



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Qureshi has no place in the PPP: Gilani

Former prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani says PTI vice-chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has no place in the PPP and that it is also false that he is welcomed by a party stalwart. I hope that when the party's top leadership meets in Islamabad tomorrow, the scope of Qureshi's acceptance by the PPP, who has become a burden on his party, can be further verified.



## Bushra Bibi's leaked audio tape tampered: Fawad

Former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry says leaked audio tape of Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi is tampered. Whenever the government comes under pressure, such audio tapes get leak. Everyone knows who leak such audio tapes. There were differences among Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) after the party awarded election tickets to 'turncoats' in the by-elections on 20 constituencies in Punjab.

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## Zardari, Bizenjo discuss Balochistan issues

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari met Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and discussed the problems faced by the province. According to details, the Balochistan CM called on the former president at Bilawal House in Karachi. Provincial Minister for Irrigation Muhammad Khan Lehri was also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Abdul Quddus Bizenjo apprised Asif Ali Zardari of water shortage in Balochistan. Meanwhile, the PPP co-chairman expressed concern over the water crisis and assured of full cooperation to the provincial government. Speaking on the occasion, Asif Zardari said that Pakistan People's Party will continue to play a role in solving the problems of Balochistan. "The PPP has always resolved the Balochistan issues on priority basis," he added. The former president assured Abdul Quddus Bizenjo of full cooperation, saying that the people of the province will never be left alone.

## Exports surge by 25.51% in FY2022

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country witnessed an increase of 25.51 percent during the fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to PBS data, the exports from the country were recorded at \$31.760 billion during July-June (2021-22) against the exports of \$25.304 billion recorded during July-June (2020-21), showing growth of 25.51 percent.

## Deliberations

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting in Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: PID

# Zero load shedding during Eid days: PM orders

### Holds PTI govt responsible for current power crisis

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed authorities concerned against carrying out loadshedding during Eidul Azha holidays. According to sources privy to the development, the recent directives from the prime minister comes a day after Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir yesterday announced that loadshedding will continue on Eidul Azha. On PM's directives, the energy ministry has sought power generation and consumption details from Discos during the Eid days from distribution companies.

"Directives have been issued to supply adequate fuel and gas to all power generation companies," they said, adding that concerned Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Wapda power companies will be responsible for ensuring uninterrupted power supply during Eidul Azha days. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the authorities

concerned to review the load-shedding policy of gas supply for the factories solely dependent on the commodity for their functioning. Chairing a review meeting for the promotion of investment-related industries and the export sector, he said the country's economic

## Govt looks forwards to engaging with US: PM

stability was linked to addressing the problems faced by the industrial sector.

The federal ministers including Minister for Energy Division Engineer Khurram Dastgir, Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Industries Syed Murtaza

Mehmood, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, and Member National Assembly Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Provincial Minister for Law Malik Ahmed Khan and leading businessmen of textile sector attended the meeting.

PM Sharif said by extending all possible facilitations to industries, the county would be better able to present its products in the international market. He directed to review gas load-shedding schedule and policy for the factories that entirely relied on gas for their functioning. He also asked the ministers to hold meetings with the delegations of businessmen to resolve their issues.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said the government was ensuring early completion of power projects including 1320 megawatts Shanghai Electric Power, 1236 megawatts Punjab thermal, 720 megawatts Karot

Hydro Power, 330 megawatts Energy Limited and 330 megawatts HUBCO ThalNova Thar coal power project. He said the government would complete on priority basis the projects criminally delayed in the past. In tweets on social media platform Twitter, he said today the federal cabinet was informed in detail by the Power Division about the recent loadshedding in the country.

The criminal negligence of the government of Pakistan Tehreek i Insaaf (PTI) delayed the power projects of 3963 megawatts which were to be completed by 2020-21. Due to non completion of these projects, people were suffering from loadshedding, he stressed. Prime Minister Shehbaz on Monday felicitated the United States on its Independence Day and said the government looked forward to promoting bilateral relations. Agencies

## BNP to rethink alliance with govt

### Notezai says BNP seeks govt support on missing persons' bill

#### Bureau Report

KARACHI: Balochistan National Party leader Muhammad Hashim Notezai has vowed to bring a legislation over the missing persons issue in the National Assembly. "We will not withdraw from the issues of Balochistan and the matter of the missing persons," in an interview Notezai, an ally of the incumbent government and state minister for energy, stressed. "We will bring the bill in the National Assembly and will see, who is with us and who is not," he said. "We will be free to decide if the bill on enforced disappearances not supported," BNP leader said.

The list of enforced disappearances comprises of 5,128 persons, and legislation on it is our foremost priority," he said. "Ministries and offices are not important for us. If the bill not passed, we will convene the party's central committee meeting to take a decision whether to remain on the side of the government or not," Notezai said.

"Sardar Akhtar Mengal had told Shehbaz Sharif, we don't want ministries but want solution of our issues," BNP leader said. "We tabled the enforced disappearances bill in the assembly twice during the PTI government, but when the proposed legislation not supported to become a law, we quit the government and joined the PDM," he added.

## Trade gap widens by 57% YoY in FY22

### External account position worsening alarmingly

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's merchandise trade deficit reached an all-time high of \$48.67 billion in FY22 compared to \$30.9bn in FY21, marking a growth of 57% YoY, provisional data from official sources showed today. The rise in the deficit was due to higher imports which clocked in at \$56bn, and surged by 43% YoY while exports showed a growth of 27% to stand at \$25.16bn in FY22.

In the month of June 2022, the trade deficit clocked in at \$4.85 billion compared to a deficit of \$3.55bn in the same month last year, depicting a growth of 37% YoY.

Compared to the preceding month the trade deficit worsened by 17% from \$4.15bn as imports increased by 14% YoY to \$6.8bn. The widening of Pakistan's trade gap indicates

that country's external account position has been worsening at an alarming pace due to an unprecedented increase in imports amid higher commodity prices in the international market. Going by the provisional estimates, exports for the month of June'22 increased by 6% YoY and 10% MoM to \$2.9bn. Similarly, imports in the same month jumped by 23% YoY and \$14 MoM to stand at \$7.74bn.

A widening trade gap has become a headache for policymakers, as the country struggles to curb an outflow of dollars, which puts pressure on the currency. Meanwhile, the incumbent government has been actively pursuing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to revive its stalled Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme.

## IHC orders PM to produce missing persons

#### Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The non-recovery of missing persons despite judicial orders on Monday drew the ire of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah, who warned of summoning the prime minister for an explanation if the authorities still fail to implement the orders. IHC directed PM Shehbaz Sharif to produce missing persons. The directions were given to the premier through written order in the case of missing persons.

As per details, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued a written order in the case of missing persons. In the written order, PM Shehbaz Sharif has been directed to produce produce the missing persons and ordered to produce them before the court on September 9. The written decision of the Islamabad High Court said that if the premier fails to produce the missing persons before the IHC by September 9, then he should appear in person at 10.30 am on the same day.

The order further stated that the Attorney General of



Pakistan is also being given one last chance to argue in the missing person case. It should be noted that the Balochistan National Party (BNP), an ally of the government, has also announced bringing a bill on missing persons in the National Assembly and warned to leave the government if it does not support the bill.

Balochistan National Party leader and Minister of State Hashim Notezai has announced that they will now introduce a bill on missing persons in the Assembly and then will see who is with us and who is not. "It is a fact that nobody is doing anything [about it]," Justice Minallah remarked during

the hearing of identical petitions seeking the recovery of missing persons.

When asked how many people are missing, the deputy attorney general, while citing a report, apprised the court that out of 8,400 people, 600 citizens are still missing. "Many people are playing a double role in the case; they are playing from both sides," he added. Reprimanding the deputy attorney general, the court asked, "Then, what is the purpose of recruiting so many policemen?"

At this, PPP leader Farhatullah Babar said, "So many people were picked up but it is not known yet who picked them."

## Power outages due PTI govt's negligence: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Advisor on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira on Monday said that the people were enduring power outages due to the sheer negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government, which had failed to commission several power generation plants as per schedule.

Addressing a press conference along with minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, Minister for Energy Khurram Dastiger, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said the PTI government had delayed projects of about 4,000 megawatts which had to be completed by 2020 or 2021.

And the prevalent situation of power outages could have been avoided, if those projects were timely completed. Difficult decisions were taken to save the country from default.

## Govt to allow import payments to Afghanistan in rupee

### Dispels rumours about postponement of IMF programme

#### Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has summoned a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) which would mull over import payments to Afghanistan in Pakistani rupees and other issues. According to sources, the Miftah Ismail-led meeting of the ECC would mull over an eight-point agenda. "It includes payment of imported items from Afghanistan in Pakistani rupee and approval for import of 120,000 tons of wheat for Afghanistan," they said. The meeting, according to sources, will also consider approval of funds for payment of markup to be paid by heavy electrical complex, and implementation of national disease emergency to deal with lumpy skin disease.

Moreover, technical supplementary grants for economic affairs and planning ministries will also be considered for approval in the meeting. During the last meeting, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a levy of 10% regulatory duty on the import of motor spirit. The approval was given during ECC meeting held at Finance Division with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail in the chair. Ministry of Commerce submitted a summary on levy of regulatory duty on import of Motor Spirit.



It was informed that the import of Motor Spirit (MS) is subject to 10% Customs Duty under the 5th schedule of the customs Act, 1969, but it is subject to 0% under China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA). The ECC after discussion, in order to address this anomaly, allowed a levy of 10% regulatory duty on the import of MS. Ministry of Industries and Production submitted summary for release of funds for SSGC for gas supply to Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). It was submitted that due to closure of the production activity in Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), low flame gas of 2 MCMCFD is being

supplied to PSM primarily to preserve the Coke Oven Batteries and refractories kilns with an average monthly bill of Rs80 million (Approx.).

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has dismissed reports and tweets claiming that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) bailout programme for Pakistan is being postponed or delayed. "I have been reading with some amusement all the tweets and stories about IMF programme being postponed or delayed due to some anti-corruption law. There is no truth to it," tweeted Miftah, while assuring everyone that the programme "is on track".

## Electioneering

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice president Maryam Nawaz is leading an election rally here in PP-170 on Monday.



Photo: Twitter—PML-N

## Energy crisis

400 textile mills face closure in Punjab

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: As many as 400 textile mills in Punjab province are facing closure over a lack of gas and electricity supply, making it difficult for them to fulfill their export orders. The power and gas outage which has resulted in the closure of the textile mills has further led to the termination of thousands of daily-wage employees. "It is not possible for us to run textile mills on pricey diesel and if the closure continues, the textile exports will witness a \$1 billion decline," the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) said.

The sources in the APTMA said that they have already conveyed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding the decline in textile exports after gas and power outages. APTMA Patron-in-chief Gohar Aijaz demanded of the prime minister to take notice of the gas and power loadshedding and immediately restore supplies to the industry. A report previously stated that the textile industry will come to a halt from July 1 to 8 due to the prolonged suspension of the gas supply.

The suspension of gas supply will primarily affect the industries in Punjab as 70 percent of textile mills are located there. Sources said the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) apprised the textile mills about the gas supply suspension receiving gas supplies from the captive power plants. Sources added that the decision for suspending the gas supply was taken to continue uninterrupted supplies to the power and fertilizer sectors.

## Imran's political career going to end: Maryam

Says PTI chief seeking forgiveness from Donald Lu

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice president Maryam Nawaz on Monday taking a dig at PTI chairman said that Imran Khan is the biggest enemy of Punjab's development but his political career is going to an end soon from the whole country, and on July 17 we have to win a battle for Punjab's development. Addressing a rally in PP-170 here ahead of by-election, she said that Punjab CM has given historic electricity bill relief today to the poor people who had been suffering for the last four years due to PTI's incompetent policies but now the PML-N government will provide relief to all the people without any favour.

