



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جس نیکو کی نماز کو وقت ہو جائے فوراً نماز پڑھ لو۔ تمہارے لیے تمام روزے زمین میں ہے۔
(بخاری حدیث نمبر 3425)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Pakistan will always provide support to Kashmiris: Asif

Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif says Pakistan will always continue its political, diplomatic and moral support for the right to self-determination of Kashmiris. The maltreatment of Kashmiris in IIOJK is a huge human tragedy that needed to shake the so-called world's conscience. The coming Youm-e-Istehsal demanded that the entire international community, including Pakistan, to support Kashmiris facing the worst state-sponsored terrorism and oppression in the IIOJK.



Special PC must probe PTI's foreign funding: Ayaz

Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq says a Special Parliamentary Committee must investigate the allegations of foreign funding against former Prime Minister Imran Khan. The committee should have the representation of opposition and government members of the assembly. Former Director General FIA Bashir Memon should be summoned to brief the committee about the allegations and proceedings of the committee should be broadcast live.

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Prohibited foreign funding

ECP to announce PTI's case verdict today

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will announce the much-awaited verdict in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) 'prohibited' funding case today (Tuesday). According to the statement issued by the electoral watchdog, the verdict in PTI 'prohibited' funding case will be issued today at 10:00 am. The ECP has issued the cause list for the judgment of the prohibited funding case. It merits mention here ECP had reserved the verdict over PTI foreign funding case on June 21. The foreign funding case against the PTI had been pending for the last eight years.

It merits mention here ECP has reserved the verdict over PTI foreign funding case on June 21. The hearing of the case continued for eight years. The report comes after a Financial Times expose revealed that the PTI received funding from Wootton Cricket Club of Abraj founder Arif Naqvi, which was generated through a charity match and an Arab personality. The FT report provided ammunition to the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), and they demanded an early announcement of the verdict. ECP officials, on the condition of anonymity, told Daily Jang that the election commission will announce the foreign funding verdict during the first week of August. The sources said that the PTI would only harm itself if it files a reference against Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja as certain matters which were earlier hidden from public view would be revealed during the hearings.

Roadmap

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing at the briefing by Chief Secretary Balochistan about rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas of Balochistan. Quetta, Monday.



Photo: PID

Hour of need

Govt won't strand flood hit brothers: PM

Says all available resources will be utilized for rehab of flood-affected

CHAMAN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says all available resources will be utilized for complete rehabilitation of flood stricken people of Balochistan. Addressing the flood affected people and notables here at a cheque distribution ceremony, he said Federal and Provincial Governments, Pak Army and other institutions are serving all the time to rain and the flood stricken people of Balochistan. The Prime Minister stressed the need to remove flaws in relief operation. He said negligence in provision of relief to the affected people will not be tolerated.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday reiterated that the federal government in collaboration with the

provincial government had been making all-out efforts to provide succor to the flood-hit population of Balochistan. The prime minister

Federal, provincial govts supporting people of flood-affected areas: PM

said that he reached to the people of the province at a time when they were facing a natural calamity that caused indescribable damage in different parts.

He said Balochistan was an important and huge province and

its different areas like Chaman, Qilla Saifullah, Lasbela, Jhal Magsi, Noshki and Quetta had been inundated by flash floods, adding about 142 lives were lost, while hundreds of others were injured and a large number of houses were partially or completely destroyed. Besides, bridges and road infrastructures were dismantled due to monsoon deluge. The prime minister said that he had visited different parts of the province where all departments of the federal and provincial governments and Pakistan army had been working closely for rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations.

The law enforcement agencies were also working day and night to help the affected population,

he said. "In this time of natural calamity, the provincial and federal governments and all their departments are serving you with the provision of medicines, food and tents. Medical camps have been set up, besides ensuring the provision of clean drinking water and treatment for the domestic animals" he added. The federal ministers and Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and other relevant authorities were present on the occasion.

The prime minister said that he could not say that everything was right despite all these efforts as there were loopholes which were being removed and cited an incident of negligence in Qilla Saifullah where food and water were not provided in tents.

National Council meeting

PTI to win next general polls: Imran

Announces protest outside ECP office on Thursday

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday claimed that his party will get a two-thirds majority in the next elections. He announced PTI will be holding a peaceful protest outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) head office in Islamabad on Thursday.

Addressing the PTI National Council meeting, Imran Khan said that the state of the economy is such that Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa is asking for help from America on the phone. The former prime minister said that an emergency should be imposed in the country at this

time and no one should send money abroad. The PTI chairman said that those who could have stopped the conspiracy are also responsible for what is happening in the country. "We have to learn from our mistakes, we have reformed our constitution, today I welcome the members of our National Council, no party has gone through the process we have gone through," the former prime minister said.

He said that today the federal parties have shrunk as PPP has become the party of Sindh today. He said that party elections should be free and fair. He said that the Chief Election Commissioner strongly opposed EVMs, both of these parties have a system to rig the elections.

Pakistan will not default: Miftah

Assures business community of resolving their issues

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail on Monday said that Pakistan is out of default risk, and the government increased petroleum prices under International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. In an interview with a foreign media outlet, Miftah said that Pakistan reduced its imports by 35% to \$5 billion in July, which will in turn help check the nation's current-account gap, adding that the spike in domestic energy prices by 50% to win the IMF bailout.

In response to a question, Miftah Ismail said that Pakistan has come out of difficulties and now there is no risk of default, adding that Pakistan will make all external payments on time

remaining in the IMF program. Moreover, Miftah Ismail has assured business community of addressing their apprehensions regarding taxation on electricity bill.

Talking to delegation Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajaran Pakistan headed by its President Muhammad Kashif Chaudhary at finance division, the minister assured them of resolving their issue. The delegation comprised of Sharjeel Mir, Zia Ahmed Raja and Tahir Taj Bhatti, said press statement issued by finance ministry. Miftah acknowledged the contribution of business community in the economic development of the country and assured them that the government would take every required step to facilitate and support this community.

Economy

Politicians' fault pushes COAS to intervene: Ch Shujaat

Likely to approach ECP after losing party presidency

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) senior leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Monday while reacting to Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa's recent contact with the Biden administration regarding the Pak-IMF agreement said that all politicians are responsible for current political turmoil, and fault of politicians pushed the Army chief to intervene in economic affairs. Addressing a press conference flanked by PML-Q leader Tariq Bashir Cheema, Shujaat said that the country has been suffering for a year. All the politicians are responsible for the deterioration of the country's economy, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former prime minister Imran Khan is talking against the institutions.

"The head of Muslim League-Q said that why did the army chief have to intervene? It is the fault of the poli-



iticians that pushed the army chief to intervene in economic affairs," he said. Commenting on the developments that took place in Punjab, Shujaat said "Everything is fine and everything will remain fine." Speaking truth has become a sin these days," Shujaat said, adding that the public, as well as the politicians, hurled filthy abuses at him and his sons.

Regarding his sons and their involvement in political matters, the PML-Q leader — who was recently removed from his party position following the letter controversy during the CM's election — said "Attempts are being made to defame

my sons, they have taken all decisions after consulting me and I am proud of them." He further added that those who leveled allegations against him and his sons have "no standing."

Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has decided to approach Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) after being removed as the party president. As per sources privy to the matter, Chaudhry Saliq Hussain said, "The party has always been ours, is ours and will be ours. We will tell Kamil Ali Agha that who is not in his mental state."

