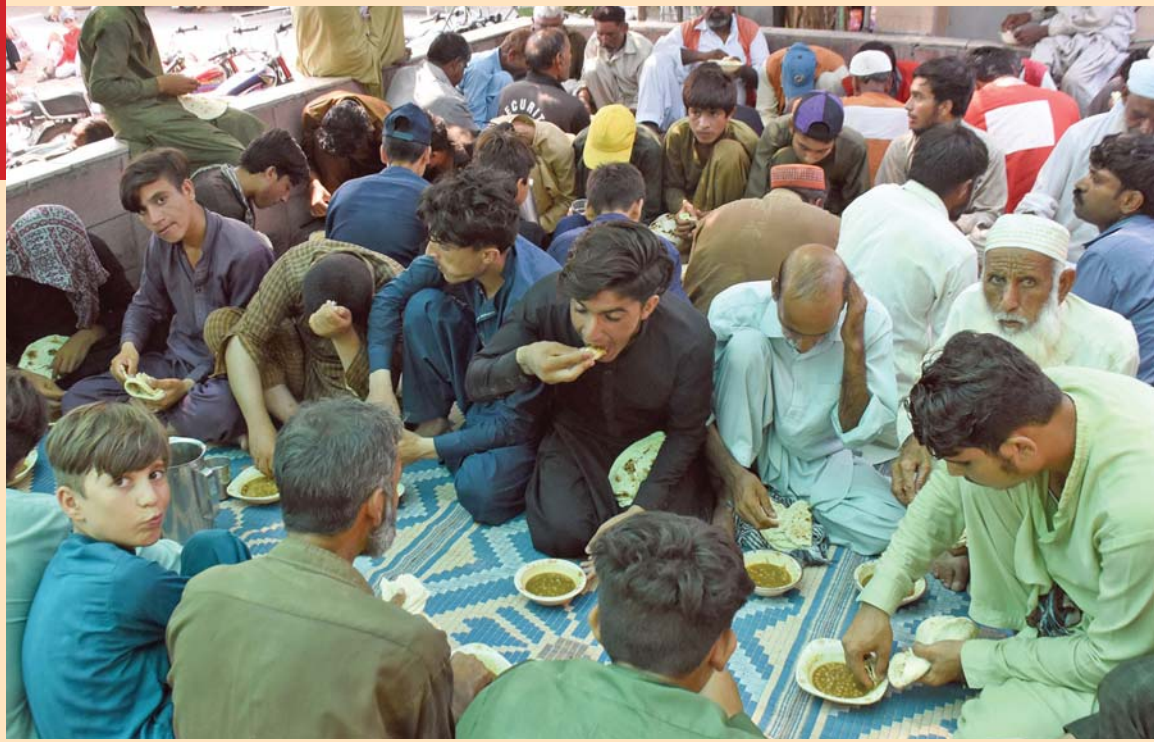


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FTO solving problems of taxpayers

Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah visits RCCI

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah addressed a meeting of traders here on Tuesday.

Chamber President Nadeem Rauf, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Talat Awan, former Presidents, Executive Committee members, Anjuman Tajran representatives, FTO officials, and Chamber members were also present on the occasion.

A presentation on six months performance of FTO was also presented on this occasion. Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah while giving briefing to media said that the performance has been good in six months.

About 3,000 complaints were received, out of which 2,650 were redressed. The time for redressal of complaints has been reduced from 68 days to 40 days, he added. He said that the FTO office was not only handling taxpayers' complaints but was also checking maladministration in tax matters through suo motu cases and inspections. More than 75 suo motu cases were taken up during the last six months, he further added.

To provide quick and cheap justice to taxpayers FTO is also solving the problems of taxpayers through social media.



He said that I am the advocate of the taxpayers, last year funds of eight billion rupees were released which were stuck by the taxpayers with FBR. The media has carried our message in a better way. Hundreds of point-of-sales cases have been resolved, daily wages issues have been resolved, six regional offices have been established, he said.

On this occasion, Chamber President Nadeem Rauf said that FTO's communication and contacts with the business community have improved, this

is the fourth time that the Federal Tax Ombudsman visited the Rawalpindi Chamber.

Group Leader RCCCI Sohail Altaf said that the appointment of Business Advisor by FTO has proved to be a welcome initiative which has not only helped in resolving tax issues but also brought the business community together with FTO. A partnership relationship has developed. It has helped in promoting a favorable tax culture. A question and answer session was also held on this occasion.

Health Corner

How blood vessels remember a stroke

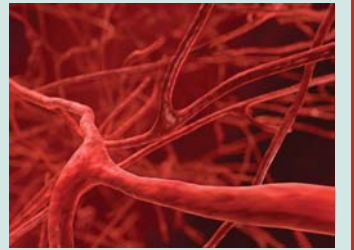
ISLAMABAD: Networks adapt over time and in this way form a kind of memory. This is the key finding of a new study by researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization in Göttingen and the Technical University of Munich. They show that the structure of blood vascular network is dynamic and can adapt to external factors. In particular, the scientists found that rarely used connections are weakening more and more until they disappear eventually.

The vascular system within our body provides a constant flow of nutrients, hormones and other resources, thus ensuring efficient transport. The researchers Komal Bhattacharyya, David Zwicker, and Karen Alim investigated in which way such a network is able to adapt and change over time. Using computer simulations, they modelled the network and identified adaptation rules for its connections.

"We found that the strength of a connection within a network depends on the local flow," explains Karen Alim, corresponding author of the study. "This means that links with a low flow below a certain threshold will decay more and more until they eventually vanish," she continues. As the amount of biological material to build the vascular system is limited and should be used in an efficient way, this mechanism offers an elegant way to streamline the vascular system.

Changes in the network are persistent. Once a connection has become very weak due to a low flow rate, it is very difficult to recover that connection. A common example for this is the blockage of a blood vessel which in a bad case even might lead to a stroke. During a stroke some blood vessels in a certain brain region become very weak due to the blockage of blood flow. "We found that in such a case, adaptations in the network are permanent and are maintained after the obstacle is removed. One can say that the network prefers to reroute the flow through existing stronger connections instead of re-growing weaker connections — even if the flow would require the opposite," explains Komal Bhattacharyya, principal author of the study.

With this new understanding of network memory, the researchers can now explain that blood flow permanently changes even after successful removal of the clot. This memory capability of networks can also be found in other living systems: the slime mold *Physarum polycephalum* uses its adaptive network to navigate its environment based on imprints by food stimuli, as demonstrated previously. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



19th July holds special significance in Kashmir's history: Chairman JKSM

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat has said that 19th July is remembered in the light of the historic resolution passed on this day in 1947 to make the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan a reality.

Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that, on July 19, 1947, the resolution passed by the Kashmiri people in Srinagar, 25 days before the creation of Pakistan, was a clear message to India and the world that Kashmiris do not want to live with India before, now or in the future. Today, we once again reiterate the determination of the historic struggle of the brave Kashmiri people.

Bhat further added that the international community should stop India's illegal, immoral, apolitical and unilateral actions of suspending Articles 35A and 370 and the international community should condemn the ongoing Indian brutality in Jammu and Kashmir and bring the criminals of the Indian occupation army to justice.

Pakistan should now take concrete steps along with its political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris for their right to self-determination through a free and impartial referendum in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Chairman JKSM Bhat added.

He said that despite the cruelty, violence and injustice at the hands of the occupying Indian forces, the struggle of Kashmiris for independence from Indian occupation will bear fruit and Kashmir will be free sooner.

While paying tributes to Martyrs, Prisoners and people of Kashmir Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed said, "Today we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the fundamental human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we pay tribute to our zealous people for more than seven decades of struggle for Freedom from illegal Indian occupation."

He said that the international community should condone the ongoing Indian brutality in Jammu and Kashmir and play its role in releasing the Kashmiri Hurriyat Leaders and activists imprisoned in the jails of the Indian occupation forces.

Altaf Ahmed Bhat said that Kashmiris are struggling against the forced occupation of the Indian government, their cruel behaviour and illegal actions, while sustainable peace in South Asia depends on a peaceful resolution of the conflict in accordance with the UN resolutions and as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Ashrafi issues protocols to keep law, order in Muharram



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has issued protocols to keep law and order in Muharram-ul-Haram after holding a thorough consultation with the leadership of various schools of thoughts on Tuesday.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said the protocols were being issued in the light of Paigham-e-Pakistan to avert any untoward situation particularly in the holy month of Muharram. He said the PUC was in coordination with the leadership of all schools of thought and making endeavours to implement the following 'code of conduct' at every respective forum in letter and spirit.