Talking about the current petroleum prices hike, she that the incumbent government increased the prices of petrol and diesel with a heavy heart, adding that due to the IMF agreement we left with no choice because country was on verge of bankruptcy due to PTI government agreement with IMF.

She went on to say that Imran Khan Imran Khan used to speak against US



Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu but now he is sending messages to him for forgiveness, adding that PTI chairman sent his official person to Lu and asked him to forgive his party.

"Imran Khan led a group who looted Punjab but on July 17 his political career is going to an end and PML-N will work

day and night to get the people out from trouble," Maryam said. She further said that Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif will steer the country out of the crisis, adding that the government will decrease price of petroleum products once the prices came down in the international market.

## Punjab by polls

## ECP Cancels transfers/postings in NAB

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Monday has canceled appointment and transfers in National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The ECP taking action on the appointments and transfers of DG NAB in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan, issued instructions to the District Monitoring Officers to immediately cancel the orders of appointments and transfers.

Earlier in the day, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) removed Shahzad Saleem as the director-general (DG) of Lahore once again. Shahzad Saleem had remained proactive against the Sharifs during his last tenure as the director-general, NAB Lahore, from April 2017 to Dec 2021 and from April 2022 to July 4. Mirza

Sultan, who was serving as DG NAB Sukkur, has replaced Shahzad Saleem as new DG Lahore. Similarly, Saleem has been transferred and posted as Director Awareness and Prevention Division at the NAB (HQ), Islamabad, the notification said.

Meanwhile, DG Operation Masood Khan was posted and as DG NAB Sukkur with immediate effect. It is pertinent to mention here that due to by-elections in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan, the appointment and transfer of government officials is banned. On the other hand, the ECP in PP-125 Jhang issued notices to the Assistant Chief Minister for Political Affairs for violating the code of conduct and District Monitoring Officer Lahore fined candidate Rana Ahsan Rs 45,000 for violating the code of conduct.

## Expats' voting right

## PTI challenges Election Amendment Act, 2022 in SC

Imran Khan to address 16 rallies for Punjab by-elections

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Monday approached the Supreme Court against the amendments in election laws revoking voting rights of overseas Pakistanis through internet voting. Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Monday challenged the Election Amendment Act, 2022 in the Supreme Court (SC). Making the federal government, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) respondents in the petition, Imran Khan's party prayed to the court to declare the Act unconstitutional and hence null and void; order appropriate

steps to give the right to vote to overseas Pakistanis since denying them the right was the violation of basic human rights, and order the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and NADRA to enforce the system of e-voting.

The party further argued that when the Election Amendment Act, 2021 already existed, it was illegal to replace it with another. The Joint Sitting of Parliament in June approved The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to conduct pilot projects in bye-elections before using I-Voting and Electronic Voting Machines in general elections. It is pertinent to mention that earlier, the bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament in last month and sent to

President Dr Arif Ali for his assent to make it law. But, the President returned the bill to the government, observing that the amendments were passed by parliament in haste and without due diligence.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Monday has issued election campaign rallies schedule of PTI chairman Imran Khan ahead of Punjab by-elections. It is pertinent to mention that by-elections for 20 vacant seats will be held on July 17. According to the issued schedule, on July 7 Imran Khan will address in PP-158 Lahore, PP-140 Sheikhpura while on July 8, he will address public gatherings in PP-83 Khushab and PP-7 Rawalpindi.

## Punjab govt allocates Rs100b for relief program

CM Hamza announces free electricity for households using 100 units

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab government on Monday announced free electricity for households using 100 units a month for the past six months. This was said by Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz in a press conference here on Monday. He also announced to provide free solar panels to the needy.

The chief minister said that the provincial government gave subsidy on floor, adding that, "We're making efforts to control inflation." He said medicine were being provided to the citizens free of cost. Taking a dig at the former prime minister, Hamza Shahbaz said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's government has damaged the country's economy.

The government has set aside Rs100 billion for the relief programme which will benefit nine

million households. "This will act as an incentive for those who use more than 100 units of electricity to save energy," said Hamza. The chief minister also said that the government will provide solar panels to the people in need. CM Hamza further said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programme will continue and international donors will come, adding that the friendly countries will help Pakistan. "The economic situation will be back on track," he assured.

Berating the PTI, the chief minister said that the nation will hold the party leaders accountable. "The PTI government ruined the economy and Imran Khan has to give an account of the foreign funding,

Toshakhana, and Farah Gogi's corruption of billions of rupees." Talking about the Punjab by-polls set to take place on July 17, CM Hamza said that the PML-N will come out on top.

Free electricity a total gimmick: Omar

## Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

leader Omar Ayub Khan has criticised the Punjab chief minister's announcement of free electricity, terming it 'a total gimmick'. Taking to Twitter, the PTI leader said that [CM] Hamza Shehbaz's announcement of waving 100 units consumers' power bills is a total gimmick, adding that it was announced to influence the 20 constituencies election in Punjab on July 17th.

Further criticising the announcement, Omar Ayub said: "The [Punjab government] will have to pay Rs160 billion as subsidy," claiming that the 'imported' regime was begging the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a tranche. He claimed that the government was not paying that Power Producers, which results in the loadshedding. "As the [government] does not have the ability to pay the subsidy, a reduction in [revenue] will have to be met through increased load shedding," he added. The former federal minister also warned of more power outage, terming the provincial government a 'circus'.

Elahi, US special envoy discuss political situation

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Monday called on US Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed. On the occasion, Pervaiz Elahi said that for the promotion of long standing relations between the United States and Pakistan, there is a need for more contacts, exchanges and exchange of delegations at the public level.

The Speaker Punjab Assembly said that the partnership between the United States and Pakistan is 75 years old and the United States is the largest export market for Pakistan, the people of both countries should be provided maximum facilities for economic development. "The entry of Pakistan and the United States into Silicon Valley will play a key role in enhancing bilateral trade relations," Elahi said.

Special Representative Dilawar Syed said that the United States would play its full role in enhancing the cordial relations between Pakistan and the United States, and the United States was dedicated to enhancing bilateral relations with Pakistan. Paying homage to Ch Parvez Elahi, Dilawar Syed said that it was welcome that FC College Lahore was handed over to Presbyterian Church during his tenure as Chief Minister.

## PTI chief fails to prove single allegation against opponents: Marriyum

Says Bushra Bibi leading campaign against country's institutions

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said fabricated cases were lodged against political opponents during the Imran-led government, which, however, failed to prove even a single allegation in courts. Imran Khan was now trying to build a false narrative that the coalition government was amending the NAB laws to end their cases, she said addressing a news conference after the Federal Cabinet meeting.

Flanked by Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, PM's Advisor on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Marriyum said the law minister would give a

threadbare briefing to the media persons on the National Accountability Bureau (Amendment) Bill, 2022 on Tuesday.

She said the cabinet was given a detailed briefing over matters related to the Power Division, including loadshedding, and existing electricity generation capacity, its demand and consumption.

Around 23,900 megawatt electricity was generated in the month of June, while its demand touched 30,000 MW, which was "historic" and "unprecedented", she added. The minister said it was noted that half of the total electricity generation capacity was installed during the previous tenure of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government (2013-2018).

Ironically, it was the last Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regime, which accused the PML-N

government of setting up additional power plants, but not a single project was initiated during its four years to further increase the generation capacity to meet the ever growing demand, she stressed.

Marriyum said the cabinet, on the recommendation of the Finance Division, okayed appointment of the "Crowe Hussain and Co" as the external auditors of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan for the fiscal year 2021-22.

She said it also ratified the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases (CCLC) in its meeting on June 29. The decisions included approval of the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan's financial and services, the Publication of Laws of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2022 and the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2022.

The minister said the cabinet also accorded approval to the decisions taken in the Cabinet Committee on Privatization's meeting, held on June 24. She said a task force, headed by Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, was formed for devising a legal framework of government-to-government commercial transactions.

The task force would also discuss the revival of Pakistan Steels Mill and review the privatization of a hotel and projects related to the power sectors, she added. She said the presentation of the task force on solar energy would be presented in the cabinet's next meeting. Similarly, the task force on agriculture would also present its proposals before the next cabinet meeting for implementation of the incentives given to the sector in the current financial budget, she added. The minister said the cabinet, after due

deliberation, approved the recommendations of the Interior Ministry for removal of five persons' names from the Exit Control List.

She said malicious campaign run by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against the state institutions was a brainchild of Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi. Fawad Chaudhry and Dr Shireen Mazari had confessed that Bushra Bibi was spearheading the campaign against the state institutions by peddling fake narrative on the social media, the minister said while responding to the PTI leaders' news conference held earlier in the day. She said the PTI leaders' news conference was in fact a confession that Bushra Bibi was not only behind the venomous campaign against the institutions, but also coined the idea of awarding certificates of sedition to political opponents.

# Investors should grab opportunities in AJK: PM

Khan addresses a function hosted by Lyallpur Warriors

**Bureau Report**

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, inviting investors from across the country to take full advantage of the AJK's conducive business friendly environment. The AJK PM has said that the government was ready to provide tax relief and other incentives to the investors. He was addressing a function hosted by Lyallpur Warriors in Faisalabad, AJK PM office said on Monday.

The event was attended by Air Marshal (Retd) Arshad Mehmood Malik, Air Marshal (Retd) Farhat H Khan, Azad Kashmir Minister for Higher Education Malik Zafar Iqbal, Azad Deputy Speaker of Kashmir Assembly Chaudhry Riaz Gujjar, Pir

Mazhar Saeed Shah Member Legislative Assembly Azad Kashmir Other Parliamentarians Azad Jammu Kashmir, Faisalabad Chambers of Commerce Officials, leading Business Community Leaders, Families of Martyrs and others.

Whereas people hailing from different walks of life also attend the function. Speaking on the occasion, the PM while highlighting the Pakistani investors' contribution in reviving the local economy said that investors from Faisalabad and other parts of the Punjab province have already been setting up industries in Mirpur and other areas of the state.

He said that his government has chalked out a comprehensive mechanism to boost the tourism sector in

the region. He said that local traders and industrialists would be invited soon to visit Azad Jammu Kashmir. The investors, he said, would be provided all possible support. "No tax will be levied on the industrialists", he said, adding that AJK had lot of opportunities in the cotton industry and seafood business. "We are setting up a special economic zone in which investors could be granted a minimum of ten kanals and a maximum of 100 kanals of land for setting up industries", he said adding that no tax whatsoever would be levied.

He said that the government was planning to set up IT parks to boost the local economy and create job opportunities for the educated youth. The Prime Minister on the occasion

praised Pakistan army for its unparalleled sacrifices and contribution in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country. Denouncing India's state terrorism in the Indian occupied Kashmir, he said, "Indian occupation forces have wreaked havoc in the occupied Kashmir". The trigger-happy Indian forces, he said, have been involved in gross violation of human rights in the region.

He, however, maintained that India cannot stifle the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom and their legitimate struggle through barbarism and brutality. Referring to the continued bloodshed and violence in the IoK, he lamented that the world community was silent while Indian forces were killing Kashmiris mercilessly.

## Shahida Akhtar Ali assumes charge of Parliamentary Secretary for Communications



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali today assumed the responsibilities of her post as Parliamentary Secretary for Communications. Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali was received by Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha. He briefed her on departmental matters. During the meeting, Federal Secretary Communications congratulated her on assuming office. On the occasion, Shahida Akhtar Ali said that Communications is an important ministry for welfare of the people. She expressed her resolve that National Highway Authority will bring mega projects which will be completed within the stipulated time to bring the backward areas of the country into the national mainstream. She further said that steps would be taken in collaboration with NHA for construction and expansion of national highways, and motorways throughout the country.