24.9pc

Inflation in July hits 14-year high

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Inflation in July reached a 14-year high as the rate of the inflation in the country reached 24.9 per cent. Within a month, the prices of vegetables have increased by 25 per cent. The price of potatoes has increased by 11 per cent and onions by 14 per cent. In July, the prices of pulse increased by 14 per cent. The prices of Dal Masoor and Dal Mash were also surged by 10 per cent.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), during this period, the prices of edible oil have increased by 8 per cent and the price of tea spiked by 9 per cent.

Meanwhile, the price of eggs has also popped by 8 per cent, while the prices of flour increased by 6 per cent and milk by 4 per cent. In one month, electricity has increased by 39 per cent, the price of construction raw materials by 3 per cent, the price of electrical appliances by 1.5 per cent. The price of plastic products has also increased by 1.5 per cent.

95th anniversary

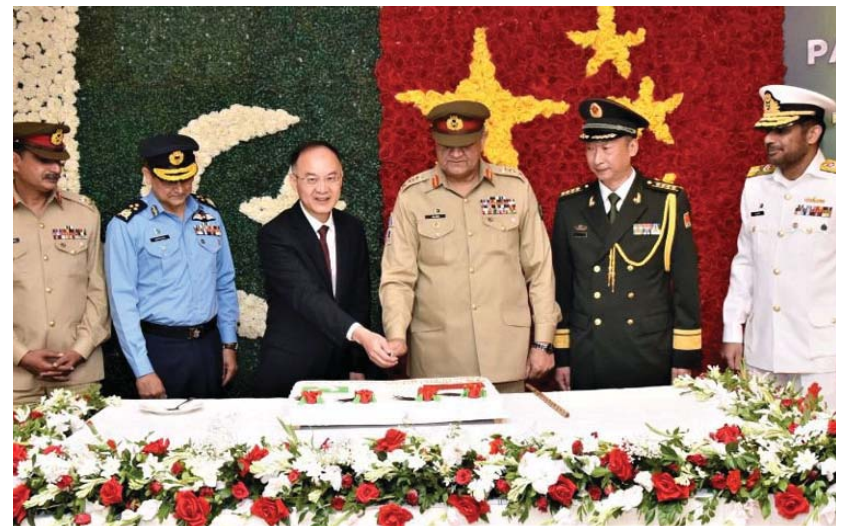
PLA, Pakistan Army brothers in arms: COAS

Lauds People's Liberation Army's role in safeguarding national security

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has asserted that Pakistan Army and People's Liberation Army (PLA) will continue to contribute towards safeguarding collective interests, the military's media wing said on Monday. He was speaking at a ceremony held at General Headquarters (GHQ) to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the founding of China's Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA).

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, officials from Chinese Embassy and officers from the tri-services of Pakistan attended the event. COAS Bajwa was the chief guest on the occasion. Speaking to the ISPR, the Chinese Ambassador thanked the COAS Bajwa for hosting



a reception on the eve of PLA's 95th Anniversary. "China and Pakistan are iron brothers, all-weather friends and strategic partners," he said.

The Ambassador noted that the recent meeting of Pak-China Joint Cooperation Committee is a new development in mutual relations. "A new set-up has

been launched to promote Pakistan-China military cooperation," he said, adding that the system will prove to be an important platform for the promotion of military relations.

Meanwhile, the Army chief felicitated the PLA's leadership and lauded its role in China's defence, security and nation-build-

ing. "Pak-China relationship is unique and robust that has proven its resilience in the face of challenges," he added. The army chief said that the PLA and the Pakistan Army are brothers in arms and the relationship between the two will continue to contribute towards safeguarding the collective interests.

SMEs

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Miftah Ismail held a meeting with delegation of Chambers of Small Traders and Small Industry (CSTSI) headed by group leader Mr. Zafar Iqbal at Finance Division on Monday.



Photo: PID

OGRA cuts LPG price by Rs3 per kg



ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority on Monday slashed the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by Rs3 per kg, the notification of which has been issued. With a cut of Rs3 per kg, the prices of a domestic cylinder have come down by Rs30 and that of a commercial cylinder by Rs114. The new price of LPG has been fixed at Rs218 per kg.

Despite the drop in LPG prices, LPG is being sold at Rs240 to 250 in the city. LPG Distributors Association Chairman Irfan Khokhar said that all the distributors will get LPG at the price fixed by OGRA. Irfan Khokhar said that the closure of Jamshoro Joint Venture Limited (JJVL) is causing a loss of Rs60 billion to the exchequer. LPG JJVL should be run immediately to meet the shortfall so as to save the exchequer from loss.

It is pertinent to mention here that a day earlier, the federal government announced a reduction in the price of petrol by Rs3.05 per litre for the first 15 days of August 2022. According to the notification issued by the Finance Division, the government has slashed petrol price by Rs3.05 per litre and light diesel oil by Rs12 per litre. The price of high-speed diesel has been jacked up by Rs8.95 per litre, while the rate of kerosene oil was gone up by Rs4.62 per litre. The new price of petrol will be Rs227.19 per litre, high-speed diesel 244.95, kerosene oil 201.07 and LSD 191.32 per litre.

Sheer violation

LHC fixes plea against PA speaker election for hearing

Issues notices to Speaker, Assembly Secretary and Punjab Govt

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court on Monday fixed the PML-N petition against the recently held Punjab Assembly speaker election for hearing. A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court heard the petition of PML-N's Saif ul Malook Khokhar and the petitioner's lawyer told the court that the constitution was violated by entering the serial number on the ballot papers in the election of the Speaker. After hearing the preliminary arguments, the court issued notices to the newly elected Speaker Sabatin Khan, the Punjab Government and the Assembly Secretary.

The court also summoned the Attorney General and Advocate General Punjab for assistance. The Lahore High Court (LHC) has summoned Punjab advocate general (AG) for assistance in a case related to Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker's election. A two-member bench, headed by Justice Muzzamil Akhtar Shabbir, heard a petition filed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) against the Punjab Assembly Speaker election.

Advocate Mansoor Awan represented Malik Saiful Malook Khokhar, the PML-N candidate for PA speaker slot. He claimed



that the election was held in an 'illegal and unconstitutional manner'. He contended that the contest on the speaker's slot was a 'sheer violation' of Article 226 which said that: "all elections under the Constitution, other than those of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, shall be by secret ballot".

Mansoor Awan further said that the ballot papers were serial numbered and were signed by each Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs). "The choice exercised by each MPA could be identified by comparing the serial number on the ballot paper and the signatures," he added. After

hearing the arguments, the court asked to move to another platform regarding Speaker election case. "Can this matter be referred to the Election Commission," the court asked. To which, Mansoor Awan responded in negative.

When asked about the challenge of Speaker election, the PML-N's counsel said that as per his knowledge, the contest was challenged for the first time in the history of Pakistan. The PML-N lawyer added that the election commission can take measures to stop rigging in such election. "The High Court has the power to intervene in this matter," he added.

MNAs' resignations

PTI files plea against ECP in IHC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTI Secretary General Asad Umar accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of becoming a part of the PDM alliance on Monday after he filed a petition, on his party's behalf, in the Islamabad High Court against the electoral body's decision to accept the resignations of 11 members of the National Assembly. "A petition has been submitted in the Islamabad High Court against the election commission accepting the resigna-

tions of 11 members of the assembly of their choice," the PTI leader said on Twitter. "All members of the Tehreek-e-Insaf resigned in front of the entire country. All resignations should be accepted at the same time," he stated. Earlier, speaking to media outside IHC, the PTI leader stated, we have approached the court against acceptance of the resignations of 11 members. "On April 11, 125 of our people resigned on the floor of the assembly, and on April 13, Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri accepted the resignation,"

Umar said.