He informed that a meeting of Muttahida Ulema board (MUB) was also being called on July 24, in Lahore adding the leaders of PUC and MUB would pay visits in important cities in that regard.

According to the main points of standard operating procedures, sectarian hatred, armed sectarian violence and practices of imposing one's ideologies on others through force and coercion is contrary to the rules of Islamic Shariah and fanning anarchy and chaos is a national crime.

Religious scholars, Ulema, Mashaykh and Muftis of all sects decline negative thinking leading to extremism completely.

It is dutiful to observe the sanctity of the Prophets of Allah, Companions and wives of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), and Ahl al-Bayt. The person who violates and blasphemises these sacred things is condemned by all schools of thought, and the law should take immediate action against such a culprit. APP

Google expands Android Earthquake Alerts System to Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Google is launching Android Earthquake Alerts System in Pakistan. Android Earthquake Alerts System is a no-cost, helpful Android feature that detects earthquakes around the world and alerts people. It uses sensors in Android smartphones. The system uses accelerometers in active Android smartphones to detect seismic activities. It alerts people in two ways — via Search and directly on the Android mobile device itself.

The system provides near-instant information to Google Search. When people look up "earthquake" or "earthquake near me," they will find relevant results, along with helpful resources on what to do after an earthquake. Users who do not wish to receive these alerts can turn this off in device settings.

Pakistan has experienced several earthquakes in the past especially in the northern and western



parts of the country.

With the expansion of this earthquake alerts system, Android users in Pakistan may receive automatic early warning alerts that help them be prepared for an emergency.

On mobile devices, the Android Earthquake Alerts System displays two types of alerts, depend-

ing on the magnitude and intensity of the earthquake.

Be Aware alerts people when earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.5 occur, or an intensity level of 3 or 4 on the MMI scale. The notification is sent along with the distance of the earthquake's epicenter. The alert uses the phone's current volume, vibration, and Do Not Disturb settings.

Take Action is a full-screen alert for earthquakes with a magnitude higher than 4.5, or an intensity level of 5 and above on the MMI scale. To help people prepare for potential heavy shaking, full-screen instructions are shown and the phone plays a loud sound.

The Android Earthquake Alerts System was first introduced in New Zealand and Greece. It is available now in more countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Philippines, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United States of America and Uzbekistan.

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Growing protests worldwide

Ashok Swain

The massive protest in Sri Lanka and its success in forcing its President and Prime Minister to resign has caught global attention. Coinciding with the powerful images of protesters occupying the Sri Lankan President's palace, the footage of mass demonstrations in the Netherlands, Argentina, and Albania have also taken most of the media space in recent weeks. The finance minister of Argentina has already resigned. Dutch farmers have staged protests outside the home of country's agriculture minister, and thousands of Albanians have gone to the streets calling on the government to resign.

Protests have erupted from Zimbabwe to Ecuador, Italy to Belgium, Kenya to Ghana. This increasing number of high-octane mass protests has made many speculate that the Sri Lankan scenario is repeating in many other countries and becoming a global threat to peace and stability and hampering economic recovery and the measures to curb climate

change. There is no doubt that several regimes in the world are facing widespread anger due to price rises, rising inequality, lack of jobs, and actions or inactions towards creating a greener world. However, the increase in the number of protests is not a new development.

A study by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue in 2021 shows that the number of protests worldwide has tripled in the last 15 years. In 2006, there were only 73 recorded protest movements, and that number reached 251 in 2020. However, only 42 per cent of these protests have been successful. Protests are often projected in media very unflatteringly, blaming them for disorderly acts. Though the number of violent protests has increased in recent years, most protests remained peaceful. In one-fifth of the protests only, the protesters had used some form of violent actions like vandalism. A recent study by the IMF confirms that the rising number of popular protests and anti-government demonstrations has increased since 2016. Before the pandemic, several countries in the MENA region, particularly Algeria, Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon,

had witnessed mass protests. Even during the pandemic, several mass protests took place in rich countries like Austria, Canada, and New Zealand, and in developing countries like Brazil, India, Kazakhstan,

adding further to inflationary woes and surging the food, fuel, and fertiliser prices globally.

Protests have built-up all-over Africa and Latin America over surging fuel costs. Governments in Panama and Ecuador have

warned businesses to prepare for a rise in civil unrest due to the cost-of-living crisis.

There is no doubt that the summer months of 2022 have been witnessing increasing protests and strikes. In many countries the protest movement is just another form of popular participation in the governance of a country. The nature and number of protests reflect the relationship between people and the authorities. The character and quality of the government strongly influence the intensity and demand of the protest. People participate in protests to pressure and persuade authorities to resolve a particular problem or a set of problems. The structure and ethos of governments may be willing to adjust and respond to the protesting public and their demands that not only improve the quality of governance but also bring further legitimacy to the regime. It is high time that countries must focus more on alleviating their people's difficulties and sufferings due to the unprecedented surge in food and fuel prices.

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

Protests have built-up all-over Africa and Latin America over surging fuel costs. Governments in Panama and Ecuador have been forced to lower fuel prices. Russia and Ukraine are also key to the global food security regime, and the war in the region and the resulting disruption to critical supply routes have pushed food prices to the roof.

and Sudan. Though these social unrests took a little pause during the pandemic, protesting people have been returning to the streets in large numbers. The immediate causes are decreased fear of catching Covid-19 and rising food and fuel prices. But the number of protests at this time remains low compared to the pre-pandemic level. Inflation has become a significant issue. The Ukraine War has worsened the situation,

been forced to lower fuel prices. Russia and Ukraine are also key to the global food security regime, and the war in the region and the resulting disruption to critical supply routes have pushed food prices to the roof. Besides Sri Lanka, protesters in Chile, Iran, Iraq and other nations have already taken to the streets over rising food prices. Last month, the German multinational financial services company Allianz

Indian Muslims- A Persecuted Minority

According to the evidence reviewed, federal and state-level authorities "adopted a wide range of laws, policies and conduct that target Muslims directly or affect them disproportionately." In relation to violations perpetrated by non-state actors, the State failed to take the necessary measures to prevent the acts, effectively investigate and prosecute them. The Panel further found that some of the violations may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes and incitement to commit genocide.

End of June 2022, a Panel of Independent International Experts launched their report on serious human rights violations against Muslims in India since 2019. There is credible evidence to suggest that a wide range of international human rights of Muslim communities have been violated by the authorities in India.

The Panel was established to review available evidence and determine whether there was sufficient credible information to require an independent international investigation into the situation of Muslims in India. The Panel reviewed reputable sources for information, including reports of independent media, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

The Panel found credible evidence to suggest that several human rights violations are being perpetrated against Muslims throughout India, and especially in Assam, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, including "arbitrary deprivation of life, arbitrary detentions, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, gender-based violence and discrimination, incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence, discrimination in laws and policies, including to nationality and representation, violations of freedom of religion or belief, violation of freedom of expression, association, assembly, violations of right to fair trial, and violation of economic, social and cultural rights."

The Panel found that the following incidents may amount to crimes against humanity, as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: "the crack-down on protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (December 2019 - June 2020) in Uttar Pradesh" and "the repressive actions by the government against human rights defenders, journalists and activists in Jammu and Kashmir following the change of its special autonomous status in August 2019."

The Panel stated that the killings and torture of civilians in the ongoing non-international armed conflict in Jammu and Kashmir may amount to war crimes. Lastly, the Panel identified that a number of public speeches made by prominent political or religious leaders in Delhi, Chattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh between December 2019 and April 2022, calling on their audience to kill Muslims or rape Muslim women and girls, may amount to direct and public incitement to commit genocide. According to the Panel, "some leaders [made] clear references to eradication or elimination or destruction of the religious community from the nation." The Panel emphasized that such statements warrant further investigation by an independent body. Furthermore, urgent action is required to prevent repetition of such incidents.

The Panel found that most of the abuses and violations have remained unaddressed by domestic institutions, leaving victims with no effective remedy. No steps have been taken to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, allowing impunity to flourish. The Panel called upon the U.N. Human Rights Council to establish an independent fact-finding body to investigate human rights violations against Muslims in India and a territorial mandate of Special Rapporteur on religious minorities in India. It further called upon the Government of India to amend the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019, to remove discriminatory provisions, and to ensure effective, independent and impartial investigations of the atrocities, among others. Lastly, the Panel called upon social media companies to take proactive steps against hate speech, and among others, launch early warning system to protect vulnerable minorities.