## Seminar on role of medical laboratory, blood transfusion held at IUB

Staff Reporter

BAHAWALPUR: A one-day national seminar on the role of medical laboratory science and blood transfusion in anti-narcotics was organized by the Department of Medical Laboratory Technology, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. The seminar was presided over by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between the Department of Medical Laboratory Technology, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and the Department of Pathology, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College, Bahawalpur. Under the agreement, medical laboratory technology students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur will be provided opportunities to undergo training in the Department of Pathology Laboratory, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Chairman Department of Medical Laboratory Technology, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Prof. Dr. Asma Shaikat Chairperson Department of Pathology Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur signed the agreement. Chairman Department Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akhtar said that there is a strong link between anti-narcotics and medical laboratory technology and blood transfusion and he was grateful for the special patronage and guidance of Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob for organizing the seminar in this regard. Prof. Dr. Ayub Khan, Prof. Dr. Asma Shaikat, Dr. Uzma Chauhan, Dr. Shahnaz Noor, Dr. Sara Raza, Dr. Syed Salman Rizvi and Prof. Dr. Qaiser Jabben addressed the seminar.

## Third "Awami Theatre Festival" at ACP Karachi continues

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's third satirical "Awami Theater Festival" in full swing, 22 dramas made a fuss at the festival. Bakray Number One, Mai Naa Mano Haar, Wah Badshah Wah, Mazak Mazak Mai, Ek Almari Teen Beemari, Peekar-E-Mohabbat, Gulab Jaman, Pakeeza Bai, Dil-E-Wati Sambaal, Ee Tu Theno, Chaddar, Sach Bolna Mana Hai, Hal Panhal and Koray Khaab Theaters received the colors of the stage, while the spectators participated in the festival in full force, it should be noted that the Awami Theater Festival will continue till July 7. The comedy-drama Fanny Family, Lo Hum Aaye, Yea Teray Fankar Bandy and finally, Sheema Kirmani's dance will also be the part of the theater.

## NH&MP reunites 6-year-old child with family

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: National Highway and Motorway Police Inspector Umerzad and Sub-Inspector Muhammad Pervez Khan were on a routine patrolling. During the patrolling, they found a 6/7 year old crying baby in Madrota. Officers took the child into their custody. When officers questioned the boy, he said he had forgotten his way home. According to details, the officers further inquired and found the number of his uncle whose name is Muhammad Wajid and he is a resident of Gondal. Upon contacting the uncle's phone number, it was found out that the boy Arsalan son of Adnan is a resident of Gondal Mandi. And he is missing from home. His uncle later contacted NHMP officials. After legal proceedings, the boy was handed over to his uncle, who thanked NHMP officials for the action. DIG Ashfaq Ahmad Khan appreciated the efforts of the officers and urged them to take similar steps in future also.

## Business management

ISLAMABAD: Chairman SECP Aamir Khan holds a meeting with Finance Minister Miftah Ismail here on Monday. Aamir Khan appraised Finance Minister on ongoing reforms of SECP to develop corporatisation, capital markets, non banking financial sector, digital lending and insurance sector.



Photo: Online

## PCRWR organizes workshop on groundwater

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has organized a groundwater workshop in Karachi. This workshop has been organized under an ADP scheme titled, "Groundwater Investigations and Mapping in Sindh" funded by Sindh Irrigation Department, Karachi.

The objective of this workshop was to share initial findings of the subject groundwater study. The focus of this study was to map spatio-temporal changes in terms of water table fluctuations, groundwater quality, discharge measurement as well as calculation of seepage losses at different cross sections of 14 main canals of Sindh.

This unique study is conducted by PCRWR and is in line with the directions of National Water Policy-2018 where, provincial governments need to take necessary initiatives for the development of groundwater atlas at canal command scale. Fortunately, Sindh



is the first province, who has initiated this study, which will also help to feed Sindh draft Water Policy. About 50 professionals representing various government departments, policy makers, academicians, representatives from United Nation departments and international experts have participated in the workshop.

Dr. Naveed Iqbal, Director (Hydrology), PCRWR introduced the participants about the importance of this study and highlighted its objectives as well as expected outcomes. Moreover, he has stressed on the need for the

establishment of real time groundwater monitoring system in Sindh. This system will ultimately help to frame groundwater regulatory framework required for sustainable groundwater resource management. Mr. Jai Ram, General Manager (Operation), Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) explained the importance of reliable data for effective management and hoped that this study will help to bridge data gaps. He appreciated PCRWR for completing physical targets in such a short time and anticipated to have a comprehensive report.

## Empowering change-makers

### Second iteration of Make Space Hackathon held

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Make Space Hackathon is a virtual competition aimed at empowering change-makers in creating tech-enabled solutions that are addressing Pakistan's pressing population crisis. With over 600 applications from across the country, the enthusiasm and drive to create innovative solutions was palpable before the competition kicked off. In the run up to the hackathon, PSI Pakistan Country Director Ayesha Leghari stressed the urgency of addressing the population crisis, "This is an uphill battle that can only be won if we use out of the box ideas and innovations that breakthrough the barriers of accessibility and cultural restrictions."

Over the course of the 3 day hackathon, 60 teams went head to head in creating solutions that were both viable and sustainable.

## Umme Rubab raises mirror, protests against injustice

Azad Baloch

DADU: Umme Rubab Chandio raised a mirror and protested against not getting justice. She also held a press conference after the protest in Sukkur Press Club. Speaking on a press conference at Sukkur Press Club, Umm Rabab Chandio said that, "I have brought a mirror to see if this system is capable of providing justice. Five years ago, my father, grandfather and uncle were brutally murdered in Dadu." I have not yet found justice.

She said, our family had raised awareness against the feudal system. We are still holding on to this knowledge. Unfortunately, no evidence has been presented in our case till date. Accused MPA Burhan Chandio has been on interim bail for four years. The case was to be heard in Karachi High Court this morning. It was learned in the morning that the case has been discharged due to absence of accused's lawyer.

Umme Rubab said, after the court opens at 12 o'clock at night, it is certain that the court will also open



at 12 o'clock at night for the oppressed peoples. The Prosecutor General has tried to spoil the case by opposing our case. If I can't hire my own lawyer then my case is ruined. I appeal to the Chief Justice to take notice. There are thousands of cases including me in which justice is not being served.

She said, the purpose of showing the mirror to the system is that justice is not being provided here. The system should look in the mirror and tell me in which corner of the country I will get justice, I am ready to go there. The accused who are feudal lords want to exhaust us by using delaying tactics in the case. I have been intimidated and threatened to withdraw from the case. The accused have been elected MPA from Pakistan Peoples Party. The party should disown them till they are proved innocent.

Umme Rubab said, Bilawal Bhutto refused to hear my case, later Shazia Marri heard my case.

The SSP told me that there is pressure to make cases against you people. Chief Justice of Pakistan is my last hope.

## Work for drainage of rainwater starts at Super Highway Cattle Market



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The work for drainage of rainwater has started at Super Highway Cattle Market after rainfall. All necessary machinery including large pumping motors has already been called for in advance just after the forecast of rain in Karachi. However, the situation is normal at the market after rain shower. Management is keen and fully active to drain out rainwater from the passages inside the cattle market.

Administrator Cattle Market, Muzaffar Hasan said that rainwater on the roads and passages will be drained out into the nullahs by the evening. Nullahs have already been cleaned. All resources are being

utilized to keep the cattle market clean from the deposited water. Electric poles have been wrapped with the plastic and necessary instructions are being given to the people through loudspeakers. "We are trying to facilitate people to enjoy the visit to cattle market even after the rain. Traders look happy with rain because they were upset with the hot weather including animals," he added.

Spokesperson of the cattle market, Khurram Jaffrani said that rain is a blessing of God and the people of Karachi seldom enjoy the blessing. All essential arrangement to facilitate people at the market have been done and we have the full cooperation and support of law enforcement agencies.



Islamabad  
23° - 38° Clear

**Introduces Pukaar-15**  
**Islamabad police merge all emergency services**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have merged all police emergency services at safe city and introduced new helpline with the name of "Pukaar-15" for prompt action in case of any mishap and provision of police report to the complainant on the spot.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has said that the vision of the Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has been implemented on the special orders of Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan.

The IGP said that an Eagle Squad of 1,000 police personnel has also been added to it, which will act as a first responder. The basic purpose of the Pukaar-15 is to facilitate the citizens are at their doorstep.

Citizens will now call Pukaar-15 in any emergency and the nearest Eagle Squad will arrive as the first responder. Subsequently, the staff of the concerned police station will arrive at the scene, write down all the data and circumstances of the complainant and will register the First Information Report (FIR) on the spot. The officer will also provide a copy of FIR to the complainant.

The IGP Islamabad said that the Federal Minister for Interior had directed the revamping of Safe City and reforms in the police. He said that funds have been sanctioned for the coverage of Safe City which will be increased from 30% to 100%. The main purpose of all these reforms is to solve the issues of the public at their doorsteps. Agencies

**Health Minister calls for adopting COVID preventive measures**

*Qadir Patel emphasizes importance of social distancing, mask-wearing, expressing concern over increasing number of Corona cases*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel on Monday emphasized the importance of social distancing and mask-wearing, expressing concern over increasing number of Corona cases in the country.

Addressing a press conference, he said that keeping in view the current COVID-19 situation and considering the case positivity ratio of 4.6% in the last 24 hours, all concerned stakeholders had been asked to remain alert and vigilant.

He said that as per data, the daily death ratio had reached to 1.5% as one or two deaths were being occurred daily while five percent patients were on ventilator. As many as 176 more patients got admission in hospitals during the last 24 hours.

He said that more Coronavirus cases were being reported throughout the country. He added, considering the situation,



SOPs had been issued for offices and more focus was on its implementation side. He said that overall 80% eligible population was fully vaccinated and the government had advised all provinces and regions to administer booster doses on a priority basis to further improve protection against COVID-19 transmission.

Patel said that as per directions of the Prime Minister, special instructions had been issued to the Sindh government as more cases were being reported from Karachi and asked them to increase testing facility besides taking various measures to

control the disease.

He said that a daily-base meeting was being held at National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) to closely monitor the situation and the apprised that mostly cases being reported were from BA.5 subvariant.

Patel said that special instructions had been issued to the provinces to ensure resources are available to manage any emergency like isolation center etc. and added that they had been asked to contact with the federal government in case of any need.

He said that discussion was being held with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to exactly know the demand and supply situation and manage any gap.

The minister also highlighted the need to strictly follow the guidelines for the management of markets for Eid-ul-Adha and also asked the citizens to avoid unnecessary movement during Eid days in crowded places.

**BISP to have 5,00,000 more beneficiaries: Shazia Marri**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministry for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri said that 500,000 more people from Balochistan province will be included in Benazir Income Support

Program (BISP) which would cover sixty five to seventy percent of the population.

Addressing a presser here, the federal minister announced to establish more BISP Centers in the province and said. "A total of 25 mobile units will be engaged for execution of BISP operations till the time".

Shazia Marri said that the present government has increased the budgetary allocations for the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division up to Rs. 372.32 billion which is 43.2 percent more than the previous budget,

considering the prevailing situation in the country.

She said that BISP has proved as the most successful and strong social protection intervention in the country. The amount of Rs. 364 billion has been allocated for the BISP while Rs. 6 billion will be utilized for the schemes of Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

Shazia Marri said that around eight million people are getting assistance under the Benazir Kafalat and other schemes which would be increased up to nine million this year and ten million till the next year budget.

She said that around three million children were getting Benazir Educational Stipends which would be increased up to five million soon while the budgetary allocations have been increased from Rs. 20

billion to Rs. 36 billion.

About the Benazir Nashonuma program, Shazia Marri revealed that Nashonuma Centers will be established in all districts of the country this year through the increased allocation of Rs. 21 billion to address the issue of issue of malnutrition amongst the children.

On Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship Program, she said that so far 92,000 scholarships have been granted under the program while 10,000 additional students will be included in the program with increased allocation amount during this year.

The scholarships were granted to those students having family income of less than Rs. 45000 monthly however the income slab for this scholarship is proposed

to be increased up to 80,000 rupees keeping in view the inflation and economic woes.

The minister said that a dynamic registry of BISP will also be prepared that will update the socio-economic status of the BISP beneficiaries.