He claimed that party members resigned as a result of the alleged foreign interference that led to the ouster of their party's government at the centre. Umar went on to say that the youth of social media should suggest a party symbol for the ECP as it has become a part of PDM. The PTI leader accused ECP of engaging in "illegal activity" and stated that the PTI refused to be a part of this conspiracy and thus resigned, and that the ECP accepted 11 resignations of its choice last week.

Imran Khan trying to blackmail institutions: Fazl

Says resolutions passed against ECP to influence foreign funding case

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Monday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan was trying to blackmail institutions. Maulana Fazlur Rehman said in a media statement that Imran Khan was the biggest evil of the country which should be rooted out. He alleged that Imran Khan had passed resolutions against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to influence the verdict in PTI foreign funding case.

The PDM head said that general elections will be held after the incumbent government completes its tenure. Fazlur Rehman once again criticised the Supreme Court (SC), saying that he

had only objected the verdicts but not the top court. He said that the heads of the institutions were also human beings who made mistakes. The PDM head added that the apex court had also made mistakes in some verdicts. He said that the chief justice rejected to form a full bench due to unavailability of judges. The PDM head said that the chief justice had summoned the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) session just two days after the verdict in the deputy speaker ruling case. He took aim at former prime minister Imran Khan and said that the PTI government destroyed the national economy during its four-year rule. He said that the economic stability will take some time.

The meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) heads was postponed which was previously scheduled to be held on today (Tuesday). The PDM heads' meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday. The PDM heads' meeting was postponed due to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Dera Ismail Khan and Tank districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) tomorrow. The PDM head and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) supreme Maulana Fazlur Rehman will also accompany PM Shehbaz Sharif during DI Khan and Tank visits. The premier and Fazlur Rehman will visit flood-hit areas of both districts.

Azadi March torture

Top Punjab police officials removed

LAHORE: Punjab government on Monday removed two top police officials for their role in directing torture against participants of the PTI's Azadi March with party leader Shahbaz Gill saying that they will not forget the incidents on May 25.

According to a notification issued by the provincial government, DIG Operations Capt (ret'd) Sohail Chaudhry has been removed from his post and directed to report to the Services and General Administration Department.

Moreover, AIG Special Branch Usman Anwar has also been removed from his post and his services have been handed over to the Centre. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded of Punjab government to withdraw all cases filed against party leaders during Azadi March towards Islamabad on May 25 and take action against policemen involved in tortur-

ing the participants.

A meeting of the anti-victimization committee formed on the order of Imran Khan held under the chairmanship of Shafiqat Mahmood and attended by Dr Yasmin Rashid, Raja Basharat and others.

The meeting reviewed the cases formed with regard to incidents on May 25 and decided to collect data of policemen and officials who were posted on the day. It was decided to take action against cops who acted beyond their duty.

It also asked the Punjab government to withdraw cases lodged to victimize party leaders besides also Later speaking to media, Shafiqat Mahmood said that the PTI activists want immediate action against cops who acted beyond their duty. "We have all records and footages and a meeting will be held on Tuesday to further review the matter," he said. Agencies

PTI MNAs'

NA Speaker may accept more resignations

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has decided to accept more resignations of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Members. "The Speaker has decided to accept resignations of 11 more members of the PTI," sources said. NA Speaker will likely to approve PTI MNAs resignations today or tomorrow, sources shared. "Speaker has also decided to approve resignations of the members elected on reserved seats of the legislature," sources said. Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf had recently accepted resignations of 11 PTI MNAs on last Thursday.

The resignations of 11 PTI

MNAs including Shireen Mazari, Ali Muhammad Khan, Ijaz Shah, Farrukh Habib, Shandana Gulzar, Fazal Muhammad, Fakhar Zaman, Abdul Shakoor Shad, Jameel Ahmed and Akram Cheema were approved initially and more resignations will be accepted in phases. Sources added that the NA Speaker held consultations with Khurshid Shah, Ayaz Sadiq and Khawaja Saad Rafique before accepting the resignations and sent a letter to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to denotify the lawmakers.

Earlier the decision was taken during a meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) with Maulana Fazlur Rehman in chair.

Fazl's statements can ignite anarchy: Rashid

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLPP) leader Sheikh Rashid on Monday said that Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F) Fazlur Rehman's statement can ignite anarchy. Taking to twitter, the former Interior Minister Rashid while attacking current government said that country can witness famine of flour and ghee. Calling out the petroleum ministry, he said that decreasing petrol prices by Rs.3 and Rs.9 increase in the price of diesel is joke with the masses. He said that the private factories of the politicians are running well, the house of the poor is ruined. Rashid went on to say that exports have decreased by 25% due to the ban on import raw material. He said that when inflation will increase by 38%, foreign reserves will be reduced and economy will be destroyed. Sheikh Rashid said, "if you have guts, instead of PDM meeting, ministers should come in public. 200 factories are closing down every month and crime has increased by 100%."

FMs meetings fully demonstrate close Sino-Pak ties: China

Zhao Lijian says both the foreign ministers discussed BRI-CPEC in detail

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said on Monday that three bilateral meetings between Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in three months fully demonstrated the close ties between China and Pakistan. "You are rightly saying that. This fully demonstrates the close ties between China and Pakistan," Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing while responding to a question about the meeting between Wang Yi and Bilawal Bhutto on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) council of foreign ministers meeting held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan last week.

He said that at the SCO foreign ministers meeting State Councilor Wang Yi met with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto. The two foreign ministers had an in-depth exchange of views on deepening our all-weather strate-

gic cooperative partnership, advancing political cooperation, pursuing high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation and stepping up cooperation in various fields, including in multilateral occasions, he added.

The spokesperson said that during the meeting, Wang Yi stressed that the Chinese side would firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, supporting Pakistan in exploring a development path suiting its national conditions to realize solidarity, stability, and prosperity. "We also support Pakistan's role in regional, international affairs and we will have in-depth communication and jointly build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in a new era," he added. He said that China supported Chinese business investment in Pakistan and



the Chinese side was ready to import more good quality agricultural products. Both the countries agreed to they would resume and gradually expand air links and personnel exchanges in an orderly manner.

State Councilor Wang also stressed the need for the Pakistani side to have a speedy investiga-

tion into the April 26 terrorist attack and hold the perpetrators accountable. Foreign Minister Bilawal said that the Pakistani side would always take Pak-China all-weather strategic partnership and friendship as a cornerstone for its foreign policy and firmly stand with China in issues concerning China's core interests and major concerns. The Pakistani side will also advance CPEC construction to show new Pakistan speed and they will also enhance the security work for CPEC, he added.

The two foreign ministers also discussed international issues including the Afghan issue, he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has termed the third bilateral meeting between the two foreign ministers in three months as a manifestation of the strong China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Coop-

erative Partnership. This is the third bilateral meeting between the two foreign ministers in three months. These frequent high-level exchanges are a manifestation of the strong China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, Ambassador Haque said in a tweet.

It may be mentioned that on May 22, the two leaders met in Guangzhou, the capital city of South China's Guangdong Province when Foreign Minister Bhutto Zardari visited China at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. It was Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's first official visit abroad since assuming office in April. During the meeting, the two leaders held in-depth discussions to further deepen all-around cooperation in areas such as energy, industry, agriculture, Information Technology and transportation infrastructure.