UN failing to protect Palestinian children

Ramzy Baroud

A UN statement released last week, which urged the Israeli government to release Palestinian prisoner Ahmad Manasra, included the words: "We regret we failed to protect you." Only 14 years old at the time of his arrest and torture by Israeli forces, Manasra is now 20. His case is a representation of Israel's overall inhumane treatment of Palestinian children. The UN experts' statement was forceful and heartfelt. It accused Israel of depriving Manasra "of his childhood, family environment, protection and all the rights he should have been guaranteed as a child." It referred to the case as "haunting," considering Manasra's "deteriorating mental conditions." The statement went further, declaring that the case "is a stain on all of us as part of the international human rights community."

Israeli ill treatment of Palestinian children, whether under siege in war-stricken Gaza or under military occupation and apartheid in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, is commonplace. Yet, somehow, Israel continues to be spared a spot on the unflattering list, issued annually by the UN secretary-general, naming and shaming governments and groups that commit grave violations against children and minors anywhere in the world. Oddly, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' latest report on children and armed conflict does recognize Israel's horrific record of violating children's rights in Palestine. It even details some of these violations, which UN workers have directly verified. This includes "2,934 grave violations against 1,208 Palestinian children" in 2021 alone. However, the report equates Israel's record — one of the most dismal in the world — with that of Palestinians; namely the fact that nine Israeli children were impacted by Palestinian violence in that whole year.

Though the deliberate harming of a single child is regrettable regardless of the circumstances or the perpe-

trator, it is mind-boggling that Guterres found it appropriate to equate the systematic violations carried out by the Israeli military as a matter of course and the nine Israeli minors harmed by Palestinian armed groups, whether intentionally or not. To deal with the obvious discrepancy between Palestinian and Israeli child victims, the UN report lumped together all categories to distract from the identity of the perpetrator, thus lessening the focus on Israeli crimes. For example, the report states that a total of 88 children were killed throughout Palestine, of whom 69 were killed in Gaza and 17 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. However, the report breaks down these murders in such a way that conflates Palestinian and Israeli children, as if purposely trying to confuse the reader. When read carefully, one discovers that all of these killings, bar two, were carried out by Israeli forces.

The report uses the same logic to break down the number of children maimed in the conflict, even though, of the 1,128 victims, only seven were Israeli. Of the remainder, 661 were maimed in Gaza and 464 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It goes on to blame "armed Palestinian groups" for some of the Palestinian casualties, as they were allegedly injured as a result of "accidents involving children who were near to military training exercises." Assuming that this is the case, accidents of this nature cannot be considered "grave violations," as they are — by the UN's own definition — accidental. However, the confusing breakdown of these numbers was not accidental, as it allowed Guterres the space to declare that, "should the situation repeat itself in 2022, without meaningful improvement, Israel should be listed."

Worse, Guterres' report went further to reassure the Israelis that they are on the right track by stating that, "so far this year, we have not witnessed a similar number of violations," as if to suggest that the now-collapsed right-wing Israeli government of Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid deliberately changed its policies regarding

the targeting of Palestinian children. Of course, there is no evidence of this whatsoever. Defense for Children International's Palestine chapter last month reported that Israel "had been intensifying its aggression" against children in the West Bank and East Jerusalem since the beginning of 2022. It confirmed that as many as 15 Palestinian children had been killed by Israeli forces in the first six months of 2022, almost the same number as in the entirety of the previous year. This includes five children killed in the occupied city of Jenin alone. Israel has even targeted journalists who attempted to report on these violations, including Palestinian Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed on May 11, and Ali Samoudi, who was shot in the shoulder the same day.

Much more can be said, of course, about the besiegement of hundreds of thousands of children in the Gaza Strip, which is known as the world's largest open-air prison, and many more in the West Bank. The lack of basic human rights, including lifesaving medicine and, in the case of Gaza, clean water, hardly suggests any measurable improvement in Israel's track record as far as its treatment of Palestinian children is concerned. If you think that the UN report is a step in the right direction, think again. The year 2014 was one of the most tragic for Palestinian children, with 557 killed and 4,249 injured, the vast majority of whom were targeted during the Israeli war on Gaza. But still Israel was not included on the UN's "list of shame."

The clear message here is that Israel may target Palestinian children as it pleases and there will be no legal, political or moral accountability for its actions. This is not what Palestinians expect from the UN, an organization that supposedly exists to end armed conflicts and bring about peace and security for all. For now, the message emanating from the world's largest international institution to Manasra and the rest of Palestine's children will remain unchanged: "We regret we failed to protect you."

The writer has been writing about the Middle East for more than 20 years. Courtesy Arab News

Gul Ji Ki Batein

Gulnaz Ahmed

Separation, sounds very simple word as leaving something or someone but actually when it comes into action its very deep and leaves sadness, loneliness, emptiness, grief, feeling of failure and sometimes guilt, for instance when we lose our loved ones, precious stuff, job, assets or valuables. But on the positive side it also brings peace, happiness, and we feel safe and protected. You must be thinking how one can be in peace or protected by separating from part or peice of his or her life? The answer is within us, we can experience it by becoming little bold, strong, willing to change and learn to live different.

If we look into our lives, we are polluted our minds by negative thoughts, and bodies by bad habits or lifestyles. We have gathered hurtful influences around us, fight useless battles and waste energy on unnecessary arguments of What, Why, But and If. Engaged in criticism and finding flaws in people. Say YES to please others and avoid to say SORRY to please our ego. Impressed by materials and money, busy in constant race of achievements, chasing unrealistic goals, and finding peace in man-made world.

We value ourselves by opinion of other's. In order to bring peace, happiness, and to be safe and protected we have to separate from all these, it could be hard and difficult but not impossible. We just need to think and act little different, change our prospective towards

life and people, make some priorities and shift the view how we see the world. We need to learn to live the new way. We have to refrain ourselves from all unnecessary fights and arguments which steal our peace and leave nothing but envy or enmity. We learn to find positive into every hardship and difficulty. Remove bad influential people from lives who bring our moral down, stay away from environment which make us think or engage into unrealistic goals and activities instead try to make small and achievable goals so we feel proud and happy wham accomplished.

Money can resolve many problems and issues but can't buy happiness. Be content, enjoy what we have and not to be tempted to get what others have and be part of non-ending, exhausting race of greed. Value ourselves based on our own qualities and not by other's opinions and try to do what make us happy and comfortable. Need to find peace in nature and spirituality, believe in ourselves and always have faith. We have to minimize, What, Why, But, and If from our lives and maximize Thanks, Sorry, and Please to bring love and harmony. We need to separate ourselves from jealousy, anger, hate and grudges to be peaceful, protect our mind and soul from negativity and detach from polluted and toxic environment of greed and animosity around us. Be happy, peaceful and protected. Jazakumallah khair.

The writer is senior columnist and analyst

Russia pounds Ukraine as Putin holds talks in Tehran

Ukrainian forces in east fighting to hold onto declining territory under control

KYIV: Russian missiles struck cities and villages in eastern and southern Ukraine on Tuesday, hitting homes, a school and a community center as Russian President Vladimir Putin was in Iran to discuss a U.N.-backed proposal to unblock exports of Ukrainian grain.



In Kramatorsk, a city in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province that is considered a likely occupation target of Russian forces, one person was killed in an airstrike that hit a five-story residential building, regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Ukraine's Emergency Service said on Telegram that 10 people were wounded, five of them hospitalized, but it didn't mention any deaths.

Fresh blood stained the concrete nearby as apartments on at least two floors burned. In the aftermath of the attack, shrapnel was placed in a small pile near an empty playground.

"There was no one here. Everything is ruined," said Halyna Maydannik, the resident of one burned apartment. "Who knows why they're doing this? We were all living peacefully."

Kramatorsk residents Mykola Zavodovskiy and Tetiana Zavodov-

ka stood in bandages outside a local hospital. They said they heard a loud clap and went to their balcony to investigate. Then everything exploded and the windows shattered.

"Probably it was a rocket, and probably it was brought down by Ukrainian forces," they said.

The strike shortly after noon came after Kyrylenko had earlier reported four other Russian strikes in Kramatorsk and urged civilians to evacuate.

Russian forces also fired seven Kalibr cruise missiles overnight at the Odesa region in southern Ukraine. The Russian Defense Ministry said strikes on the village of Bilenka had a legitimate military goal and "destroyed depots of ammunition for weapons supplied by the United States and European countries."