Criticizing the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf led government for the worse economic situation due to the ineffective policies; Shazia Marri said the coalition government is striving to bring the country out of economic crisis.

For this purpose, the government is compelled to take some difficult decisions to stabilize economy and the Finance Minister, Miftah Ismail is working hard to put the economy on right track. APP



Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at Ministry of Law in Islamabad on Monday.

**Funeral prayer in absentia for late students of IIUI offered**



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayer in absentia for the departed souls of the students of International Islamic university (IIU) who lost their lives in the accident, was offered here at the Faisal Masjid after Namaz e Asr on Monday.

The funeral prayer in absentia was attended by the Member University's Board of Governors (BoG) and Acting Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court Dr. Syer Muhammad Anwar, Rector IIUI, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Vice President Administration and Finance, Dr. N. B. Jumani, Vice President Academics, Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Director President office, Dr. Ali Metab Alahmri, Additional Director President office, Mr. Abdulah Aldousri, university Provost Dr. Ibrar Anver, Director Students Affairs Dr. Tauqeer Sargana, Deans, officials of university administration, faculty members, staff, students and residents of the twin cities. The funeral prayer in absentia was led by Director General, Dawah Academy Dr. Muhammad Ilyas.

On the occasion, Dr. Masoom Yasinzai said that every heart is sad as the university mourns the death of its beloved students. He said it is indeed an irreparable loss and this tragic news is painful. He said he would visit all the families of late students to share the grief.

IIUI President Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, in his condolence message, expressed sorrow and grief on the incident saying that it is indeed an irreparable loss to the IIUI family. He said a reference in the memory of the late students shall be held at university.

**South Korean Pop Culture**

**Korean Embassy organizes 2022 K-Pop Festival**

*The audience enthusiastically enjoyed the final event of the Pakistan edition of the K-Pop World Festival*

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan organized the 2022 K-pop Festival at Lok Virsa Islamabad.

Around 15 selected candidates participated in the singing and dancing events and above 500 audiences were presented to this event.

The event was held in Pakistan every year and it aimed to give a chance to K-Pop fans in Pakistan to show their skills and love for the Korean wave commonly known as 'Hallyu' that has swept around the world.

Speaking of the occasion, the chief guest Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea expressed his gratitude towards the participants and appreciated their hard work.

In closing remarks, the ambassador congratulated the performers of the K-Pop festival and the winners of the event. He was highly impressed by the multitalented participants and enthusiastic audience. He also appreciated the hard work of the Korean Embassy staff in conducting the K-pop festival successfully.

As per judgment in the dance category, Warda won the 1st prize and in the singing competition, Diya Amin who



performed Drunk-dazed won the 1st prize. The winner may have a chance to participate in a fully-funded main round of the K-Pop festival in Korea.

Dozens of teams had auditioned for the festival, out of which 15 teams were selected to perform in the final.

The audience enthusiastically enjoyed the final event of the Pakistan edition of the K-Pop World Festival. People could be seen dancing and singing along with the contestants and thrilled



by the impressive performances. The Judges of the event were Ms. Natasha Humera Ejaz, Syed

Faizan Ahab, and Ms. Zainab Qaiserani. South Korean pop culture is



Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea was highly impressed by multitalented participants and enthusiastic audience

slowly engulfing the globe like a tidal wave and growing popular in Pakistan as well.

The phenomenon of the Korean Wave or Hallyu as it is called in Korean is an umbrella term for Korean television dramas, fashion, food, and music; the power of Korean culture encompasses the popularity of these



facets and is interlinked with each other.

Owing to the exemplar attached to hard work and perfection in Korean society, the South Korean music industry is worth a whopping \$5 billion showcasing its multi-talented musical sensations as the best in their league.

It is thus evident why K-pop (or South Korean pop music)

has quickly emerged as one of the most successful music genres in the world to date, with pop groups working tirelessly in studios to synchronize dance routines, practice their vocals to reach world-class perfection and offer a unique blend of melodious, addictive tunes that are taking the world by storm.

Spokesman photos by Ghulam Farid

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
**Islamabad Office:** Rose Plaza, 1-8 Markaz.  
**Karachi office:** Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
**Lahore Office:** 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
**Email:** spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
**Whatsapp:** 0346-5008408

# Marshall Plan for Middle East

**Ronald S. Lauder**

US President Joe Biden is about to embark on what might be the most important trip of his presidency so far. He will visit the oil-rich Middle East, in particular Saudi Arabia, to convey to the Kingdom the fact that it remains a strong ally and that the entire region is still vital to US strategic interests. I believe this visit presents an even greater opportunity that the President should consider, which could solve one of the longest-running historical conflicts one that is preventing stronger partnerships and long-term peace in the region. I am referring to the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. A growing number of Arab leaders are saying in private that they would very much like to take the same steps toward reconciliation with Israel that we witnessed with the Abraham Accords in 2020, but that they cannot do so until a solution is reached with the Palestinians. One official I met went so far as to say he would be happy if he at least "saw a greater effort on the Israeli side."

We have also heard public statements of a kind never voiced in the past. In a stun-

ning interview with Al Arabiya in 2020, veteran Saudi diplomat Prince Bandar bin Sultan, a former ambassador to the US, spoke candidly about the mistakes made by Palestinian leaders over the years in failing to accept Israel's peace proposals. A recent secret military summit that took place in Egypt between the US Central Command and Israeli and Arab military officials is another indication of the changing attitudes due to the unifying threat from Iran. It might seem counter-intuitive, given the decades of failed peace efforts, but I believe this is exactly the right time to offer the Palestinians a new initiative — one that they cannot turn down. What I am suggesting is a "Marshall Plan" that would offer the next generation of Palestinians a future of wealth, success and self-reliance, rather than the dismal prospects of the past.

The original Marshall Plan, named after US Secretary of State George C. Marshall, formed the basis for rebuilding a shattered Europe after the Second World War and has been used ever since as a model for healing other conflicts. This is because it might have been the most successful foreign policy initiative in history. It accomplished many things at

once. It rebuilt and modernized European industry destroyed during the war and it restored the confidence of an entire, demoralized continent. But it's most important benefit was that it helped pacify Europe, which in the space of less than 40 years had endured two world wars that killed more than 100 million human beings.

If peace between the Israelis and Palestinians seems intractable, we should bear in mind that the strong, stable Europe we have known for the past seven decades was never a forgone conclusion after the Second World War. Just as the Marshall Plan put Europe on a sound financial footing, the Palestinian plan should focus on the creation of small businesses, home building, hotels, restaurants and job creation that would offer a positive future to the next generation. A fixed sum of money could be given to young entrepreneurs to create new businesses, which would be closely monitored. If they prove to be viable but need a financial boost after a year, another small infusion could be given. In other words, provide Palestinians with all the things that made Israel and other countries financially viable, which would help create a new and successful Palestine.

Within three-to-five years, I believe per capita wealth would double annually. The wealthier a future Palestinian nation becomes, the more likely it is that it could be the viable, successful country it should be — and every country in the region would benefit from this change. The funding could be shared by the US, Europe, Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East, including Israel which, along with the Palestinians, would be the chief beneficiary. Israel is one of the leading high-tech incubators in the world. Younger Palestinians know this and are very interested in being involved in this sector. Palestinian parents would have to decide whether their hatred of Israel is so strong that they would prefer their children to grow up in poverty and die as "martyrs" — or share in a better economic future with their Jewish neighbors and have fuller lives and happier families.

In the past there has not always been adequate accountability in terms of the aid money given to Palestinians. The new plan would have to be closely monitored by an organization that is trusted by all sides, which would keep an eye on where the money goes and how it is used. Many of the details still have to be worked out, as problems are

sure to arise. But issues cropped up with the original Marshall Plan and had to be ironed out as it progressed. Nothing ever runs completely smoothly, especially when dealing with long-standing and visceral hatreds; there was enough animosity between Britain, France and Germany immediately after 1945 to fill volumes. If those countries were able to focus on a brighter, shared future then that is the model we can use today.

The Marshall Plan focused on bridge builders. I know there are bridge builders in the Middle East right now. I have met them. I know they want to move forward. In the end, the Marshall Plan did not help Europe alone, it helped the entire world. In the same way, a new future for Palestinians and Israelis would have benefits that extend far beyond the immediate region. President Biden and his team have, with their upcoming visit to the Middle East, a moment in which to create the same kind of opportunity for peace in a troubled region that the Marshall Plan represented 75 years ago. It is a moment that could change the world for the better.

*The writer is President of the World Jewish Congress. Courtesy Arab News*

## Climate Goals

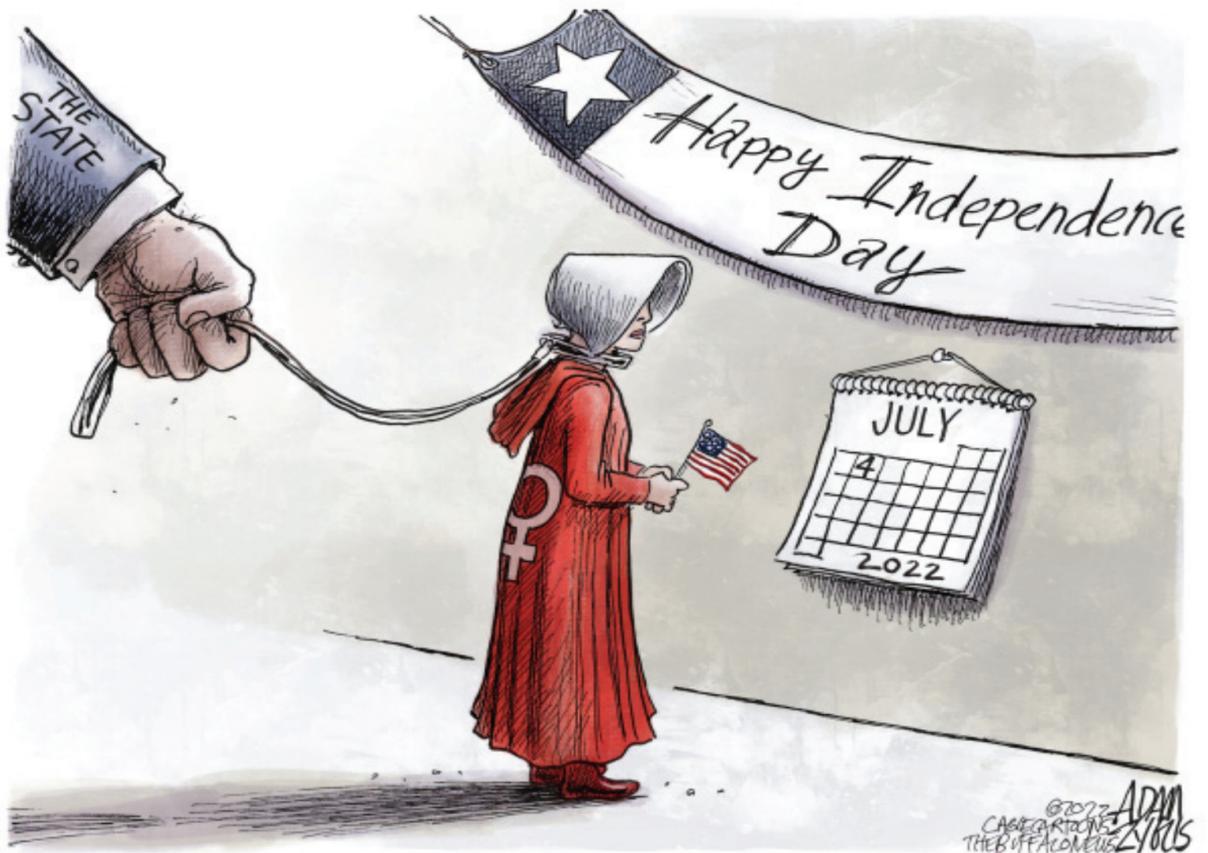
The global aviation industry has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This commitment brings the industry in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5C goal. Climate change is the greatest threat facing our societies and achieving net-zero emissions will be a huge challenge as the expected scale of the industry in 2050 will require the mitigation of nearly 1.8 gigatonnes of carbon. To fulfill aviation's net-zero commitment, current estimates are for sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) to account for 65% of aviation's carbon mitigation in 2050. That would require an annual production capacity of 449bn litres. Investments are in place to expand SAF annual production from the current 125mn litres to 5bn by 2025. With effective government incentives, production could reach 30bn litres by 2030, which would be a tipping point for SAF production and utilisation. In 2021, irrespective of price (SAF is between two and four times the price of conventional jet fuel), airlines have purchased every drop of the 125mn litres of SAF that was available. And already more than 38 countries have SAF-specific policies that clear the way for the market to develop. Taking their cue from these policy measures, airlines have entered into \$17bn of forward-purchasing agreements for SAF.