Govt to hold accountable all who misuse state resources: PM AJK

Tanveer Ilyas Khan says "In my opinion Imran Khan is the best leader the nation has got after Quaid-e-Azam"

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has said that an indiscriminate action against would be taken against those who misuse state resources and commit corruption.

The PM said this during his interview to a private TV channel on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that a strict system of accountability would be put in place in the state to hold accountable all those found guilty of misusing power be it a politician or any other public office holder. Referring to rampant corruption and looting of forest resources, he said that it was unfortunate that 50%

of the state's forests which used to cover 15% of the area have been reduced to just 15%.

"Government officials and politicians together have caused immense damage to the forests", he said, adding that the ruthless deforestation has adversely impacted the region's climate and environmental conditions.

He said that the menace of corruption has also plagued other departments as well. The government, he said, has decided to take complete details from public office holders about their sources of income to ensure transparency in the system. Reiterating his commitment to implement the PTI chairman's vision in the state, the PM said, "I have everything that Allah has

given me to fulfill the mission of public service".

The Prime Minister said, "In my opinion Imran Khan is the best leader the nation has got after Quaid-e-Azam". About the PTI chairman's generous support, he said that he had increased the funds of Azad Kashmir during his tenure as the prime minister of Pakistan. Khan, he said, had special interest in the construction and development of Azad Kashmir.

Regarding the federal government's decision to impose cuts on the funds of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas said, "The federal government needs to realize the very fact that AJK an important and sensitive area". "A large number of our youth are unem-

ployed and we are totally dependent on Pakistan for funds", he said adding that the government has planned to create employment opportunities for them for which we needed funds.

He said that the federal government provided us with 59 billion instead of the variable grant of 74 billion. "Pakistan is our big brother and we (Kashmiris) are the protectors of its frontiers", the PM said.

Ruling out any threat to his government, the PM said that there was no threat to the Azad Kashmir government. "Currently we have 32 members. Our main focus right now is on job creation and development", he said. He appealed the Kashmiri expatriates to come and invest in Azad Kashmir.

Rains wreak havoc

KARACHI: Workers busy is filling open manhole with the help of heavy machinery at I.I Chundrigar Road, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

NHA contract employees fulfilling criteria to be regularized

The 38th meeting of National Highway Council held

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Asad Mahmood presided over the meeting of National Highway Council-Supreme body of National Highway Authority, held at Ministry of Communications today to seek ways and means to further accelerate the relief and rescue operations being undertaken in affected parts of the country by National Highway Authority and Ministry of Communications.

The council directed the National Highway Authority to extend all possible assistance to the provinces and provincial departments engaged in relief and rescue operations during recent rains and floods situation throughout the country. In any emergent situation all the resources of the National Highway Authority require to be utilized to facilitate the people in distress. Besides, on recommendations of the NHA Executive Board the National Highway Council reviewed financial and administrative affairs of



the Authority and took decision with regard to prevailing conditions of rains and subsequent floods. The National Highway Council accorded approval for necessary amendments in rules and regulation for extending support by NHA to the provincial departments, working for relief of flood affectees.

Federal Secretary Communications/Chairman National Highway Authority Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, senior officers of Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority participated.

Addressing the meeting, Federal Minister of Communications and Postal Services Asad Mahmood said, human life is the most precious and that it will be a source of pride for us,

if the construction machinery, vehicles and other available resources of the NHA are utilised to facilitate the floods affected people on humanitarian grounds. He said, rescue and relief operations will continue till the situation is normalized.

It is worth mentioning, that the engineers of the NHA stopped flood waters by placing embankment in Tank Region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which led to saving thousands of people and hundreds of establishments. Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Mr. Asad Mahmood expressed deep sense to gratitude to the construction experts and engineers of the Authority for timely action in emergency.

Due to heavy rain

10 die as roof of house collapsed in AfJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: As many as 10 people including women and children were died and 4 other received injuries when roof top of a house collapsed due to heavy rain in Tai Mandhool village of district Poonch, some 120 kilometer from here on Monday early morning, local administration said. Assistant commissioner Hajeera said that the resident of the house were sleeping when early in the dawn roof top of the house of Malik Afsir collapsed on them however local people and administration later in the morning dug out 4 people alive and shifted to Kotli district headquarter hospital.

He said 10 bodies were recovered and identified as Noreen Begum 35, Said Begum 60, Seher Waheed 13, Tabia Waheed 11, Waqar Begum 35, Zamad Zohaib 8, Asnad Zohaib 12, Areesha Zohaib 11, Zoya Zohaib 4 and Madasar Arshad 5. State disaster management authority (SDMA) also added that 22 people had been died and 14 got injured during the month July due to rain related incidents in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

IUB unveils logo of 75 year independence celebrations



Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: On direction of Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, will observe Kashmir Siege Day and Independence in full zeal and zest. A ceremony was held to unveil the logo of 75 year independence celebrations at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Director Students Affairs, Rizwan Majeed and Deputy Director Students Affairs & Director Alumni Affairs, Dr. Azhar Hussain and students were present on this occasion while giving briefing independence day celebrations, Director Press Media & Publications Shahzad Ahmed Khalid said that, special webinar will be held on the occasion of Kashmir Siege Day. University College of Art and Design and University Fine Arts Society will organize photo competitions.

The University Debating Society will organize an online speech competition between male and female students on the topic of the freedom spirit of Kashmiri youth. The Department of Pakistan Studies will organize an online lecture on the topic of the Independence Movement. The Department of Political Science will organize the main seminar on Independence Day.

The main function of Independence Day will be held on August 14 at Abbasia Campus. On this occasion, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob Vice Chancellor will do flag hoisting. While on Independence Day, illumination will be organized on all the buildings and university employees will also participate in the city-parade organized by the district administration.

PCRWR holds meeting for "Scaling out PCRWR's Digital ICAS"

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources arranged a consultative meeting for "Scaling out PCRWR's Digital Irrigation and Climate Advisory Services (ICAS)" which is currently being provided to 20,000 farmers.

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR welcomed the participants and briefed them about the ICAS initiated by PCRWR in collaboration with University of Washington and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC). Dr. Kazim Niaz, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources was chief guest.

He remarked that access to regional and global weather data and its dissemination through digital technology for improved on farm water conservation can mitigate the losses and hydrological uncertainties caused by climate.

He urged that there is need to develop a strong coordination among the organizations to share information and data as steered in the National Water Policy 2018 for increased awareness and better water management which is prerequisite for socio-economic development of the country. In his key note speech Dr. Arif Anwar, Water Resource Specialist, highlighted the prospects of integrated digital advisory services for water resources management. The workshop concluded with a way forward on how PCRWR's advisory services may complement the services being provided by the provincial government and the private sector.

TikTok launches Creator Portal in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: TikTok has launched its Creator Portal in Pakistan, a one-stop shop for educational resources on content creation for creators on its platform. The portal, which can be accessed on the TikTok account @tiktokcreatorsakistan, is a series of videos that will provide guidance, tips and tricks to help creators maximize their in-app presence and take their videos to the next level.

The Creator Portal will help creators dive deeper into modules such as storytelling, community building and creative effects, aimed at inspiring and diversifying content creation on the platform. It will also include a detailed module on TikTok's Community Guidelines so Pakistani content creators can understand them better and implement them while creating content for their audiences. This will not only help in elevating the quality of content on the platform, but will also ensure TikTok remains a safe space

where its users come to share joy and express creativity.