A local official disputed Moscow's claim and said six people were wounded. "These strikes on peaceful people

have one goal — to intimidate the population and the authorities and keep them in constant tension," Serhiy Bratchuk, the speaker of the Odesa regional government, told Ukrainian television.

Amid indications that Ukraine was planning counterattacks to retake occupied areas, the Russian military in recent weeks has targeted Odesa and parts of southern Ukraine where its troops captured cities earlier in the war.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces on the ground in the east are fighting to hold onto the declining territory under their control.

At least two civilians were killed and 15 more were wounded by Russian shelling across Ukraine over the past 24 hours, Ukraine's presidential office said in a morning update.

"There remains a high level of threat of missile strikes throughout the territory of Ukraine," said Oleksandr Shtupun, spokesman of the General Staff of the Ukrainian armed forces.

In eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province, which has been cut off from gas supplies and in part from water and power, one person was killed and two others were wounded.

East Timor hopes to join ASEAN

BOGOR: East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta said on Tuesday during a visit to Indonesia that he hoped to boost trade ties between the countries and seal a decades-long bid by his nation to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year.

Ramos-Horta met his counterpart Joko Widodo on his first state visit to neighboring Indonesia since he was elected in April for a second stint as president.

He previously served as president of East Timor, which is also known as Timor Leste, between 2007 and 2012.

"Timor Leste as part of Southeast Asia has fulfilled many of the requirements necessary for a functioning economy and democracy so... will be a productive member of ASEAN," he said, noting he hoped his young country could join the group when Indonesia takes over the presidency next year.

East Timor, which applied for ASEAN membership in 2011, currently holds observer status.

Speaking at the presidential palace in Bogor, south of Jakarta, the Indonesian president said his country had invested \$818 million in East Timor, mainly in energy, banking and communication businesses.

"We've agreed to increase trade between both countries," said Widodo, who is widely known as Jokowi.

Official Indonesia data shows trade between the countries was worth around \$250 million last year.

Heavily dependent on revenue from oil and gas, the half-island nation of 1.3 million people has grappled with diversifying its economy and reducing high rates of poverty.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and East Timor only gained full independence in 2002 after a long and bloody struggle to end an often brutal occupation.

Indian MP demands separate country for Sikhs

CHANDIGARH: Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) president and Member of Indian Parliament (MP) Simranjit Singh Mann has sought a separate country for Sikhs.

Simranjit Singh Mann, who elected to the Lok Sabha in last month's by-election from Punjab's Sangrur, took oath inside the Lok Sabha Speaker's chamber on Monday. Three other new MPs took oath on the House floor.

Congress members criticised the Speaker for permitting to swear inside his chamber and not on the house floor. Several Congress leaders including Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu protested inside the House against the same, Muslim Mirror reported.

Talking to reporters after coming out of the House, he said he still supports the cause of Khalistan. "There should be a separate country for Sikhs. And Khalistan would act as a buffer state between two nuclear nations India and Pakistan," the report quoted Mann as saying.

China strongly opposes Pelosi's plan to visit Taiwan

BEIJING: A spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of China's State Council on Tuesday voiced strong opposition to U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's plan to visit China's Taiwan region.

"We resolutely oppose any official exchange between the United States and Taiwan," said Zhu Fenglian, the spokesperson, adding that the repeated provocative comments and acts of some members of the U.S. Congress lately are nothing but attempts to obstruct China's reunification process.

Zhu urged relevant U.S. Congress members to understand the high sensitivity of the Taiwan question, cease provocations, and refrain from offering any support to separatist elements advocating "Taiwan independence."

Türkiye, Iran need to fight against terror groups in solidarity: Erdogan

ANKARA: Türkiye and Iran need to continue to fight terrorist groups in solidarity, as they stir up trouble for both countries, the Turkish president said in the Iranian capital Tehran on Tuesday.

"The PJAK, PKK, PYD, YPG, and FETO terrorist organizations are troublemakers for both Türkiye and Iran. We need to continue the fight against them in solidarity," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a press conference alongside his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi, citing a list of offshoots or allies of the PKK, a terror group that has taken some 40,000 lives, and the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the group behind the defeated coup in 2016.

"As you know, we have now included them in NATO records," he added, referring to a recent memorandum on Sweden and Finland's membership bids. "They are troublemakers that disturb the peace in whatever country they are in. Therefore, we need to continue our struggle against them in solidarity."

Earlier co-chairing the 7th meeting of the Türkiye-Iran High-Level Cooperation Council to enhance bilateral cooperation, the two leaders signed eight agreements in the areas of trade, social security, and sports.

Erdogan said he believed that the countries will boost their bilateral trade volume to \$30 billion. "Unfortunately, we faced a serious setback due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As of now, we have reached \$7.5 billion. I believe that the two countries will reach \$30 billion again."

"It is possible to accelerate this process with the steps that we will take in the defense industry. This can be accelerated with steps to be taken in both oil and natural gas," he added.

Later in the day, Erdogan, Raisi, and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet for the 7th Trilateral Summit Meeting in the Astana format to discuss the latest developments in Syria, and the fight against terror groups, particularly the PKK and its Syrian offshoot the YPG/PKK and Daesh/ISIS.

On the trilateral meeting in Tehran, Erdogan said the meeting will be a reevaluation of the 2017 Astana process.

Sri Lankan prime minister, two rivals in presidential race

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's prime minister and acting president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, will face two rivals in a parliamentary vote Wednesday on who will succeed the ousted leader who fled the country last week amid huge protests triggered by its economic collapse.

Wickremesinghe, a six-time prime minister, is a seasoned politician with wide experience in diplomatic and international affairs and has been leading crucial talks on an economic bailout package with the International Monetary Fund.

He is backed by members of the fragmented ruling coalition, but is unpopular among voters who view him as a holdover from the previous government that led the country into economic catastrophe. The 73-year-old Wickremesinghe was appointed prime minister by

deposed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in May to help restore Sri Lanka's international credibility.

The leading challenger, former government minister Dullas Alahapperuma, was nominated Tuesday by a breakaway faction of the ruling coalition after opposition leader Sajith Premadasa withdrew and said he would support him.

"For the greater good of my country that I love and the people I cherish I hereby withdraw my candidacy for the position of president," Premadasa said in a Twitter post.

Marxist party leader Anura Dissanayake, 53, was also expected to contest Wednesday's parliamentary vote. He also ran for president in 2019.

Rajapaksa fled the country after protesters outraged by the crisis stormed his offi-

cial residence and occupied other key public buildings. He later submitted his resignation via an email to the speaker of Parliament.

Opponents of Wickremesinghe's candidacy fear he represents an extension of the Rajapaksa rule and a potential comeback for the beleaguered political family.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition against Wickremesinghe's status as a lawmaker, clearing the path for him to run for president.

He succeeded Rajapaksa's younger brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, as prime minister after he stepped down in response to massive public pressure.

Wickremesinghe also took on the role of finance minister, becoming the public face of the country's economic woes. He has delivered weekly addresses in Parliament,

raised taxes and pledged to overhaul a government that increasingly has concentrated power under the presidency. Ultimately, observers say, he has lacked the political heft and public support to get the job done.

Alahapperuma, 63, is viewed as a populist, with good public relations and communications skills. Even though he is a former government spokesman and has served in various posts including minister of information and mass media, minister of sports and minister of power under previous governments he previously was not considered for top leadership posts.

A son of school administrators, he studied political science at the University of Iowa but did not earn a degree. He is married to a popular singer, Pradeepa Dharmadasa.

Kuwait appoints new prime minister

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday issued a decree to appoint Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah as a new prime minister.

The local Al-Qabas newspaper, citing an informed source, said Sheikh Mohammed was appointed to form a new government. No statement was issued yet by the Emiri Diwan.

The appointment of a new premier comes three months after former Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah submitted his resignation, the fourth in the past two years and a half.

Sheikh Mohammed is the fourth son of former Kuwaiti ruler, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who ruled the Gulf country between 1965 and 1977.

He served in several important posts, including deputy prime minister, foreign affairs minister and finance minister.

Kashmir Conference

Speakers urge world to save S Asia from catastrophe

LONDON: Speakers at the Kashmir conference called on the international community to rein in the RSS-backed Hindutva regime in India to save South Asia from becoming a victim of a big catastrophe as a result of the hate policies being pursued by the Modi government in the region.

The Labour Campaign for International Development and Labour Friends of Kashmir was held at High Wycombe town, northwest of London, to discuss on how peace can be achieved in Kashmir.