Further investment in production needs support from the right policies, according to the International Air Transport Association, the global body of airlines. This would boost supply and drive down costs. Electricity production through solar or wind power faced similar hurdles as these technologies replaced fossil fuels. With effective policy incentives, both are now affordable and widely available. By applying similar incentive-based policies to SAF, governments can support global SAF production to reach 30bn litres by the end of the decade. This would be a tipping point as it would send a clear signal to the market that SAF is playing its intended long-term role in aviation's decarbonisation and encourage investments to drive up production and drive down the price.

The market for SAF needs stimulation on the production side. The United States is setting an example for others to follow. Its SAF production is expected to reach 11bn litres in 2030 on the back of heavy government incentives. Europe, on the other hand, is the example not to follow. Under its Fit for 55 initiative, the EU is planning to mandate that airlines uplift 5% SAF at every European airport by 2030. Decentralising production will delay the development of economies of scale. And forcing the land transport of SAF will reduce the environmental benefit of using SAF.

To provide the right set of consistent policies and long-term stability needed for investments, the global aviation industry has called upon all governments to support the adoption of a long term climate goal for air transport at the 41st Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) this September, aligned with industry commitments. Undoubtedly, this climate goal is critical to back up the industry's decarbonisation ambitions and would provide a global multilateral framework for action without distorting competition.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity announced that the final part of the summit, led by host nation China, is now scheduled to take place in Canada from December 5-17. The talks have been postponed several times due to Covid-19, with China finally agreeing that the second part of the summit should be held in Montreal, as it grapples with the pandemic. The first in-person negotiations in two years held in Geneva in March left many environmentalists frustrated by slow progress, with governments realising an extra session in Kenya was needed this week to land a deal by the end of the year.



## Lessons & Opportunities

# Contextualizing Commonalities between South, Korea & Pakistan

**Dr. Malik Hasan, Ph.D IR**

South Korea is an East Asian country encompassing an area of 100,210 sq. km is geo-politically located on Southern half Korean peninsula having 3,358 islands in south including Jeju Island. It is considered as an island nation as its only land link is with its arch nuclear rival; North Korea in its north. It is bounded by Yellow Sea, Sea of Japan and East China in east, west and south respectively. South Korea is between regional powers like China, Russia and Japan that are already asserting to influence the global and regional politico-economic mosaic which has transformed South Korea in to economic-military battle ground primarily between Washington and Beijing.

It is pertinent to comprehend that Pakistan being a geo-political manoeuvre space between China, Central Asia, Europe and Africa has also suffered the scars of Cold War and is still sacrificing between Washington and Beijing. It is pertinent to understand that unlike South Korea, Pakistan could not maintain the balance to find the opportunities out of the battle grounds. While being involved in the wars of others Islamabad had to assert much more for continuity of its policies thus could not capitalize its geo-political manoeuvre space hence it will be vital for Islamabad to accrue benefits from China and US.

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

seas while ROK maintains it only to be 3 NM.

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

ROK-Japan relations are at their lowest point in years due to maritime dispute over a group of islets, including Liancourt, Ieodo, Parangdo and Suyan Rocks. It is imperative to note that despite multi-dimensional conflicts ROK is maintaining impressive trade and economic relations with Japan due to a merited and sincere hedging policy, which should also be followed by Islamabad to strengthen its economy by balancing its relations with China and US. Despite its trade dependency on Beijing, Seoul has joined NATO's Cyber Defence Group in May 2022 and has also attended NATO Summit in Madrid from 28th to 30th June 2022. ROK has also ventured to be part of US led anti-China Indo Pacific Economic Forum on 23 May 2022. All such diplomatic advancements aim at expanding engagement between Seoul and QUAD nations against Beijing.

In pursuance to its New North Policy Seoul is concentrating on China, Russia and Central Asian Republics to advance its diplo-economic interests. Emerging defence relations with



India and US once USA has already deployed 28,000 troops and much US desired Jeju Civilian-Military Complex Port has already been operational since 26 Feb 2016; ROK has adopted a New South Policy to add India in to its ASEAN allies. Hence it is vital for Islamabad also to enhance and deepen its diplomatic influence pragmatically, sincerely and continuously despite its diplo-economic limitations.

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

USD from Pakistan.

South Korea and Pakistan have joined hands in ventures such as Kia and Hyundai vehicles as well as Samsung mobile phones. In hydropower sector, two plants are already operating and providing electricity in Pakistan and four projects worth 3 billion USD are under way in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) has provided a loan worth 500 million USD for road construction and IT centers in Islamabad and Karachi. However from 2022 onwards EDCF loan to Pakistan will be increased to 1 billion USD for five years hence enhancing cooperation in infra-business networking. It is imperative that with just 10 billion USD as foreign reserves Islamabad should convince Seoul to make investments in its Special Economic Zones.

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

*The writer is Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK)*

# Putin declares victory in embattled Donbas region of Luhansk

Ukrainian President says his forces will fight their way back

POKROVSK: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared victory in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, one day after Ukrainian forces withdrew from their last remaining bulwark of resistance in the province.



Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in a televised meeting Monday that Russian forces had taken control of Luhansk, which together with the neighboring Donetsk province makes up Ukraine's industrial heartland of Donbas.

Shoigu told Putin that "the operation" was completed on Sunday after Russian troops overran the city of Lysychansk, the last stronghold of Ukrainian forces in Luhansk.

Putin, in turn, said that the military units "that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory" in Luhansk, "should rest, increase their combat capabilities."

Putin's declaration came as Russian forces tried to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine after the Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk

the Donetsk region, about half of which is controlled by Russia. The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday.

An intelligence briefing Monday from the British Defense Ministry supported the Ukrainian military's assessment, noting that Russian forces will "now almost certainly" switch to capturing Donetsk. The briefing said the conflict in Donbas has been "grinding and attritional," and is unlikely to change in the coming weeks.

While the Russian army has a massive advantage in firepower, military analysts say that it doesn't have any significant superiority in the number of troops. That means Moscow lacks resources for quick land gains and can only advance slowly, relying on heavy artillery and rocket barrages to soften

Ukrainian defenses.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made capturing the entire Donbas a key goal in his war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month. Moscow-backed separatists in Donbas have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014 when they declared independence from Kyiv after the Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. Russia formally recognized the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the withdrawal, but vowed that Ukrainian forces will fight their way back.

As Moscow pushed its offensive across Ukraine's east, areas in western Russia came under attack Sunday in a revival of sporadic apparent Ukrainian strikes across the border. The governor of the Belgorod region in Western Russia said fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile killed four people Sunday. In the Russian city of Kursk, two Ukrainian drones were shot down, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

## French president reshuffles Cabinet

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron rearranged his Cabinet on Monday in an attempt to adjust to a new political reality following legislative elections in which his centrist alliance failed to win a majority in the parliament.



The latest government reshuffle comes six weeks after Macron appointed Elisabeth Borne to lead a new government coalition at the outset of the president's second term. It's partly a result of rules that Macron — and French presidents before him — had set ahead of the parliamentary vote: Only ministers who retain their seats will remain in government posts.

Three out of Macron's 15 ministers failed to be

re-elected to the parliament in a two-round vote last month, and they were replaced on Monday. Christophe Bechu is the new environment minister and Francois Braun is in charge of health. Herve Berville is the secretary of state for the sea.

Macron's Together! alliance won the most seats

in the National Assembly in the election last month but fell 44 seats short of a majority in France's most powerful house of parliament as voters opted for the leftist Nupes coalition and the far-right National Rally of Marine Le Pen.

With the most seats at the National Assembly, his government still has the

ability to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators. To prevent the deadlock, Macron's Renaissance party and allies may try to negotiate on a case-by-case basis with lawmakers from the center-left and from the conservative party.

Macron was re-elected president in April on an agenda including measures to boost purchasing power, tax cuts and raising the minimum retirement age from 62 to 65.

Last week, the National Assembly elected another Macron loyalist, Yael Braun-Pivet, as the new speaker — the first woman to hold the post. She was elected after her predecessor lost his seat in the parliament at the election.

## India likely to shift G-20 summit from Srinagar to Delhi

SRINAGAR: In view of objection raised by some G-20 countries as a result of diplomatic efforts by Pakistan, the venue of the G-20 summit is likely to be shifted from previously announced Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to New Delhi in India.

Though the Modi government has not yet confirmed the development, reports in the Indian media suggest the key infrastructure is being built in Delhi's Pragati Maidan.

The announcement by the Modi government to host the event in disputed Jammu and Kashmir triggered diplomatic tensions as some important G-20 countries including China not supported the idea.

"India is expected to host the G-20 summit in Delhi, while a number of states have been asked to suggest venues for about 100 'preparatory' meetings expected to be held between December 2022 and November 2023 during India's G-20 presidency," Chennai based newspaper, The Hindu quoted officials saying.

"Construction for conference halls, and new hotels to house the 20 heads of state and thousands of officials and delegates is already underway, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a nearly Rs 1,000-crore Integrated Transit Corridor Project this month to connect the Pragati Maidan headquarters to other key locations."

Within a day after the announcement was made, Islamabad sharply reacted and announced it will approach the G-20 members to reject the venue. Soon, China too opposed the holding of G-20 meeting in disputed Jammu and Kashmir.

The Hindu reported that the "confusion emerged" after the letter issued by Jammu and Kashmir Principal Secretary Manoj Kumar Dwivedi appeared in the media, dated June 23 sanctioning the constitution of a 5-member committee for the "overall coordination of G-20 meetings" in Jammu and Kashmir. It was followed by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha announcing it to be a "matter of privilege" to host the G-20 summit.

## UN rights mission finds 'probable' mass graves in Libya

GENEVA: A UN-appointed mission to Libya said on Monday there are "probable mass graves" yet to be investigated, possibly as many as 100, in a town where hundreds of bodies have already been found and it urged Tripoli to continue searching.



The report to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council this week details how a militia run by seven brothers executed and imprisoned hundreds of people between 2016-2020, sometimes keeping them in tiny oven-like structures called "the boxes" which were set alight during interrogations.

The evidence of kidnappings, murder and torture in Tarhouna by the independent Fact-Finding Mission represents one of the most egregious examples of human rights abuses in the turbulent period since long-ruling Muammar Qaddafi's ousting in 2011.

Among the victims were the disabled as well as women

and children, the 51-page report said.

Based on the testimonies of residents and two site visits, the mission found "reasonable grounds" that the Kaniyat militia committed crimes against humanity. It identified four commanders who participated directly in them.

Already, Libyan authorities have recovered 247 bodies in mass and individual grave sites in the Tarhouna area in Western Libya. Many were still handcuffed and blindfolded.

The mission used satellite imagery showing signs of soil disturbances among other evidence to identify three new likely sites. But there could be many more, it said, citing an existing grave known as 'The Landfill' where just a tiny fraction of the site has been investigated.

"According to insider knowledge, there might still be up to 100 as of yet undiscovered mass graves," the report said.

It is not immediately clear how the findings will reflect on Libyan authorities. Libya's diplomatic mission in Geneva

did not respond for a request for comment.