A TikTok statement said: "Creators are the heart and soul of TikTok. They make the application a welcoming place where millions of people come for entertainment, learning and fun, and TikTok offers anyone a chance to reach an audience, without needing to be a celebrity or social influencer with a large following. While becoming a creator is as simple as tapping a few buttons, thriving as a creator takes time, dedication and some education. With the different tools, analytics, effects and creative ideas to balance on a TikTok account, making a strategy for creating content can be daunting."

"That's why we're excited to launch the TikTok Creator Portal in Pakistan, an online hub filled with educational videos for creators to learn the basics of getting started on TikTok, connecting with their audience, and cultivating best practices to bring their videos to the next level."

Oil trading in other currencies will cause US decline: PEW

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Monday said the war between Russia and Ukraine is actually a war between Russia and the United States, in which the defeat of the United States and its allies is their destiny.

The United States and the European Union imposed economic sanctions on Russia to destroy its economy, but this started to destroy their own economies, it said.

Russia's income increased dramatically in the wake of the war, which is covering its war expenses and resulted in substantial savings, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

In a statement issued here, he said that in the past, the rulers who gave an opinion or tried to trade oil in other currency instead of dollars, were made an example and the economy in such countries was destroyed.

But now the countries that were not ready to annoy the US are also trading oil in other currencies which could be the end of the US hegemony

to the relief of the world.

Aslam Khan said that the real strength of the US dollar is hidden in the oil trade and if the buying and selling of oil in other currencies increases, it will be the last nail in the dollar's coffin.

He said that amid the political struggle in Pakistan, the three major international credit rating agencies have downgraded Pakistan's rating, which is unfortunate.

Because of this development, it will be difficult for Pakistan to get loans from the international bond market, which will affect the public, he added.

Even in these circumstances, no effective policy action is being taken by the government, while a ban on imports has also been abolished which shows the seriousness of the rulers in saving the country.

Currently, no international organization or country is taking Pakistan seriously because of increasing political tension and record mismanagement, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s (1) Salma Afaq (widow) (2) Javaria Ahmed (3) Atia Ahmed daughters of Sheikh Saghir Ahmed, co.allottees of plot No. 27-D, Block-A, Lane-2, Area Development Scheme, Attack have appointed General Power of Attorney to Mr. Muhammad Qamar ul Islam s/o Saghir Ahmed vide registered deed at No. 496/4 dated 01-12-2011 from Sub Registrar, Attack. The General Power of attorney wish to transfer shares along with own share of the above mentioned plot to 3rd party. If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Secretary
District Housing Committee
Attack

Revival of Economy

ICCI invites all Political Parties to attend APC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI has formally invited all the political parties to participate in the "All Parties Conference on Revival of Economy" being organized by ICCI on August 6, 2022 to discuss economic issues and explore a way forward to revive the economy. He said that all political parties would also be approached in person to ensure their participation in the APC. He said this



while addressing a meeting of all Markets Associations of Islamabad that was called to mobilize the trading community to support the APC on Revival of Economy. He said that this is a national cause and all market associations should extend their cooperation by displaying banners of APC in markets and shops.

Afzal Butt, President, Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists said that the trading community was a strong force of civil society and it can play a key role in pressurizing the political parties to sign a 10-year Charter of Economy in order to ensure sustainable economic stability of Pakistan.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President ICCI said that a better future of Pakistan depended on the economic stability of the country and stressed that all political parties should agree on a national agenda to revive the economy and get rid of debts to improve the economic outlook of the country.



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:43 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:07 pm
Maghrib 7:09 pm
Isha 8:44 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

*Spokesman
FBR's book
"Dehati Babu"
organized
solemn
ceremony*

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Spokesman FBR Asad Tahir Jappa's first book "Dehati Babu" organized a beautiful, solemn ceremony at the showroom of "Book Corner Jhelum" at the showroom of Syed Umar Farooq (Smart Marketing, Smart Homes) Osman Minhas (UK), Hafiz Waqas (Norang), Syed Mudassar Hussain Shah (Abu Dhabi), Majeed Ahmad Chaudhry (Chairman Al Falah Scholarship Scheme) and Syed Abdul Rehman (Khariyan Cantt) participated in the ceremony along with Asad Tahir Jappa and his after welcoming younger brother Saleem Anwar Jappa (Spain) at Cant Chowk Jhelum, he was taken to Book Corner Jhelum in the form of a caravan.

Pakistan values its ties with Netherlands: COAS

Wouter Plomp, Netherlands Ambassador lauds Pakistan's role for regional stability

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Wouter Plomp, Netherlands Ambassador to Pakistan paid a farewell call to General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) here on Monday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interests, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed.

The COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with the Netherlands and we earnestly look forward to enhancing mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests.

He also thanked the visiting dignitary for his services and appreciated his contributions for fostering strong ties



between the two countries.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role for regional stability

and ensured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Back to school

ISLAMABAD: Students busy in study in their class at IMCG, Sector F-8/1, as schools open after summer vacation in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

A luncheon held to honor Muhammad Asif Noor

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A luncheon was held here on Monday to honor Muhammad Asif Noor, Editor-In-Chief, The Diplomatic Insight, Editor Global News Pakistan, and President of the International Forum for Pakistani Columnists and Anchors.

It may be mentioned that Muhammad Asif Noor was conferred with the "CPEC Communications Award" during the 7th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum jointly organized by China Economic Net (CEN) and Pakistan China Institute and in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan.

The event was attended by



Agha Iqrar Haroon (Chief Editor Dispatch News Desk (DND) News Agency, Naveed Ahmad Khan (Editor, Daily Spokesman), Jamil Bhatti (Deputy Bureau Chief, Xinhua News), Siddique Jan (Bureau Chief, Bol TV), Aamir

Saeed Abbasi (Acting Bureau Chief, Dunya TV), Waqar Fani Mughal (PRO, Red Crescent Pakistan), Riaz Ahmad Malik (Group Editor, National Herald Tribune), Ramzan Mughal (Photo Journalist), Wazir Nusrat Ali (Columnist),

Dr. Rao Furqan (Diplomatic Correspondent, APP), Abid Ali Arain (Content Incharge BOL TV) and Asif Gill (Global News Pakistan).

Participants highly appreciated the hard work of Asif Noor to promote Pakistan internationally and for enhancing bilateral relations between Pakistan and China as well as wit several other countries.

Asif Noor keeping in view his strong drive to build friendships with countries has established the International Forum for Pakistani Columnists and Anchors, the Pakistan-SCO Friendship Forum, and Friends of BRI Forum, a unique podium for Business, Media, and academic groups to join together from BRI countries at one platform.

Health Corner

Eat more fiber, any fiber you choose

ISLAMABAD: That huge array of dietary fiber supplements in the drugstore or grocery aisle can be overwhelming to a consumer. They make all sorts of health claims too, not being subject to FDA review and approval. So how do you know which supplement works and would be best for you?

A rigorous examination of the gut microbes of study participants who were fed three different kinds of supplements in different sequences concludes that people who had been eating the least amount of fiber before the study showed the greatest benefit from supplements, regardless of which ones they consumed.

"The people who responded the best had been eating the least fiber to start with," said study leader Lawrence David, an associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology at Duke University.

The benefit of dietary fiber isn't just the easier pooping that advertisers tout. Fermentable fiber — dietary carbohydrates that the human gut cannot process on its own but some bacteria can digest — is also an essential source of nutrients that your gut microbes need to stay healthy.

"We've evolved to depend on nutrients that our microbiomes produce for us," said Zack Holmes, former PhD student in the David lab and co-author on two new papers about fiber. "But with recent shifts in diet away from fiber-rich foods, we've stopped feeding our microbes what they need."