The event was attended by Member of British Parliament Naz Shah, Labour Party In-Charge Campaign David Taylor, Abdul Rash-



eed Turabi, former JI AJK president, Mushtaq Lashari, Third World Solidarity Forum chairman, Nayeem Tahir, local mayor, and leaders of the British and Pakistani and Kashmiri community.

Others who addressed the event included Abdul Rasheed Turabi, for JI AJK presi-

dent, Mushtaq Lashari, Third World Solidarity Forum chairman, Nayeem Tahir, local mayor, and leaders of the British and Pakistani and Kashmiri community.

The speakers including Naz Shah and David Taylor appealed to the community leaders to forge unity to raise

a united voice against Indian atrocities in Kashmir. They promised to pass a comprehensive resolution in the next session of the party and assured to continue support until the Kashmiris' right of self-determination is achieved.

Abdul Rasheed Turabi while speaking as a special guest briefed the participants on the Indian atrocities in IIOJK and warned that if Modi's brutal policies were not checked, peace in entire South Asia may be at stake. The Hindutva agenda of RSS-backed BJP regime is a direct threat to all minorities including Sikhs, Christians and Muslims in Indian and Kashmir, he said.

Turabi pointed out that the Kashmir dispute originated as a result of wrong policies of the then British government led by the Labour Party. "It is, therefore, responsibility of the United Kingdom to resolve the Kashmir dispute to undo its past mistakes," he said and urged the British government to put a strong diplomatic pressure on India to resolve the matter.

He particularly mentioned the measures taken by the Modi government post August 2019 illegal actions and said that the lives of Kashmiri detained leaders including Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Masarat Aalam Butt, Aasiya Andrabai and others were in danger in different jails of India.

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WKAF organizes session on Kashmir in Washington

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF) organized a brainstorming session on Kashmir entitled "Kashmir: What next." The session was designed to identify the areas which need to be of immediate focus for highlighting the human rights situation in Indian occupied Kashmir. The participants analyzed the situation in and resolved to mobilize the public opinion in Washington as well as at United Nations, both in New York and in Geneva. A committee was established to organize two events in nearest future: one on August 5 to commemorate the day when India abrogated Article 370 and 35A, and second to organize a peaceful rally in New York in September during the UN General Assembly.

The event began with the recitation of Al-Quran by Javaid Kousar, one of the prominent journalists of Washington metropolitan Pakistani community. Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President, WKAF gave a brief introduction to the establishment, mission, and vision of the organization in the diaspora based in Washington DC. Emphasizing the role of diaspora in highlighting and bringing in focus the gross human rights abuse and denial of the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir. Dr. Mir added that WKAF is in the process of gathering resources and momentum to confront the occupation and atrocities in Kashmir. We are in the process of organizing the diaspora to reach out to the US communities and our elected representatives. We will continue to build alliances and forge solidarity with like-minded

groups and communities around the world until Kashmiris achieve their goal – right to self-determination. Dr. Pir Syed Ali Raza Bukhari, a parliamentarian from Azad Kashmir and Chairman, International Sufi Peace Forum and the Chief Guest emphasized that the peaceful resolution of longstanding Kashmir dispute will guarantee durable peace and stability in the region of South Asia. It will also pave the way for economic development of these nuclear countries who are spending billions of dollars on defense. The people of India and Pakistan need health-care, education, clean water which is only possible once you create an atmosphere of peace by giving the people of Jammu & Kashmir right to self-determination. The issue of Kashmir is basic human rights issue, it is also the

issue of right of self-determination which was pledged to the people of Kashmir by an agency no less important than the United Nations. Therefore, we must knock the doors of all world forums as well as the United Nations to urge them to fulfill their pledge and come out of their slumber. Dr. Pir Ali Bukhari added. Abdul Shakoor, President, Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan & Assistant Secretary General, Istanbul-based, "Union of NGOs of Islamic World (UNIW)" was the guest of honor. Al-Khidmat Foundation is dedicated to humanitarian services since 1990. Its workers and volunteers continue to work tirelessly for the relief of affected people not only in Pakistan but beyond. The services of Al-Khidmat include disaster management, health services, educa-



tion, orphan care, clean water, Mawakhat (interest-free loan) and other community services. The UNIW as of today, with 354 members from 65 countries in 6 continents, is an NGO umbrella organization that continues to work towards the establishment of sustainable relations between NGOs in the Islamic geography. Abdul Shakoor added that

Kashmiri Americans are positioned at one of the most important capitals of the world – Washington, DC. The youth and students must be motivated to volunteer in various activities of WKAF, be it social media, organizing seminars, symposium, lectures on university campuses and elsewhere. The material published by WKAF

needs to be translated in various language, including Arabic and French. Various NGO's need to be approached to seek their understanding to allocate funds for the meritorious students of Indian occupied Kashmir. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General of WKAF said that the most important and poignant aspect of the situation in Kashmir is uncertainty, unpredictability, and anxiety of unknown. Thousands have been brutally killed or cling to life in hospitals, in jails, in secret torture cells. These Kashmiris are victims of a reign of terror by India's 900,000 strong military and paramilitary forces. Yet, despite a faint murmur of protest in international circles and an occasional report in the world press, India has felt no pressure whatsoever to desist from its semi-genocidal campaign.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,389.07	41,367.11
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,551.53	40,216.38
Index Value	Change
4,692,467,991	-978.04
Percentage	Time
-2.36%	19 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,296.28	+73.04
Percentage	Time
+1.01%	19 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
31,565.01	+492.40
Percentage	Time
+1.58%	19 Jul, 11:41 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,961.68	+173.21
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	19 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	145.9	147.15
Bahrain Dinar	573.28	577.78
Canadian Dollar	166.26	167.61
China Yuan	31.85	32.1
Danish Krone	29.32	29.67
Euro	215.5	218.5
Hong Kong Dollar	27.36	27.71
Indian Rupee	2.68	2.76
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.63
Kuwaiti Dinar	688.08	693.08
Malaysian Ringgit	48.24	48.69
New Zealand \$	132.62	133.82
Norwegians Krone	21.36	21.66
Omani Riyal	556.65	561.15
Qatari Riyal	59.01	59.51
Saudi Riyal	56.3	57.3
Singapore Dollar	153.82	155.12
Swedish Korona	20.76	21.06
Swiss Franc	213.18	214.93
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	58	59
UK Pound Sterling	254.5	258
US Dollar	216	219

Emirates flight catering opens world's largest vertical farm

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Bustanica has opened the doors to the world's largest hydroponic farm, backed by an investment of US\$40m. The facility is the first vertical farm for Emirates Crop One, the joint venture between Emirates Flight Catering (EKFC), one of the world's largest catering operations serving more than 100 airlines, and Crop One, an industry leader in technology-driven indoor vertical farming.

Located near Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, the 330,000sqft facility is geared to produce more than 1,000,000 kilograms of high-quality leafy greens annually, while requiring 95% less water than conventional agriculture. At any point in time, the facility grows in excess of 1m cultivars (plants), which will provide an output of 3,000 kgs per day.

Bustanica is driven by powerful technology – machine learning, artificial intelligence and advanced methods – and a highly specialised in-house team that includes agronomy experts, engineers, horticulturists and plant scientists. A continuous production cycle ensures the produce is super fresh and clean, and grown without pesticides, herbicides, or chemicals.

Passengers on Emirates and other airlines can look forward to forking these delicious leafy greens, including lettuces, arugula, mixed salad greens, and spinach, onboard their flights from July. Bustanica is not just revolutionising salads in the sky – UAE consumers will soon be able to add these greens to their shopping carts at the nearest supermarkets. Bustanica also plans to expand into the production and sale of fruits and vegetables.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group said: "Long-term food security and self-sufficiency are vital to the economic growth of any country, and the UAE is no exception. We've specific challenges in our region, given the limitations around arable land and climate. Bustanica ushers in a new era of innovation and investments, which are important steps for sustainable growth and align with our country's well-defined food and water security strategies.

Miftah agrees to bring furniture retailers under fixed tax regime

Finance Minister says government would give due consideration to all genuine tax problems

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Furniture Association led by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry held a meeting with Miftah Ismail, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue and briefed him about the difficulties being faced by the furniture retailers due to their placement in Tier-1 category for sales tax collection.