At one stage, the Kaniyat was aligned with the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord but later with the eastern Libyan National Army led by commander Khalifa Haftar that tried, unsuccessfully, to overthrow the National Accord administration. The militia no longer holds authority in Tarhouna. The surviving leaders of the Kaniyat are mostly believed to have fled to areas of eastern Libya under Haftar's control.

In its conclusions, the FFM calls on Libyan authorities to continue searching for the graves. It also urges them to establish a special tribunal to prosecute international crimes.

However, the report refers to difficulties with cooperation in the past. Diplomats and UN sources told Reuters that Libya had in the past expressed reservations about continuing the mission, which expires this month.

### Since Pandemic

## Saudi Arabia welcomes 1M for biggest Hajj pilgrimage

MAKKAH: White-robed worshippers from across the world have packed the streets of Mecca as Islam's holiest city prepares to host the biggest hajj pilgrimage since the coronavirus pandemic.

Banners welcoming the faithful, including the first international visitors since 2019, festooned squares and alleys, while armed security forces patrolled the ancient city, birthplace of the Prophet Mohammed. "This is pure joy," Sudanese pilgrim Abdel Qader Kheder told AFP in Mecca, ahead of the event expected to start on Wednesday. "I almost can't believe I am here."

"I am enjoying every moment." One million people, including 850,000 from abroad, are allowed at this year's hajj — a key pillar of Islam that all able-bodied Muslims are required to perform at least once — after two years of drastically curtailed numbers due to the pandemic.

At least 650,000 overseas pilgrims have arrived so far in Saudi Arabia, the authorities said Sunday. In 2019, about 2.5 million people took part in the rituals, which include circling the Kaaba, the imposing black cube at Mecca's Grand Mosque, gathering at Mount Arafat and "stoning the devil" in Mina.

The following year, foreigners were barred and worshippers were restricted to just 10,000, rising to 60,000 fully vaccinated Saudi citizens and residents in 2021, to stop the hajj turning into a global super-spreader. One million vaccinated pilgrims under the age of 65 will attend the hajj under strict sanitary conditions, with the Grand Mosque, the holiest site in Islam, scrubbed and disinfected 10 times a day.

Masks are no longer compulsory in most enclosed spaces in Saudi Arabia but they will be mandatory at the Grand Mosque. Pilgrims from abroad will have to submit a negative PCR test result. The Grand Mosque will be "washed 10 times a day... by more than 4,000 male and female workers", with more than 130,000 litres (34,000 gallons) of disinfectant used each time, authorities said. Since the start of the pandemic, Saudi Arabia has registered more than 795,000 coronavirus cases, 9,000 of them fatal, in a population of about 34 million.

Aside from Covid, another challenge is the scorching sun in one of the world's hottest and driest regions, which is becoming even more extreme through the effects of climate change. Although summer has only just begun, temperatures have already topped 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in parts of Saudi Arabia. But for Iraqi pilgrim Ahmed Abdul-Hassan al-Fatlawi, the hot weather is the last thing he thinks of when in Mecca. "I am 60 years old, so it's normal if I get physically tired because of the hot weather, but I am in a state of serenity, and that's all that matters to me," he told AFP.

## Modi govt using state institutions as weapons: Sinha

BANGALORE: The joint candidate of the opposition parties for the presidential election in India, Yashwant Sinha, has said that Modi's fascist Indian government is using Indian investigative agencies like the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Election Commission as well as state governors as a weapon against the opposition.

Yashwant Sinha, a former minister and former leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), told a meeting of the Congress Legislative Party in Bangalore that the BJP government had attacked the country's democratic and secular identity over the past eight years. He said that the Modi government carried out poisonous sectarian propaganda to divide the multi-religious society of the country.

Yashwant Sinha reiterated that the Modi government had no respect for the federal structure of the Constitution and had used the state institutions as weapons against opposition.

## Myanmar hosts regional meeting

BANGKOK: Myanmar's military government on Monday hosted the first high-level regional meeting since the army took power last year with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and counterparts from Mekong Delta nations. State broadcaster MRTV reported that Wang met with his colleagues from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam at the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group meeting held under the theme "Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity" in the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The TV report showed Wang and the other foreign ministers bumping elbows in a show of solidarity before the start of the meeting, but did not provide further details.

## Mongolian PM to visit Singapore

ULAN BATOR: Mongolian Prime Minister Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene will pay an official visit to Singapore from Wednesday to Saturday at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong to boost ties, according to the Mongolian Foreign Ministry.

This will be the first visit to Singapore by a Mongolian prime minister after an interval of 11 years, the ministry said in a press release on Monday.

"It is believed that this visit will make a real contribution to strengthening bilateral friendly relations with Singapore, a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and an influential country in Southeast Asia, promoting political dialogue and expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, economy and others," it said.

## Congo, Rwanda leaders to hold talks

KINSHASA: Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame will meet for talks in the Angolan capital Luanda this week, two Congolese officials and one Rwandan official said on Monday.

The meeting is likely to take place on Tuesday or Wednesday, said the officials, who did not wish to be named.

The two countries have been at diplomatic loggerheads since the M23 rebel group resumed fighting against Congolese troops in the east of the country, near the Rwandan border. Kinshasa accuses Rwanda of backing M23, which Kigali denies.

## Hundreds of protesters in Sudan defy security forces

KHARTOUM: Hundreds of Sudanese protesters demanding an end to military rule took to the streets of the capital Khartoum and its suburbs for a fourth straight day Sunday, witnesses said.

A violent crackdown by security forces during mass rallies on Thursday killed nine people, according to medics, the deadliest day for several months in the long-running protests against a coup last October led by army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

Recent protests have seen crowds burn tires and barricade roads with bricks, while security forces have used live bullets, fired barrages of tear gas canisters and deployed powerful water cannons, according to medics and the United Nations.

Demonstrators are demanding a restoration of the transition to civilian rule that was launched after the 2019 ouster of longtime autocrat Omar Al-Bashir and which the coup derailed.

"We will continue this sit-in until the coup is overturned, and we have a fully civilian government," demonstrator Muayyad Mohamed told AFP in central Khartoum.

The death toll from protest-related violence has reached 114 since last year's coup. The latest fatality came on Saturday when a demonstrator died from wounds sustained at a June 16 rally, according to pro-democracy medics.

"We will not compromise until the goals of our revolution are realized," said Soha, 25, another

protester, who only gave her first name.

"We are here in the street demanding freedom, peace, justice, a civil state and the return of the military to the barracks."

Last year's coup plunged Sudan further into political and economic turmoil that has sent consumer prices spiralling and resulted in life-threatening food shortages.

On Sunday, witnesses reported a heavy deployment of security forces on the streets of Khartoum, including army vehicles and those of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a feared paramilitary unit commanded by Burhan's deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

The RSF incorporated members of the Janjaweed militia, which was accused by rights groups of atrocities during the

conflict that erupted in 2003 in the western region of Darfur.

More recently, the RSF has been accused of taking part in crackdowns on protesters marching against military rule.

The international community has condemned the recent bloodshed, with the UN rights chief urging an independent probe into Thursday's violence. The UN, African Union and regional bloc IGAD have tried to facilitate dialogue between the generals and civilians, but the main civilian factions have boycotted.

On Friday, the three bodies jointly condemned the violence and "the use of excessive force by security forces and lack of accountability for such actions, despite repeated commitments by authorities."



Yasser Arman from Sudan's main civilian bloc the Forces for Freedom and Change on Sunday again expressed opposition to a return to negotiations with the military and its allies.

"The bullets that have cut down protesters have cut down the

political process," he told a press conference, adding, "It's not us who broke it off."

In the restive Darfur region, which has seen a recent resurgence in violence, General Daglo — known as Hemeti — on Sunday called "on all politi-

cal forces, especially the youth," to come to the table.

"Dialogue is the only way to guarantee stability in our country," he said at a ceremony where 2,000 ex-rebels completed their training to join Sudanese security forces.

The integration of former fighters into the Sudanese army and police was part of a 2020 peace deal with rebel groups involved in decades of civil conflict, including in Darfur.

The first of its kind, the cohort "will confront the chaos in Darfur," Daglo said.

Hundreds have been killed in recent months in Darfur, in a renewed spike of violence triggered by disputes mainly over land, livestock and access to water and grazing.

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

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Current                       | Prev. Close            |
| 41,348.19                     | 41,630.35              |
| Day's High                    | Day's Low:             |
| 41,685.69                     | 41,323.42              |
| Index Value                   | Change                 |
| 2,281,118,809                 | -282.16                |
| Percentage                    | Time                   |
| -0.68%                        | 4 Jul, 2022<br>5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value            | Change                  |
| 7,232.65               | +64.00                  |
| Percentage             | Time                    |
| +0.89%                 | 4 Jul, 4:35 pm<br>GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value                       | Change                  |
| 31,097.26                         | +321.83                 |
| Percentage                        | Time                    |
| +1.05%                            | 1 Jul, 5:45 pm<br>GMT-4 |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Index Value                         | Change                  |
| 26,153.81                           | +218.19                 |
| Percentage                          | Time                    |
| +0.84%                              | 4 Jul, 3:15 pm<br>GMT+9 |

| Open Market Forex Rates |        |         |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency                | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar       | 139.48 | 140.73  |
| Bahrain Dinar           | 543.3  | 547.8   |
| Canadian Dollar         | 158.57 | 159.92  |
| China Yuan              | 30.49  | 30.74   |
| Danish Krone            | 28.63  | 28.98   |
| Euro                    | 211    | 213     |
| Hong Kong Dollar        | 26.04  | 26.39   |
| Indian Rupee            | 2.59   | 2.67    |
| Japanese Yen            | 1.38   | 1.42    |
| Kuwaiti Dinar           | 663.47 | 668.47  |
| Malaysian Ringgit       | 46.33  | 46.78   |
| New Zealand \$          | 125.76 | 126.96  |
| Norwegians Krone        | 20.49  | 20.79   |
| Omani Riyal             | 531.29 | 535.79  |
| Qatari Riyal            | 56.12  | 56.62   |
| Saudi Riyal             | 53.2   | 54      |
| Singapore Dollar        | 146.31 | 147.61  |
| Swedish Korona          | 19.77  | 20.07   |
| Swiss Franc             | 213.01 | 214.76  |
| Thai Bhat               | 5.94   | 6.04    |
| U.A.E Dirham            | 55     | 55.85   |
| UK Pound Sterling       | 244.5  | 247.5   |
| US Dollar               | 203.9  | 205.9   |

# Developed countries have pushed world into economic crisis

Russia oil cut to push oil price to \$380, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

SLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the whole world has been pushed into an economic crisis by the developed countries in an attempt to punish Russia.

The majority of the countries are in the race for energy security and food security, while other important issues have been left behind, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that millions of people are falling below the poverty line and the number of insecure people is steadily rising.

Talking to the business community, the

veteran business leader said that rising inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the people, hitting the demand for all commodities except food all over the world, which is wreaking havoc on the productive sector.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that dozens of countries were using the funds allocated for the welfare budget for the purchase of weapons, which was giving rise to human tragedy. Many countries, including the United States, are on the brink of recession, with no prospect of an end to the war, nor have sanc-



tioned against Russia proved productive. A recent report by JPMorgan says a new plan is being hatched to punish Russia, but if Russia, whose economic situation is much better at the moment, cuts its oil production by half a million barrels the price of oil will jump to \$380 spelling a disaster. According to the report, if Russia reduces the supply of oil by three million barrels, its price in the international market will be one hundred and ninety dollars.

He said that any such move by Russia

will destroy the world's economy and starve millions of people. In these circumstances, Western countries should reconsider their policies and lift sanctions on Iran, and Saudi Arabia and other countries should be persuaded to increase oil production.