When your gut bugs are happily munching on a high-fiber diet, they produce more of the short-chain fatty acids that protect you from diseases of the gut, colorectal cancers and even obesity. And in particular, they produce more of a fatty acid called butyrate, which is fuel for your intestinal cells themselves. Butyrate has been shown to improve the gut's resistance to pathogens, lower inflammation and create happier, healthier cells lining the host's intestines.

Given the variety of supplements available, David's research team wanted to know whether it may be necessary to 'personalize' fiber supplements to different people, since different fermentable fibers have been shown to have different effects on short-chain fatty acid production from one individual to the next.

"We didn't see a lot of difference between the fiber supplements we tested. Rather, they looked interchangeable," David said during a tour of his sparkling new lab in the MSRB III building, which includes a special "science toilet" for collecting samples and an array of eight "artificial gut" fermenters for growing happy gut microbes outside a body.

"Regardless of which of the test supplements you pick, it seems your microbiome will thank you with more butyrate," David said.

The average American adult only consumes 20 to 40 percent of the daily recommended amount of fiber, which is believed to be a root cause behind a lot of our common health maladies, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, digestive disorders and colon cancer. Instead of having to go totally vegetarian or consume pounds of kale daily, convenient fiber supplements have been created that can increase the production of short-chain fatty acids.

The Duke experiments tested three main kinds of fermentable fiber supplements: inulin, dextrin (Benefiber), and galactooligosaccharides (GOS) marketed as Bimuno. The 28 participants were separated into groups and given each of the three supplements for one week in different orders, with a week off between supplements to allow participants' guts to return to a baseline state.

Participants who had been consuming the most fiber beforehand showed the least change in their microbiomes, and the type of supplement really didn't matter, probably because they were already hosting a more optimal population of gut bugs, David said.

Conversely, participants who had been consuming the least fiber saw the greatest increase in butyrate with the supplements, regardless of which one was being consumed. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

WoW Health brings 2nd Opinion Service in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: WoW Health, with the power of 350,000+ US specialist doctors, has brought Second Opinion Service in Pakistan.

350,000+ specialists that cater to 70+ specialties, will provide expert opinion on complex health conditions like spinal deformities, Parkinson's disease, stroke, cancers, etc. The patient has to submit their medical report to the WoW Health, and their team takes care of the rest. Second opinion can generate a whole new treatment plan, or just peace of mind.

Dealing with health issues can be one of the most difficult and challenging situations to face. As soon as a patient is diagnosed with a medical condition and they have received treatment recommendations, important decisions have to be made. "WoW Health's Second Opinion service provides access to top-notch specialist doctors in the US for rare and complex diseases." Said Founder & Managing Director of WoW Health Pakistan, Sikandar Zaman.

He explained his reason for bringing this service to Pakistan, "With all the technological and medical advancements in the US, specialist doctors there have a better chance of offering potential alternative treatment options for complex diseases."

WoW Health is a health management company that aims to bring accessibility and affordability in the healthcare sector. Home health services from PMC certified doctors, doctor on call, home sampling and many other services are available digitally.

PAC organizes 'Sab Say Pehlay Pakistan' slag rally



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: In connection with Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan, Najab Arts Council organized "Pakistan First" Artist Flag Rally. The rally led by Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed started from Murree Road and ended at Arts Council. Dozens of artists including Anjum Khabibi, Yar Muhammad Khan, Raja Abdul Sattar, Arshad Khan, Anjum Abbasi participated in the rally.

On this occasion, artists, ordinary citizens and students of the Arts Council also sang national songs. The participants of the rally held the Pakistan flag in their hands and chanted Pakistan Zindabad.

While addressing the participants of the rally Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that there is no substitute for freedom in the world. We should be grateful to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal, thanks to whom we are breathing in free air today. Allama Iqbal dreamed of an independent Islamic state in the subcontinent, which Quaid-e-Azam makes it possible with utmost dedication and hardwork.

Pakistan will soon emerge as a major economic power in the world, he added. Assistant Director Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Sulaiman said that Pakistan's Independence Day brings us a message of happiness. Today our hearts and eyes are filled with happiness. Undoubtedly, freedom is a great blessing.

HSHM, in partnership with IMSciences, launches 2nd campus

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo School of Hospitality Management has launched its Peshawar Campus by partnering with Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar (IMSciences) to reinforce the resolve of the government to promote hospitality and tourism in KP Province. In this regard a signing agreement was held between HSHM and IMSciences at Pearl-Continental Hotel Peshawar. The event was attended by a number of dignitaries from KP Government, IMSciences and Hashoo Group.

HSHM, Pakistan's premier Hospitality and Tourism Management Institute by Hashoo Group, has been actively nurturing talent in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry by imparting knowledge, skill sets and hands-on experience since September 2021. HSHM as an approved study centre for Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality (CTH) which is delivering a gold standard international curriculum developed in collaboration with market leaders in hospitality and tourism.



IMSciences is a highly reputed government owned autonomous institute which was found in 1999. Catering to a large number of students, it is ranked 1st in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Management Sciences, and holds its strong position at number 4 in business studies by HEC.

HSHM and IMSciences have joined hands to bring this valued educational program in Hospitality and Tourism, to the youth of KP and surroundings. With seasoned faculty and academic excellence offered by IMSciences, HSHM is offering a 2+1 years Associate degree/ Diploma

leading towards pathways to numerous countries leading to a BSC Hons Degree from abroad at a very economical cost.

Chief Guest of the occasion, Mr Daud Khan, Provisional Secretary for Higher Education, Archives and Libraries, brought to light aspects of education needs in KP. "The province is blessed with undiscovered natural resorts and has a lot of potential in promoting Hospitality and Tourism. This partnership between HSHM and IMSciences will be a ray of light for fresh college graduates who want to gain an insight into the hospitality

world and groom as industry professionals, this is the place to start. The possibilities are endless" he said.

"I am delighted to share with you the success and inspiration that I feel with the launch of our second campus of HSHM in partnership with the renowned IMSciences, in the beautiful province of KP" said Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, COO Hospitality and Education Division Hashoo Group. "Together we will continue to make this school a resounding success and a place where dreams come true," he said.

"Hashoo Group is playing its role in empowering youth with knowledge and skillsets required at the highest levels of the hospitality industry worldwide. At HSHM Islamabad, and now Peshawar campus, our aim will be to develop business managers and future leaders. With inherent advantage of Hashoo Group standing behind HSHM, we are offering hands on learning experience, free internships and a guaranteed job placement to all our graduates of IMSciences/ HSHM in hotels owned and operated by Hashoo Group all across Pakistan" he further added.

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The Golden Arches go to war

The Exploitation Day

On 5 August is one of the most tragic, painful and darkest days of modern Kashmir history and the Kashmiris will always observe it as exploitation day, day of mourning and a black day. It was on 05 August in 2019 when RSS-backed fascist government led by killer of humanity Narendra Modi usurped political, social, religious and all other basic rights of Kashmiris, turned IIOJK into a big open-air prison. The August 5 action is an attack on Kashmir's unique identity, culture, demography and fundamental rights by Hindutva forces. The RSS-backed Modi government was hell-bent on turning Jammu and Kashmir into a graveyard and wasteland for imposition of its devil Hindutva ideology. He said the Hindutva forces have started the settler-colonial project by bringing administrative changes in the disputed region which started with the introduction of new domicile law.