Zahid Hussain Chairman All Pakistan Furniture Association, Patron in Chief Mian Muhammad Afzal from Lahore, Rana Waheed Murad Senior Vice Chairman from Karachi, Safdar Rasheed Vice Chairman from Sahinwal, M. Taaj Abbasi President from Rawalpindi, Danish Naeem Fakhri Senior Vice President from Chinot, Riaz Mughal Vice President from Lahore, Irfanullah Khalil General Secretary from Peshawar, Qahir Khan Vice President from Queta, Irfaan Kamboh Joint Secretary from Lahore, Vice President Sheikh Muddasir from Chinot, Joint Secretary Chiniot Kamran Madal, Joint Secretary Said Muhammad Khan Mardan, Faisal But Information Secretary, Zubair Hafeez Vice President Sukkar, Jafar Hussain



President Punjab, Mirza Mukhtar General Secretary Punjab, Raja Javed Senior Vice President Punjab, Sardar Saqib President Rawalpindi, Aamir Raza Sheikh President Islamabad, Sabir Awan General Secretary Islamabad, Umar Sami President Chakwal, Sajad Hussain President Talagang, Sardar Ashfaq President Abbotabad, Suleyman Mughal Pres-

ident Sargodha, Javed Elahi President Karachi, Feroz Shah President Peshawar and others were in the delegation.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir informed the Federal Finance Minister that the furniture industry has great potential to grow and boost exports of the country but placing furniture retailers in Tier-1 category for sales tax collec-

tion has created lot of difficulties for this sector that would affect its business activities. He strongly pleaded the case of furniture retailers for bringing them under fixed tax regime so that they could pay their sales tax through their electricity bills at the rate specified in the finance bill while the income tax collection should be continued at the prevailing rate.

Zahid Hussain, Chairman All Pakistan Furniture Association said that a fixed tax regime for furniture retailers will increase the tax revenue for the country and reduce the issues of furniture retailers. He further requested that furniture retailers who are registered on the basis of area should be de-registered for tax purposes and subjected to fixed tax regime.

After listening to the issues of furniture retailers, Miftah Ismail, Federal Minister for Finance agreed to bring the furniture retailers in the fixed tax regime to save them from unnecessary problems and for this purpose, a new SRO would be issued soon. He further said that the government would give due consideration to all genuine tax problems of the business community to promote ease of doing business for them so that they could play a more effective role in the economic development of the country.

YAP Pakistan secures IPA for EMI license

Partners with Faysal Bank for innovative banking solutions

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: After successfully obtaining the In-Principle Approval from the State Bank of Pakistan for an Electronic Money Institution (EMI) license, YAP Pakistan has now entered into a strategic partnership with Faysal Bank to introduce digital financial services through the Fintech Express program.

Faysal Bank's Fintech Express program is focused on identifying and fostering fintech startups with promising, high-potential innovative technologies from Mastercard and facilitating these companies in developing seamless digital payment journeys.

YAP Pakistan's primary objective is to revolutionize the banking industry through the provision of dynamic, intelligent and easy to use digital financial products and services. This collaboration will enable both entities to accelerate in their missions of promoting financial inclusion and digitizing the banking ecosystem of Pakistan.

The agreement was signed by Meharyab Niazi, CEO YAP Pakistan and Mr. Yousaf Hussain, CEO Faysal Bank Limited. Speaking at the signing ceremony,



Meharyab Niazi, CEO YAP Pakistan shared that, "Obtaining the In-Principal Approval for our EMI license was a critical first step as we work towards a more digitally inclusive world; encouraging financial inclusion only paves way for us to reach our real goal that is to improve quality of life by providing access to essential financial services. YAP is committed to bringing digital financial services to underserved communities as a way of reducing inequality, promoting prosperity, and empowering individuals. We are thrilled to be partnering with Faysal

Bank in Pakistan and hope to use technology and innovative products to create value for our customers."

Adding on the occasion, Yousaf Hussain, CEO, Faysal Bank Ltd. said, "Faysal Bank wants to be the cornerstone of the digital product revolution in Pakistan. We are eager to create partnerships with EMI and Fintech and further support State Bank financial inclusion initiative in Pakistan. Faysal Bank's agreement with YAP demonstrates our commitment to facilitate FinTech's and startups in Pakistan."

P&G Pakistan, Akhuwat sign MOU

To advance women's economic empowerment through micro loans

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: P&G Pakistan, Tuesday, signed a MoU with Akhuwat, a not-for-profit organization, to lend interest-free microloans to women entrepreneurs to enable them to create sustainable streams of income. This collaboration is another initiative that reiterates P&G's commitment to equality & inclusion in the country, under its Citizenship focus of being a Force for Growth and a Force for Good.

This project aims to change the lives of over 500 women as well as create additional employment opportunities for approximately 800 more citizens, during its running.

Adil Farhat, Chief Executive Officer P&G Pakistan, said, "We are committed to the cause of gender parity and will continue to broaden economic opportunities for women in a sustainable and transformative manner. We



have collaborated with Akhuwat to reach out to women in marginalized communities and provide opportunities to instate financial independence amongst women entrepreneurs."

Women's financial inclusion continues to progress globally as they move into a growing space as entrepreneurs, startup founders and businesswomen. However, in Pakistan, the role of women is still societal rather than economic. Women are accorded esteem and importance from a social standpoint; but in economic terms, the status of women is amongst the lowest in

the world. A report from World Bank suggests that to decrease that very gap, it is important to extend monetary credit opportunities to women to help initiate, grow and prosper their professional endeavors. P&G's efforts in this area support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals # 1-to eradicate poverty; and # 5 - gender equality.

Expressing his views, Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder Akhuwat, said, "Poverty is not just about lack of resources; it's about deprivation-of a social network, justice and morality. But poverty,

in its worst form, is of hopelessness." The Asian Nobel Prize recipient is adamant on eradicating poverty, especially from marginalized communities. The purpose behind these loans is to facilitate women entrepreneurs to become self-sufficient in order to improve their standards of living as well as uplift the society. He added, "One day a woman, visibly distressed, eyes filled with tears, entered my room. Her story was that of countless others, her audience was unique. Having recently lost her husband, the resource-strapped mother of four was despondent. What she knew with a certainty was that she wanted to give her children the best possible life. What she also knew was that she wanted a life of dignity and grace, without ever begging anyone for charity. When I asked her how he could be of help, she told me that she wanted an interest-free loan from me."

SECP declares Right of Use Assets

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified amendments to the Insurance Rules, 2017 devising admissibility requirements of Right of Use Assets.

Under International Financial Reporting Standard 16 (IFRS 16-Leases), insurers are required to recognize a right of use liability ("ROU Liability") and a corresponding right of use asset ("ROU Asset") in their financial statements and regulatory returns. The

existing rules were silent about the treatment ROU Assets for solvency purpose. This will facilitate insurance companies to comply with the requirements of IFRS 16 without any negative impact on their solvency.

Through the amendments, insurance companies have been allowed to take ROU Asset as 'admissible' to the extent of the corresponding ROU Liability. The only exception to the said rule is that ROU Assets recorded against vehicles, office equipment and intangible assets, are not to be considered as admissible assets.

Sastaticket.pk celebrates launch of Airblue Skardu flights

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Sastaticket.pk is ecstatic to congratulate Airblue management for adding Skardu to its network. The airline embarked on its first flight on the 7th of July, 2022.

This is another achievement not only for the airline but also for Pakistan, as it will help in the socio-economic growth of the nation.

This initiative taken by Airblue was very crucial for the development of the economy of Pakistan as it will also help in attracting tourists to the beautiful valley of Skardu. Airblue is considerate of the current condition of the world and, due to the outbreak of the pandemic, has vigilant planning and is following all the protocols and SOPs necessary. And Sastaticket.pk plans to be with the management of Airblue airline with every step moving forward and supporting the airline.

During the press, Shazil Mehri, CEO of Sastaticket.pk, gave his heartfelt gratitude to the management of



Air blue, commenting, "We, at Sastaticket, would like to congratulate the Airblue management for successfully adding Skardu to its growing network."

This addition will continue the strong momentum in domestic tourism and have a positive socio-economic impact in the region. We look forward to working with Airblue airline in growing domestic air travel in Pakistan."

The leading ticket portal wishes to stay side by side in every step moving forward and provide full support to the Airline for its expanding network as this is also a step taken for the socio-economic growth of the nation and will open doors of opportunities for many other sectors in Pakistan. Book your Airblue Islamabad to Skardu air tickets at Sastaticket.pk with ease and comfort of your home.

Daraz, Visa to impart business skills for online Sellers

KARACHI: As part of their joint efforts to help small and micro business (SMB) owners make confident, informed decisions to grow their businesses, Leading e-commerce platform Daraz and Visa, the world leader in digital payments, have collaborated to impart practical business skills to online sellers through the Daraz University platform based off Visa's global Practical Business Skills digital platform that delivers free educational resources covering business skills and financial literacy training.