Pakistan has bought \$20 billion worth of oil and gas last year which could go up to \$30 billion this year worth Rs 6,000 billion in Pakistani currency. The government should provide interest-free loans to the people, shopkeepers and industrialists for solar energy, wind power plants should be set up, corporate farming should be introduced in agriculture and self-sufficiency in agricultural commodities should be achieved.

Sick units should be privatized as ignoring these reforms would be economic suicide.

## ICCI hails govt for suspending market closure policy for Eid shopping



**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has hailed the announcement of federal government to suspend the market closure policy keeping in view the upcoming Eid ul Azha and termed it a very positive and business-friendly decision that would facilitate the people to do Eid shopping with ease and help the traders to boost the business activities. He said this while addressing a meeting of the business

community at ICCI. Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ashfaq Chatha, Faad Farid, Asher Hafeez, Zia Khalid Chaudhry, Mashar Chaudhry, Nasira Ali Naina and others were present at the occasion.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir thanked the Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for giving a kind consideration to the demands of the traders for lifting timing restrictions for Eid ul Azha and suspending market closure policy in the Capital Territory until July 10, 2022. He said this good gesture will allow

the people to do Eid shopping easily and enjoy Eid festivities in markets.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI also thanked the Prime Minister and Interior Minister for showing concerns to the issues of traders and allowing them to keep their shops open for later hours for Eid shopping. They hoped that the government would always take such decisions in consultation with stakeholders to save the economy from unnecessary troubles.

## Maheen Salman nominated as Chairperson of GVTC Landhi

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: The Sindh government has nominated Maheen Salman, Senior Vice President of KATI, as the chairperson of GVTC Girls of Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (STEVA-IMC), on the occasion President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam expressed great happiness and praised Maheen Salman for the honorary post. He said that Maheen Salman is a talented businesswoman, and the nomination of GVTC Girl as Chairperson is an acknowledgment of her abilities.

KATI President Salman Aslam said that Maheen Salman Korangi is constantly striving to promote women entrepreneurs and increase equal opportunities. Maheen Salman also has a lot of services in environmental protection and research. Salman Aslam said that he is sure that with



his appointment as chairperson, GVTC Girls' organization will double day and quadruple night.

In addition, President KATI congratulated the other members of the organization on their election. He said that it was an honor for KATI that two officials of KATI have been selected for the key role in Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority. Earlier, former SVP Junaid Naqi was nominated as the Chairman of GVTC Girls Korangi. And now the Senior Vice President Maheen Salman has been appointed as the Chairperson of GVTC Girls Landhi.

## FPCCI partners with LUMS for Indigenous Solutions

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has emphasized on the need to have indigenous, research-based and data-driven solutions to business, economic, trade and industrial problems of Pakistan. He was speaking at the occasion of an MoU signing ceremony between FPCCI and LUMS - aimed at tangibly promoting industry-academia linkages through policy advocacy and research.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that FPCCI is the apex trade body of Pakistan and LUMS is the foremost business school of the country; and, we have committed to complementarily converge our data, technical, research, industrial linkages and academic resources for the common objective of promoting research, analysis and publications for the business community and economic growth of Pakistan.

President FPCCI stated that agriculture & food security, taxation reforms, issues of trade & tariffs, import substitution, industrial productivity, energy prices & security, fiscal policy & budgetary deficit, external account management, cost & ease of doing business, promotion of SMEs, employment generation and mon-



KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is presenting the official crest to Dr. Fiaz Ahmad Chaudhry. Younus Dagher, Chairman of FPCCI's Policy Advisory Board and Dr. Arshad Ahmad, VC LUMS, were also present on the occasion.

etary policy formulation require immediate attention of the industry & academia to come forward with the objective and workable solutions for the policy-making institutions.

Younus Dagher, chairman of FPCCI's policy advisory board, elaborated that FPCCI & LUMS alliance has the potential to provide world-class policy advice for

Pakistan based on latest research & analysis tools. He specifically emphasized the need to utilize up-to-date and reliable data as that can be the real differentiation factor in making the joint efforts bear fruits. He also added that policy advocacy should be proactive in order to provide the input of stakeholders in a timely manner to be productive and result-oriented.

## SMEs backbone of economy

### SMEs have to be promoted to eliminate the gap in imports and export: FPCCI

**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the economy; SMEs have to be promoted to eliminate the gap in export and imports. The increase in exports will improve the current economic situation; the government should have given an industrial package in the current budget.

These views were expressed by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi and former President Mian Anjum Nisar while addressing the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new building of the Daroghawala Industry Owners Association here at Lahore.

They further said that the government should take concrete steps to increase exports and develop Information Technology and other sectors. The SMEs sector will have to provide facilities. If small industries develop, Pakistan will develop.

facilities. If small industries develop, Pakistan will develop. They further said that the government should take concrete steps to increase exports and acquire Information Technology and other sectors. The SMEs sector will have to provide facilities. If small industries develop, Pakistan will develop.

Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi said that non-traditional products and new markets would have to be found to increase exports. Industries should be promoted for import substitution.

Nadeem urged the government to make water reservoirs for the betterment of agriculture in the country. There is the country's most severe water crisis due to which rice and cotton crops have not been fully cultivated. The tragedy is that Pakistan is importing agricultural commodities despite being an agrarian country; he added that we have to focus on growing the imported agricultural commodities in the country.

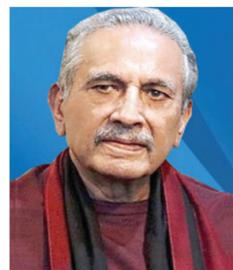
## Many countries building N power plants due to expensive oil: Dr. Shahid

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Monday said due to the unbearable price of oil and gas, many countries have planned to get electricity through nuclear sources.

The US, EU and other countries are returning to nuclear power in a big way after decades of gap to reduce dependence on expensive oil and gas that can endanger the world, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the developed world also wants to reduce dependence on Russian oil and gas which may result in a disaster as only one country France is building 14 nuclear reactors.



The business leader said that many countries had shut down their nuclear power plants after the accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima.

For a long, many nuclear power facilities were closed the number of experts in this industry also declined and now most of the experts have either retired

or died.

Now due to the lack of experts, rehabilitation of old nuclear power plants and construction of new power plants is a dangerous move which must be reconsidered before investing billions of dollars in this.

"World should not play with fire in an effort to get cheap electricity," said Mr. Butt adding that nuclear power plants do not spread pollution, but nuclear waste has to be disposed of very carefully, which can spread radiation for hundreds of years.

He said that nuclear energy is being given priority over solar power and wind energy because it provides an uninterrupted power supply. Solar energy requires a clear sky while wind energy requires high winds while nuclear power plants do

not have any such problem.

Hopes of a fall in oil prices have dashed, leading to an increase in the race for nuclear energy, which could be dangerous for the world's future, he observed.

It would be better to use renewable energy sources instead of relying on old nuclear technology which is very dangerous, he said.

Nuclear power is a highly complex, expensive and dangerous way to boil water. Nuclear power does nothing more than provide a high-tech and extremely dangerous way to boil water to create steam to turn turbines and if nuclear power plants fail, causing vast human and environmental damage while the burden is shifted to the public.



Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited (KMBL) has acquired the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) Compliance Certification - an international standard for payment card and data security via PCI QSA Firm Risk Associates, which is a certification body of Payment Card Industry Security Standard Council (PCI SSC). This certification recognizes KMBL's high financial security standards. Pictured here are Mr. Ghalib Nishtar, President & CEO KMBL, Dr. Aftab Rizvi, CEO Risk Associates, and other members of both the teams.

## NdcTech joins hands with CaterpillHERs to empower women

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: NdcTech, Pakistan's leading IT & Consulting company, has joined hands with CaterpillHERs to provide remote based education to female freelancers looking to kick start their career from scratch.

Under this CSR initiative, the selected women who are seeking to head start their career or business will be placed in a 12-week acceleration cohort. These participants will get one-on-one mentorship and professional guidance from seasoned IT professionals, allowing them to potentially transform their skillset and have successful and sustainable careers.

NdcTech is a forward-looking organization with one of its missions to support Women in Technology by creating equal learning and growth opportunities for them. Therefore, as a part of its CSR initiatives, the company has collaborated with CaterpillHERs encouraging female freelancers to excel & unlock their potential.

## Meta's 'Chai Chats' series to foster digital literacy



**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Meta, in collaboration with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), has launched an educational series, 'Chai Chats' to create awareness among young Pakistani Facebook users on digital literacy and social cohesion through improved digital experiences.

The series features a close-knit group of university friends encountering difficult online situations which they overcome with grace, friendship, and humour to inspire and persuade youth to adopt a positive and responsible online behaviour.

# Babar backs fast bowlers to perform better in SL conditions

Pakistan-Sri Lanka will play two Test matches this month

LAHORE: Captain Babar Azam has said that Pakistani fast bowlers will do well despite spin-friendly pitches in Sri Lanka.

Addressing a pre-departure to Sri Lanka tour presser at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Monday, he said Pakistan fast bowlers had performed consistently during the past years, adding he backed them to do well during the Sri Lanka tour.

Babar-led Pakistan side is due to leave for Sri Lanka on July 6 to play two test matches in Galle and Colombo between July 16 and July 29. The two test match rubber is part of the ICC World Test Championship.

Defending selection of the spin-trio of Yasir Shah, Muhammad Nawaz and Nauman Ali, he said Yasir Shah's return had brought loads of experience to the team in the spin department. Nauman Ali and Muhammad Nawaz's presence will further strengthen the spin bowling options, he said adding that Pakistani spin-trio was capable of exploiting the



conditions in Sri Lanka.

"Yasir Shah is a changed bowler and has a good economy against Sri Lanka while he has worked overtime to remain focused over the past few months," Babar said.

To a query, he said: "The team is visiting Sri Lanka after 2015 and we are familiar with the conditions and hope

to do well in the batting and bowling departments.

"About batting prowess, Babar said "batsmen are in good form, and we will put up our best in the Sri Lankan conditions". He said "if the team plays under the given plan, we are sure we will do well against a young Lankan team".

To a question, Babar admitted every

team proves dangerous in home conditions; however, he said, they would chalk out a plan to get 20 wickets. "We will keep to our strengths and play according to our batting strength." About Shoaib Akhter's visit of the camp in Rawalpindi, Babar said the former fast-bowling ace spoke to the fast bowlers and backed them up to become world-beaters.

On the rain forecast during the upcoming series, he said "weather is not in our hand; what we can do is to make a good team combination and play according to the situation". He, however, said the final eleven would be picked according to the SL conditions.

About the absence of off-spinner Sajid Khan from the team touring Sri Lanka, he said Sajid Khan was remodelling his action and he had been given time to work.

On Afridi's long batting session, Babar Azam said Shaheen Shah Afridi is very keen to improve his batting in the nets, adding that 30-35 runs from a bowler give an edge to teams in matches.

## ICC Men's Player of Month nominees unveiled

DUBAI: Three top performers from New Zealand's tour of England have been short-listed for the ICC Men's Player of the Month for June 2022.

Jonny Bairstow, England: The stylish England batter is enjoying a brilliant run with the bat in the longest format this year. In the three-match ICC World Test Championship series against New Zealand, Bairstow accumulated 394 runs at an average of 78.80. He struck two centuries and one half-century and was the third-leading run-scorer in the series.

In the second Test at Trent Bridge, he recorded the second-fastest Test hundred for England, reaching the mark in just 77 balls. His sensational knock of 136 from 92 balls helped his side take an unassailable lead of 2-0 in the series. He won the Player of the Match award for his crucial contribution.

There was no stopping Bairstow. In the next outing at Headingley, he smashed



England's second-fastest 150 in Tests off 144 balls. He made 162 (157 balls) in the first innings and followed that up with an unbeaten 71 (44 balls).

Daryl Mitchell, New Zealand: New Zealand's middle-order batter Daryl Mitchell was not only among the runs, but also made and broke records. In the three Tests against England, he

scored 538 runs at an exceptional average of 107.60, including three centuries and two fifties. He topped the run-getters chart for the series and became only the fifth Black Caps player to make centuries in three consecutive Tests.