The people of Pakistan and Kashmir are going to observe August 5 as "Exploitation Day" to raise their voice against the illegal revocation of special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) on this day in 2019. Besides stripping the identity of Kashmiri Muslims, the occupation forces were taking steps to alter the demography of the majority Muslim population.

India is committing systematic genocide of Kashmiris as the extremist Hindutva fanatics under the leadership of Narendra Modi had put the peace of region at stake. However, all the Indian designs would fail as despite over 75 years of occupation with brutal reign of terror could not dampen the freedom spirit of Kashmiris.

The entire world, particularly the United Nations must ensure right to self-determination to Kashmiris as per the Security Council resolutions. The Kashmiri people and their leadership were fully committed to the cause, as they were rendering sacrifices of both their lives and property for the purpose of freedom. India is involved in serious human rights abuses in the IIOJK, but the Kashmiris continued to resist despite the state terrorism. On August 5, the international community will be reminded that Kashmir is a disputed region which India has occupied in disregard of all international laws and against the wishes of the people. The world should stress India to withdraw all illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 and reverse the demographic changes which it had carried out in the occupied territory.

The government has planned a series of activities including seminars and conferences to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal and express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people while rallies in their support would be staged across the country with vibrant participation of people from all walks of life. The whole nation will give a message to their Kashmiri brethren that the people of Pakistan would always stand with them in their just struggle for right to independence and against the atrocities committed the Indian forces.

Kashmiri people on both sides of the Line of Control and all over the world will also observe Youm-e-Istehsal to condemn unconstitutional step taken by India on August 5, 2019.

The activists of all the political parties of the country will record protest over Indian state terrorism meted out against innocent and unarmed people of IIOJK through rallies and other activities.

The civil society organizations will also arrange seminars and other programs to highlight gross human rights violations against the Kashmiri people. One minute silence is to be observed across the country. Traffic to be halted for one minute and sirens will be played. The print media, Radio Pakistan and television channels will play Pakistan and AJK national anthems immediately after one minute silence.

Meanwhile, posters and billboards have been displayed at the main roads of Islamabad and other provincial capitals to highlight the plight of Kashmiri people and expose the atrocities being committed by the occupation forces in IIOJK. On August 5, 2019, the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government struck down Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution, thereby scrapping the law that granted Kashmir its special status.

Anne-Marie Slaughter & Ian Shapiro

In the wake of the Cold War, as globalisation gathered speed, Thomas Friedman observed that no two countries with a McDonald's franchise had ever gone to war with each other. This led him to what he called the Golden Arches Theory of Conflict Prevention: when a country reaches a certain level of economic development – one where the middle class is big enough to support a McDonald's – its people lose interest in fighting wars. The key to peace, the logic went, may well lie in economic development and interconnectedness. It was not long before Russia disproved Friedman's theory – first with its 2008 invasion of Georgia, and again with its 2014 invasion of Ukraine. Now, Russia has launched an all-out military campaign aimed at conquering Ukraine and returning its lands and people to "Mother Russia." Economic ties alone, it seems clear, are not enough to preserve peace.

Many now view economic engagement as a liability. After all, countries like Germany and Italy, with their heavy dependence on Russian energy,

are effectively hostages to the Kremlin's militarism. Severing trade and commercial ties with Russia is now the order of the day. Russia has even ceased to be a "McDonald's country": the company announced in March that it was closing all 850 of its franchises in the country. Friedman was far from the first to suggest that economic and commercial relations have a pacifying impact on international relations. Montesquieu argued that "the natural effect of commerce is to dispose us to peace." Thomas Paine went further: "If commerce were permitted to act to the universal extent it is capable, it would extirpate the system of war." In the nineteenth century, the British politician and industrialist Richard Cobden campaigned for free trade on the grounds that it "would have the tendency to unite mankind in the bonds of peace."

Such arguments are based not only on the idea that countries have an economic interest in maintaining the commercial bonds they have forged. Rather, the Enlightenment theory of *doux commerce* (gentle commerce) held that trade has a civilising effect on society, because it depends on social interactions with diverse people, as well as principles like fairness and reciprocity. The *doux commerce* theory has had plen-

ty of critics; there was clearly nothing "gentle" about the slave trade, or about imperial powers stripping colonies of raw materials for manufacture back home. But nor can we ignore that war is now essentially unthinkable among the members of the European Union, including the eight Central and Eastern European countries that joined after the Cold War's end.

Why doesn't Russia fit this pattern? The answer might lie in its political exclusion.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the former members of the Warsaw Pact were offered not only trade packages, but also a host of opportunities to connect to networks of European regulators, judges, legislators, and civil society, even before they became candidate EU members. Those without EU prospects joined Nato, leading to some military integration and a sense of membership in the Western club. Not Russia. In 2000, Vladimir Putin proposed to Bill Clinton that Russia should join Nato, but the step was never taken. Had it been, it would have fundamentally changed Russia's geopolitical incentives, though it would also have changed Nato dramatically.

In any case, that ship has sailed. Putin's war on Ukraine has revived and strengthened

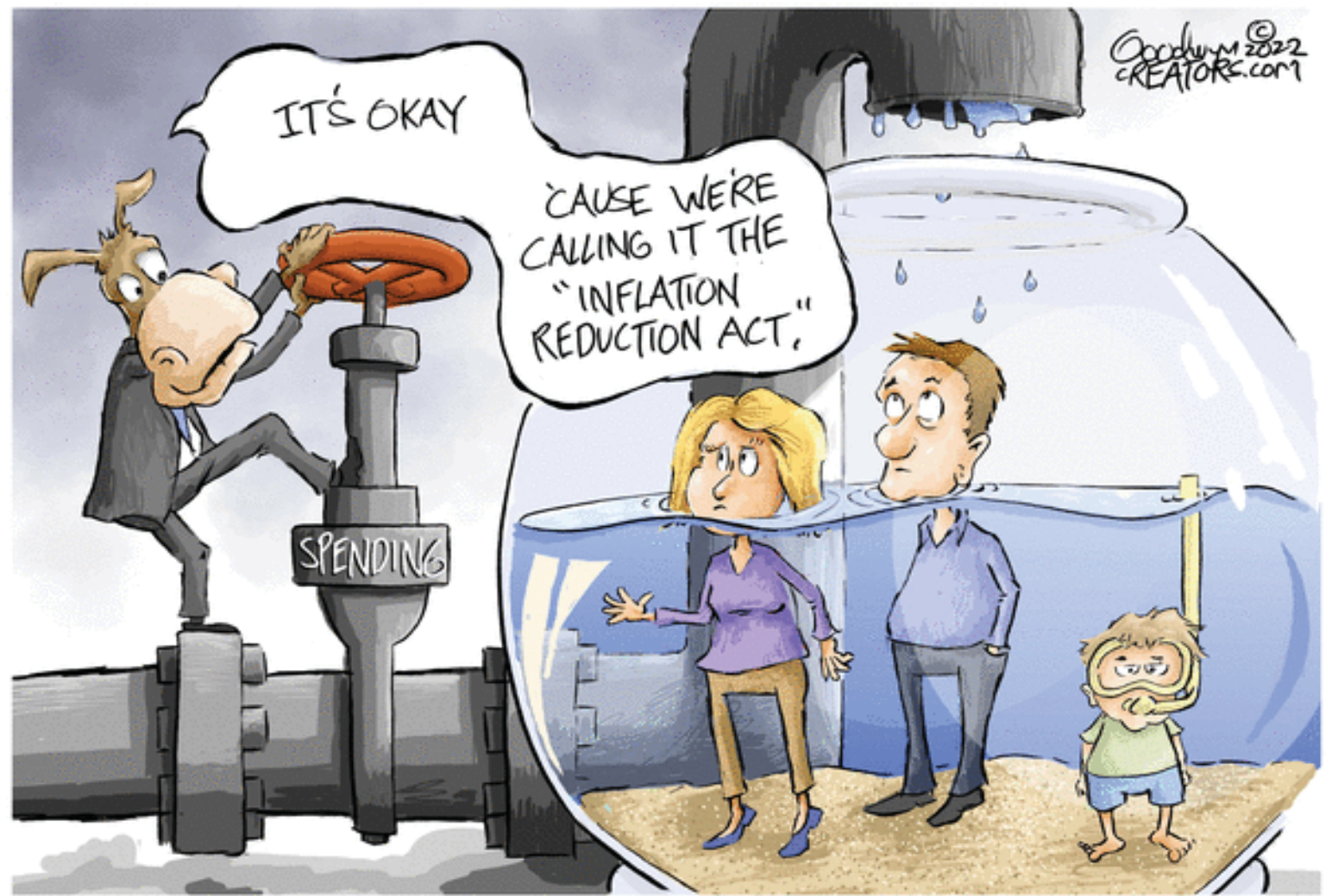
Nato as an anti-Russia alliance, with Finland and Sweden now likely to become members. Moreover, the EU has awarded Ukraine and Moldova candidate status, and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has laid out a kind of Marshall Plan for Ukraine aimed at enabling the country to make rapid progress after the fighting stops. Simply put, Putin's war has united the West. The task now is to uphold that unity long enough to ensure that Putin incurs such losses for his aggression that he is permanently deterred from further efforts to expand Russia's borders by force. But there is an even bigger challenge on the horizon. The West will never have truly peaceful relations with Russia without a significant degree of economic, political, and social integration.