With this collaboration, Daraz will customize Visa's global seller education content and deploy it on the Daraz University platform where sellers can access it in Pakistan. The content will include video tutorials, PowerPoint presentations and quizzes

that will cover topics like Guide to Starting a Business, Financial Basics for your Business and Business Management. Daraz is conducting comprehensive marketing to maximize the outreach of new educational content to sellers in Pakistan. The first one thousand sellers who cover the material and pass all exams will be given vouchers sponsored by Visa that will provide free shipping credit or access to Daraz packaging materials.

Non-sellers can also participate in these tutorials to earn a Visa x Daraz University certification. If these potential sellers choose to join Daraz, they will be given vouchers and dedicated sign-up support on Daraz.

Daraz University was established in 2018 with the aim to provide free education to aspiring online entrepreneurs. Currently, the portal serves



over 40,000 active sellers, and each month 5,000 new vendors learn valuable business knowledge from Daraz University.

Daraz has always been at the forefront of providing entrepreneurial opportunities to people in Pakistan. In its efforts of uplifting entire communities, Daraz is exploring new ways of instilling a sense of innovation among aspiring entrepreneurs. The Company wants to play its part in reviving the country's economy by ensuring that the youth gets quality

business opportunities.

Ehsan Saya, Managing Director - Daraz Pakistan commented on the occasion: "Daraz University aims to nurture the future of e-commerce and online business. Digital entrepreneurship is the future, and we needed a platform to train our youth to match up with the world. Our collaboration with Visa proves our commitment to fostering e-commerce in Pakistan and bringing forward future business leaders. The new endeavor will open doors to new learning opportunities

for young sellers. We thank Visa for their noteworthy effort that will help us prepare for future challenges of online business."

Syed Zeeshan Ali, Director Digital Payments - Daraz, commented on the collaboration, "Daraz University was founded with a vision to cultivate the entrepreneurial generation in Pakistan by imparting critical business skills for running successful online businesses. With our collaboration with Visa, Daraz University will expand its education content and impart business management's skills to online sellers enabling them to succeed in their businesses. Our collaboration with Visa proves our commitment to developing an ecosystem for e-commerce in Pakistan which facilitates our sellers, customers and stakeholders."

Pak vs SL

Abdullah Shafique hundred keeps Pakistan on course in big chase

ICC believes Yasir Shah's ripper could be 'ball of the century'

Spokesman Report

GALLE: Pakistan demonstrated their comeback qualities as well as the ability to play quality spin bowling as they slowly but methodically edged towards achieving their second highest-run chase in Test cricket.

Chasing 342 runs for victory in the first Test on a spinners' friendly Galle surface, Pakistan were 222 for three at the close of play on the fourth day and needed another 120 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series.

22-year-old Abdullah Shafique, playing just his sixth Test match, was leading Pakistan's charge when he was unconquered on 112. With him was vice-captain Mohammad Rizwan on seven, who had walked into bat six overs before stumps after captain Babar Azam missed the line of the ball and was bowled round his legs after scoring 55.

Babar, who had scored 119 runs in the first innings and became the 19th Pakistan batter to complete 3,000 Test runs when he reached 30, put on 101 runs for the third wicket with Abdullah. Babar's



104-ball innings was studded with four fours and a six.

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, who had claimed 17 wickets in the three innings before Pakistan's run-chase, picked up the wickets of Azhar Ali (six) and Babar Azam, but was made to toil on a surface of his liking when he ended the day with figures of 35-6-89-2.

Opener Imam-ul-Haq was unlucky and unfortunate to be stumped off Ramesh Mendis when his foot was fractionally in the air. The left-hander was looking solid and comfortable in his 73-ball 35 as he added 87 runs for

the first wicket with Abdullah.

The star of the fourth day's play was young Abdullah who was a model of concentration and application, and in the process displayed excellent technique and good shot selection against Sri Lanka's slow bowlers on a deteriorating surface.

Abdullah, a former Pakistan under-19 batter, had faced 289 balls for his 112 not out and struck five fours and a six. The Sialkot-born opener had reached his half-century from 94 balls with four fours, while his second 50 runs came off 114 balls and included a four and a straight six off Jayasuriya.

Since making his debut against Bangladesh in Chattogram, the opener has scores of 52, 73, 25, 44, 136 not out, 13, 96, 81, 27, 13 and 112 not out which not only reflects his consistency but also ability to adjust and adapt to different batting conditions against three different oppositions in Bangladesh, Australia and Sri Lanka.

Interestingly, when Pakistan achieved their highest run-chase of 377 against Sri Lanka in Pallekele 2015, veteran Younis

Khan had scored an unbeaten 171, while a young Shan Masood, playing his ninth Test, had scored 125.

Abdullah has a chance to emulate Shan and further enhance his reputation as a world-class batter if he can continue to lead Pakistan from the front and earn Pakistan a come-from-behind victory on a surface that is fully testing the skills, temperament and technique of the batters.

Abdullah will require complete support from the middle and lower middle-order that may not have the same experience as Misbah-ul-Haq's side from the 2015 Test. But where there is will, there is a way and Abdullah has demonstrated that victory is possible only if each and every delivery is played on its merit and no opportunity is wasted in keeping the scoreboard moving.

Earlier, Sri Lanka resumed their second innings at 329 for nine and were dismissed for 337. Dinesh Chandimal added eight runs to his overnight score of 86 and returned unbeaten on 94. Jayasuriya was the last man out when he fell to Naseem Shah.

Lewandowski vows to help Barca 'return to the top'

MADRID: Polish striker Robert Lewandowski said Monday he was raring to go at new club Barcelona and determined to help them "return to the top and win as many titles as possible".

"I'm finally here. I'm delighted to be at Barca," the former Bayern Munich star told Barca TV after joining his new teammates in Miami where Barcelona are starting a four-match US tour this week. "The last few days have been long, but finally an agreement has been reached. I'm ready to take on this new challenge," continued the 33-year-old. "I've always wanted to play in La Liga and in the big teams, so Barca is a great opportunity for me."

"I'm here to help Barca get back to the top and win as many titles as possible." Barcelona's last domestic title was in 2019 and their last Champions League trophy in 2015. On Saturday, Bayern Munich announced that they had reached an agreement with Barcelona for Lewandowski after two months of endless negotiations between the clubs. The two-time FIFA men's player of the year has reportedly agreed a four-year deal worth 50 million euros (\$50.4m), including five million in potential add-ons. He is the club's fourth summer transfer after Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie from AC Milan and Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen on a free transfer, and Brazil winger Raphinha, recruited for 70 million euro from Leeds.

The club has also extended the contract of French winger Ousmane Dembele, who is committed until 2024. A very generous transfer window for a club which suffered from an abysmal debt, exceeding one billion euros in the long term, a few months ago.



Ibrahimovic extends AC Milan stay

MILAN: Zlatan Ibrahimovic will stay at AC Milan for at least one more year after the veteran striker signed a new one-year contract with the Italian champions on Monday.

"AC Milan is pleased to announce the renewal of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's contract until June 30, 2023. The Swedish forward will continue to wear the number 11 shirt," the team said in a statement. Ibrahimovic, who turns 41 in October, has signed a deal which will net him around one million euros (\$1.02 million) in fixed salary, with large bonuses linked to appearances and achievements. The Swede is out of action until at least early next year after having had the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee reconstructed in May.

The former Inter Milan, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester United forward said in May he endured six months of sleepless nights due to the pain in his knee because he was determined to fulfil his promise to AC Milan of delivering their first Serie A crown in 11 years.

He had already missed Euro 2020 after surgery on his left knee last year before an Achilles tendon problem which cost him his starting position up front for Milan. Ibrahimovic returned to Milan in January 2020 eight years after leaving and his arrival kick-started the rise of Stefano Pioli's team to the top of the Italian game.

OCA announces new dates for Asian Games

LAHORE: Pakistan Olympic Association said on Tuesday that the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) had announced the new dates of the 19th Asian Games, which will now be held in Hangzhou from 23rd September to 8th October 2023.

The 19th Asian Games was originally planned to be held in Hangzhou from 10th to 25th of September 2022, however due to the COVID 19 global pandemic the Games were postponed by the OCA Executive Board (EB) on 6th of May 2022 and a "Task Force" was created by the EB to finalise the new dates for the Games, said Muhammad Khalid Mahmood, Secretary POA while referring to the OCA letter received by the POA.

He said "the Task Force over the last two months held various discussions with the Chinese Olympic Committee, Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) and other stakeholders to find a window for the Games which did not conflict with other major international sporting events."