Joe Root, England: The former England captain is in the form of his life in red-ball cricket. During the

series against New Zealand, he went past the 10,000 Test runs milestone, becoming only the second England batter to achieve the feat after Alastair Cook and 14th overall in the all-time list.

He also became the joint-youngest to reach the 10k mark – both Root and Cook were of the exact same age when they got to the landmark – 31 years and 157 days.

ie at the par-3 17th and a closing par. "I got off to a good start, tried to give some back, but I kept my head in it and tried to stay focused," Poston said.

"I was just trying to breathe. There were a little more nerves than the first three days and I was having to battle through them. It's nice to know I can." Poston, who matched his PGA career low with a 62 on Thursday, took his only prior PGA victory at the 2019 Wyndham Championship. "You just never know if you're going to do it again and to do it this week is awesome," Poston said, his voice breaking after 72 holes with a stoic expression. World number 99 Poston had three prior top-10 efforts this season, including a runner-up finish at last week's Travelers Championship.

Poston, the solo leader since Friday's third hole, led by three when the day began and built his lead to five strokes before it shrank to one over Grillo on the back nine. But the South American missed a six-foot putt and made bogey at the par-3 12th to stumble two back while Poston hit the flagstick on a 67-foot birdie putt at 12 and tapped in for par to stay two ahead. Poston found a greenside bunker at the par-4 13th but sank a clutch 10-foot par putt.

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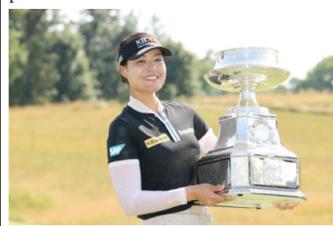
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## Poston completes wire-to-wire win in Illinois

WASHINGTON: JT Poston became the first wire-to-wire winner at the John Deere Classic in 30 years on Sunday to capture his second career US PGA Tour title and book his British Open debut.

The 29-year-old American fired a two-under par 69 to finish 72 holes on 21-under 263 at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois. That delivered Poston a three-stroke triumph over Argentina's Emiliano Grillo and South African Christian Bezuidenhout, who joined the American in booking berths at St Andrews when the Open starts July 14. "I can't wait," Poston said. "I've always wanted to play in one of those at any venue. For the first one to be at St Andrews, I can't draw it up any better."

Poston was only the third Deere wire-to-wire winner, the first since South African David Frost in 1992, and just the second PGA wire-to-wire winner this season after Chile's Joaquin Niemann at Riviera. "It is hard, wire to wire, having the lead for that long," Poston said. "It's hard not to think about it." Poston birdied the first three holes, had two bogeys, then parred 10 consecutive holes before a bird-



ie at the par-3 17th and a closing par. "I got off to a good start, tried to give some back, but I kept my head in it and tried to stay focused," Poston said.

"I was just trying to breathe. There were a little more nerves than the first three days and I was having to battle through them. It's nice to know I can." Poston, who matched his PGA career low with a 62 on Thursday, took his only prior PGA victory at the 2019 Wyndham Championship. "You just never know if you're going to do it again and to do it this week is awesome," Poston said, his voice breaking after 72 holes with a stoic expression. World number 99 Poston had three prior top-10 efforts this season, including a runner-up finish at last week's Travelers Championship.

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## Man City seal swoop for Leeds midfielder Phillips

LONDON: Manchester City have signed Leeds midfielder Kalvin Phillips in a £45 million deal (\$53 million), the Premier League champions confirmed on Monday.

City agreed an initial fee of £42 million for the England international, with a further £3 million to be added in potential bonuses. Phillips, who has signed a six-year contract with Pep Guardiola's side, said: "I am absolutely delighted to have joined Manchester City." Guardiola has picked Phillips to bolster his midfield after the departure of long-serving Brazilian Fernandinho at the end of last season.

City negotiated a deal in principle to sign Phillips in June and the transfer has now been officially completed. Phillips, who came through the youth ranks at Leeds, moves to the Etihad Stadium after making 235 appearances for his hometown club over the past eight seasons. "City have again proved to be the best team in the country with an amazing squad and



a manager in Pep Guardiola who is rightly considered to be the finest in the world," Phillips said. "To be able to play under Pep and learn from him and his coaching staff as well as be part of such a fantastic squad is a prospect that I am incredibly excited about "City are a world-class club with world-class staff and facilities and it's a dream come true to have joined the club."

Phillips is City's third close-season arrival after the signings of Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland and Arminia Bielefeld goalkeeper Stefan Ortega Moreno. The 26-year-old came

through the youth ranks at Leeds and played a key part in their promotion back to the Premier League two years ago. He went on to establish himself as an England international, featuring in the run to the European Championship final last year. Following the blockbuster swoop for Haaland, City have again signalled their determination to retain the Premier League title with the Phillips deal. Phillips' arrival came on the day City sold Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus to Arsenal, with City forward Raheem Sterling also linked with a move to Chelsea. "We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome Kalvin to Manchester City," City director of football Txiki Begiristain said.

"He is a player that we have long admired, and at both domestic and international level, he has proved his fantastic ability and quality over the past few seasons. "We feel he will be a superb addition to our squad and that he will complement our game perfectly."

## Djokovic in 13th Wimbledon quarter-final

LONDON: Six-time champion Novak Djokovic reached his 13th Wimbledon quarter-final on Sunday as injury-stricken rival Roger Federer revealed his desire to play at the All England Club "one more time".

Top seed Djokovic, seeking to move level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time champion, defeated Dutch card Tim van Rijthoven, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. "He was very tough. I have never faced him before," said Djokovic after racking up a 25th successive win on grass. "He has a great serve, powerful forehand and nice touch." Earlier Sunday, 20-time major winner Djokovic had seen fifth seed Carlos Alcaraz, his scheduled last-eight opponent, beaten

by Jannik Sinner. The 20-year-old Italian clinched a 6-1, 6-4, 6-7 (8/10), 6-3 win to set up a meeting with the top seed instead. Sinner, who had never won a grass court match before this Wimbledon, is the youngest man in the last-eight since Nick Kyrgios in 2014. "Carlos is a very tough opponent and a nice person. It's always a huge pleasure to play him," said Sinner after making the quarter-finals of a Slam for the third time. Sinner needed six match points to seal the deal while Alcaraz was left to regret failing to convert any of his seven break points. For the first time, play took place on middle Sunday. It has traditionally been a rest day with the exception of a

handful of occasions when rain in the opening week forced a quick planning reset. The action on Centre Court was preceded by a parade of champions to mark the 100th anniversary of the stadium. One of those was eight-time champion Federer, who is sitting out the 2022 tournament as he continues his slow recovery from knee surgery. However, he insisted that he plans to be back in 2023, even though he will be within sight of his 42nd birthday. "I hope I can come back one more time," said the 20-time Grand Slam winner. "I've missed it here." Federer has been out of action since a quarter-final loss at Wimbledon last year before undergoing another bout of knee surgery.

"I knew walking out here last year, it was going to be a tough year ahead," said Federer. "I maybe didn't think it was going to take this long to come back – the knee has been rough on me." Belgium's David Goffin defeated Frances Tiafoe of the United States in the longest match at this year's Wimbledon to reach the quarter-finals.

Goffin, who also made the quarters on his last appearance in 2019, came out on top 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 after four hours and 36 minutes on Court Two.

The world number 58 will next face Britain's Cameron Norrie who reached a Grand Slam quarter-final for the first time, sweeping past Tommy Paul



6-4, 7-5, 6-4. After women's top seed Iga Swiatek was knocked out Saturday, world number two

## Son keen to avoid guide duty in South Korea



LONDON: Son Heung-min has been named South Korea's top athlete for five straight years but he is keen to downplay his star status with his Tottenham Hotspur teammates for fear of having to play tour guide for the entire squad during their pre-season tour.

Spurs begin preparations for the Premier League season with a game against a K League select in Seoul on July 13 before facing Sevilla in Suwon three days later. The London club enjoy a huge following in South Korea thanks to their Golden Boot-winning forward and while Son is looking forward to the tour matches he thinks he may have a major role to play off the pitch as well as on it. "I think the lads are mistaken.

They think I am some big shot in Korea, and I know all the best restaurants in the country," Yonhap News quoted Son as saying on Monday. "I don't know if I can take care of 50 to 60 people all at once. That's a lot of pressure on me. But since they're going to be visiting Korea, I will pick up the tab." Son scored 23 Premier League goals to share the Golden Boot award with Liverpool's Mohamed Salah last season and the 29-year-old thanked his team mates for their belief in him. "It was such a happy moment," Son said.

"My team mates supported me a great deal ... "Every time I scored, (Eric) Dier would tell me, 'the Golden Boot is yours'. I was too far behind Salah at the time. I said, 'What are you talking about?' "But then as I started closing the gap, my teammates said they were getting excited too." Spurs, who finished fourth last season, begin their league campaign at home against Southampton on Aug 6.

## RYK to host Open Division kabaddi match

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Rahimyar Khan Green team will lock horns with Rahimyar Khan White team in an Open Division kabaddi match in Chak No 139-Alf, Rahimyar Khan (RYK) on the 3rd day of Eidul Azha, July 12 (Tuesday).

Senior kabaddi player Ghazanfer Bajwa is the coach of Rahimyar Khan Green team while M Rafi will be the coach of Rahimyar Khan White team. Former MPs Mehmood ul Hasan Cheema and Mian Intiaz Ahmed will be the guests of honour on this occasion.

The Organizing and Coordination Committee of kabaddi match is consisted of Liaqat Ali, Nasir Nussain, Abid Bajwa, Sajid Bajwa, Asif Hussain, Anser Bajwa, Abid Hussain Jatt, Kashif Goraya, Mukhtar Ahmed Babbi, Ahsan Pervaiz and Faisal Cheema.

Arbar Heera and Asif Randhawa will amuse the large gathering through their entertaining commentary at the Open Division kabaddi match.

Chief organiser Liaqat Ali said that all the arrangements have been completed for the nerve-wrecking kabaddi encounter. Deputy Chief organiser Nasir Nussain informed that the upcoming kabaddi clash between Rahimyar Khan Green and White teams will play a key role in the promotion of kabaddi game across the Bahawalpur Division. "It will be a suitable opportunity for young talented kabaddi players of this region to exhibit their skills and potential in front of a massive crowd of kabaddi enthusiasts," he added.

## Ukraine 'flag will fly high' at Olympics: Bach

KYIV: Olympics chief Thomas Bach on Sunday said the organisation would ensure that Ukrainian athletes could compete at the 2024 Games despite the Russian invasion.

Speaking during a visit to Kyiv to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Bach pledged to increase the amount of IOC funding for athletes from the war-torn nation. That will ensure that at the Olympic Games in Paris 2024 and at the Olympic Winter Games in 2026 in Cortina-Milano, "the Ukrainian flag will fly high", said Bach.

"The IOC will triple the fund we have been establishing at the very beginning of the Russian invasion in Ukraine from \$2.5 million to \$7.5 million," he added. Zelensky welcomed the additional support. "The Russian invasion has become a cruel shock for the Ukrainian sports," he said, speaking after his meeting with Bach. "A lot of Ukrainian athletes joined the Ukrainian armed forces to defend our country, to defend it on the battlefield.

"Eighty nine athletes and coaches died as the result of the military combat. Thirteen are captured and are in the Russian captivity." The IOC responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February by recommending that international sports federations ban Russian and Belarusian athletes. Bach said that the IOC would not be changing its position.

"We also reassured the president (Zelensky) we maintain the position we took at the very beginning of the war, which is very clear," he said. "Including the recommendations towards international federations not to invite Russian and Belarus athletes to international competitions." "The time has not come to lift these recommendations." Zelensky welcomed the news. "It cannot be allowed that a terrorist state uses sports to promote its political interests and propaganda.