The recommended dates by the Task Force were duly approved by the OCA EB. "The OCA thanks HAGOC, the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as the Governments at all levels for their hard work in preparing for the Games during the pandemic and ensuring they can take place next year."

The OCA would also like to express its appreciation for the patience shown by the National Olympic Committees and International Federation/Asian Federations and other stakeholders. "The OCA looks forward to celebrating the best Asian Games ever in Hangzhou in September 2023". APP

Goretzka to miss Bundesliga start after surgery

BERLIN: Bayern Munich midfielder Leon Goretzka will miss the start of the new Bundesliga season after his club said on Monday that he would be out of action for several weeks after undergoing successful left knee surgery.

Bayern did not specify the duration of his unavailability but according to Sky it could be "between six and eight weeks" which would rule the 27-year-old German international out of contention for the season-opener at Frankfurt on August 5. "The FC Bayern medical unit diagnosed an abnormality in the Germany international's left knee, which was removed arthroscopically. The operation went according to plan and was completed successfully," the club said in a statement. After making himself a mainstay of the Bayern midfield, Goretzka missed several months last season due to knee problems. Bayern have already signed Ryan Gravenberch from Ajax as a ready replacement. And according to German media, the club could also strengthen the midfield by bringing in Konrad Laimer from RB Leipzig.

England batter rewarded with rapid ODI rankings rise

LONDON: England opener Tammy Beaumont has been rewarded for her brilliant century against South Africa by jumping into the top 10 batters on the latest ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.

Beaumont scored her ninth ODI century with a superb individual knock of 119 in the third and final game of the ODI series against the Proteas in Leicester on Monday, giving the experienced 31-year-old a total of 178 runs over three matches.

It helped Beaumont gain three spots on the rankings that were released by the ICC on Tuesday, with the right-hander jumping in front of experienced trio Chamari Athapaththu, Smriti Mandhana and Ellyse Perry and into eighth on the latest list for batters.



Beaumont's England team-mate Nat Sciver sat out the final game of the series at Grace Road and as a result lost one spot on the rankings for batters as Australia's Beth Mooney overhauled her into second spot and relegated the right-hander to third.

Australia's Alyssa Healy still holds sway at the top of the ODI batter rankings, while South Africa duo Mari-zanne Kapp (up six places to 18th) and Chloe Tryon

(jumps two spots to 20th) made some gains following their series against England.

Kapp did also jump up two spots to third on the latest rankings for all-rounders, but it wasn't great reading for her or many of her South Africa team-mates on the list for bowlers following their comprehensive 3-0 series loss to England.

Veteran pacer Shabnim Ismail lost second spot to Australia's Jess Jonas-

sen and dropped to third, while compatriots Ayabonga Khaka (down one place to sixth) and Kapp (down three spots to 10th) also lost ground.

It was a relatively quiet week on the latest T20I rankings, with Australia's clinical start to their tri-series against Ireland and Pakistan leading to only small implications on the latest rankings.

Healy dropped one spot to seventh on the batter rankings after she managed just 10 against Ireland on Sunday, while Jonassen also fell one place to 10th on the rankings for bowlers after she missed that match due to Covid.

There was better news for team-mate Ashleigh Gardner, who gained two spots to rise to 10th on the latest all-rounder rankings.

Belgium reach Euro 2022 quarters

MANCHESTER: Belgium secured the last spot in the Euro 2022 quarter-finals as Tina De Caigny's goal beat Italy 1-0 in sweltering temperatures in Manchester on Monday.

The Hoffenheim striker's predatory finish early in the second half made sure of second place in Group B behind France to set up a last eight meeting with Sweden on Friday. Despite scoring a late penalty, a 1-1 draw for Iceland against a much-changed France was not enough for them to progress as they became the first side to bow out of a women's Euro from the group stage unbeaten.

In just their second ever major tournament, Belgium reached the knockout phase for the first time to round off a miserable few weeks for Italy. "This is a historic night for Belgian women's football," said Belgium coach



Ives Serneels. "This might be the best moment yet. It has been a long time in the making. "I've been with the Belgian women's national team for 11 years now, so I'm ecstatic that we're going to the quarter-finals."

Hopes had been high for the Azzurre given Juventus' promising run in the Champions League last season and the upcoming professionalisation of the women's Serie A. However, they failed to recover from shipping five goals in the first half to France in their open-

ing game. "We lacked calmness," said Italy coach Milena Bertolini. "We put too much pressure on ourselves." That 5-1 defeat meant Italy needed to win to progress due to their inferior goal difference to both Belgium and Iceland.

Chances were few and far between in a first half affected by the conditions with temperatures reaching 36 degrees celsius as a heatwave hit Britain on Monday. Belgium got the goal just four minutes into the second half when a free-kick into the Italian box fell

at the feet of De Caigny to sweep home her 38th international goal. Italy nearly hit back immediately when Cristiana Girelli curled a brilliant effort off the underside of the bar.

But that was as close as they came to getting back in the game and Belgium were inches away from a second in stoppage time as Tessa Wullaert hit the post. In Rotherham, France did enough to see off Iceland's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals, whilst still keeping plenty in reserve for their last eight clash with holders the Netherlands on Saturday.

A serious knee injury to Marie-Antoinette Katoto that has ended her tournament gave Melvine Malard the chance to start up front. The Lyon striker took less than a minute to open the scoring when she slotted Clara Mateo's pass into the far corner.

Rojas leads familiar cast to world golds

EUGENE: Untouchable Venezuelan Yulimar Rojas led a raft of familiar faces to glory when she claimed her third straight triple jump title at the World Athletics Championships.

Day four of action at Hayward Field in Oregon saw experience count as multiple gold medalists from the Tokyo Olympics followed up on their efforts in the Japanese capital with more podium-topping. "This is my third consecutive world (outdoor) title, it still hasn't sunk in yet," said Rojas, who had been hoping to better her world record but was frustrated by wind affecting her run-up.

"I wanted a longer jump, but I am happy to return to this beau-

tiful stadium, to see the crowd," Rojas added. Rojas was among three female two-time Olympic champions to strike gold in Eugene. Belgium's Nafi Thiam earlier claimed a last-gasp victory in the heptathlon over Dutch rival Anouk Vetter, while imperious Faith Kipyegon of Kenya won her second 1500m title. Not to be left out, there were two male champions from the Tokyo Games who triumphed. Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar won a thriller of a high jump competition for his third world title.

"Winning for the third time has never been done before," he said. "For me that's a great stat. "I always say to myself, 'How do you want to be remembered?' I

want to do great things, I want to be the high jumper that does stuff that sticks in history. "I've done that today so I'm really happy about it." There was more gold for the Arab world in the shape of Morocco's Soufiane El-Bakkali, the Olympic champion producing a tactical masterclass as he brought an end to Kenya's 15-year dominance of the 3000m steeplechase.

The evening session kicked off, however, with all eyes on the track as Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, fresh from winning a record fifth world 100m title on Sunday, went in round one of the 200m. "Oh man, it was hard!" said Fraser-Pryce, who coasted into Tuesday's semi-finals. "It

was a late night and I needed to come back and try to qualify as easy as I can to preserve my strength for tomorrow. "I am feeling OK so far. Just have to go home and get some recovery done and see how it goes tomorrow. I need to eat some food, get a massage, some compression, and just rest, get some sleep."

Joining the 35-year-old, a world 200m champion in 2013, in Tuesday's semi-finals will be her two teammates who helped snatch an unprecedented clean-sweep of the 100m podium for Jamaica on Sunday. Shericka Jackson, who has the quickest time this season of 21.55sec, and four-time Olympic sprint champion Elaine Thompson-Herah,



a world silver medalist over 200m in 2015, are still both seeking their first individual world titles.

The Jamaican women's clean-



sweep came sharp on the heels of that by the US men. And newly crowned world 100m champion Fred Kerley led a fresh strike-force of US sprinters into the

semi-finals of the men's 200m, also on Tuesday.

Kerley won his heat in 20.17 seconds to raise the prospect of another US cleansweep, after the sprint all-rounder led Marvin Bracy and Trayvon Bromell home in the blue riband event. In the absence of that duo, it was the turn of the Americans who finished second, third and fourth in the 200m at last year's Tokyo Olympics - Kenneth Bednarek, world champion Noah Lyles and 18-year-old Errion Knighton - to take to the track. A hyped-up Lyles celebrated his 25th birthday on Monday by setting the fastest qualifying time of 19.98 seconds, the sole sprinter to go sub-20.