Western strategists should therefore be thinking not only about how to defeat and deter Russia (and rebuild Ukraine), but also about how eventually to roll back sanctions against Russia and create incentives for a new generation of Russian leaders to develop political and economic relations with the West. A combination of political and economic engagement was, after all, vital to the success of the Marshall Plan in Western Europe and the reintegration of Japan into the global

economy after World War II. Similar logic applies to China. Many commentators excoriated Donald Trump for withdrawing the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trading bloc encompassing 12 Pacific Rim countries – and excluding China. In their view, the TPP was essential to enhance America's influence in a critical region, while diminishing China's.

But, while Trump's policy was far from prudent, isolating China is a bad idea. Doing so risks empowering hardliners in the Chinese leadership and increasing China's incentive to behave antagonistically, or even aggressively. Instead, the US should join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (the TPP's successor) and back China's inclusion. The *doux-commerce* effect depends on economic and political inclusion. That is a tall order in today's world, and it certainly cannot be achieved overnight. But as we seek to meet the short-term imperative of ending Russia's aggression, we must also devise a longer-term strategy for building a more peaceful and prosperous world.

The writers hail from the US State Department and Yale University respectively. Courtesy GulfTimes



Algeria & EU's gas woes

Robin Mills

European politicians have been scouring their neighborhood to find new gas supplies to replace those threatened by Russia. They have secured some promises in their tour, which has taken them from Azerbaijan to Egypt and Israel via the Gulf. They have visited Algeria too but Africa's largest country and biggest gas producer remains a prickly partner. Algeria exports gas via pipelines to Spain and Italy, and by tankers from two liquefied natural gas plants. It has long played a critical role in Europe's gas balance as the third-largest supplier (after Russia and Norway), providing 10 percent of the continent's imports. Outgoing Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi visited Algiers on July 18 and came back with a promise from President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to supply \$4 billion-worth of gas. State firm Sonatrach says it has delivered more than double the forecasted amount to Italy so far this year.

The TransMed pipeline that links the countries via Tunisia had been out of action for maintenance; following its restart last week, flows will have to speed up significantly to reach the target. Algeria achieved record gas output last year, with a leap to more than 100 billion cubic meters, a surprise after a period of stagnation since 1999 when production has wobbled between 80 billion cubic meters and 90 billion cubic meters per year. The country consumes about half of its produced gas itself and rising domestic use had been eating into exports, but the production boost saw exports at levels not hit since 2008. This may have been a false dawn. The ability of Algeria to help Europe through its gas crisis profiting handsomely in the process is hampered by two factors: Capacity and politics.

After 2021's record, gas exports fell sharply in the first half of 2022. While flows to Italy have risen a little, those via a pipeline to Spain

and Morocco and LNG supplied by ship have dropped. The culprit is a little puzzling. Supplies to Morocco have been cut off entirely following the expiry of the contract for the Gaz Maghreb Europe pipeline and a major political bust-up between Algiers and Rabat over the disputed territory of Western Sahara and Morocco's normalization with Israel.

On July 24, Sonatrach reported that Medgaz suffered a breakdown in the Spanish leg of its subsea route, but Spanish operator Enagas denied this. The incident might have been intended as a warning. Algeria could have directed the gas not going to Morocco and Spain to its LNG plants, which are running at only about 40 percent of their capacity. Yet supplies from these also dropped. Domestic demand would have risen and, as Algeria's oil production ceiling under the OPEC+ deal rises, it may need to reinject more of the produced gas to support oil output. None of these factors seem fully sufficient to explain the drop and, with record high European gas and LNG prices, Algeria has every incentive to maximize sales. It may be trying to put pressure on its customers to raise the prices in their contracts and indeed it has signed a revised higher-priced deal with Engie of France.

So far, therefore, Algeria's contribution to replacing Russia has largely been limited to cutting overall exports while switching supplies from Spain to Italy. That shift is not a bad thing for European energy security: The Iberian Peninsula has surplus LNG import capacity and very limited connectivity with the rest of the continent, while Italy has typically obtained almost half its gas from Russia and a quarter from Algeria. But if Algeria could get back to the export levels of the first half of last year, another annual 10 billion cubic meters would be a helpful if not huge contribution to replacing 130 billion cubic meters of Russian gas.

Algiers, though, dances to nobody's tune but its own. With high hydrocarbon prices, its shaky fiscal situation is improving and it holds the upper

hand in negotiations. It has strong relations with Russia, whose Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited in May.

The country has long been accused of underinvestment, unattractive fiscal terms and painfully slow bureaucracy, hampering hydrocarbon sector development. But new deals have been signed since a new oil law was passed in 2019, notably a \$4-billion oil project with ENI, France's TotalEnergies and America's Occidental. Italy's ENI has been particularly active, agreeing to take additional volumes of gas through the TransMed pipeline and to invest in boosting Algerian production. At the start of July, Sonatrach announced a large discovery at its biggest gas field, Hassi R'mel, which will be developed speedily to add 3.65 billion cubic meters of annual production from November very favorable timing with the European winter looming. But other major new additions will not arrive until 2024, while Sonatrach continues to battle rising domestic demand and decline from maturing fields.

For Algeria to help alleviate the European gas crisis, diplomacy will have to continue, which might require some awkward concessions from Spain. European solidarity will be important to limit competition between Madrid and Rome. Gas distribution companies will probably have to bite the bullet on paying significantly higher prices. On a more positive side, Europe can offer to help tackle the 8 billion cubic meters of Algerian gas that goes up in smoke each year flared at the fields because of limited capacity to gather process and transport it. It can also save Algerian domestic gas by cooperating on Saharan solar power. So, facing its own upstream constraints, nonaligned stance and complex and opaque decision-making, Algeria is no savior for Europe's gas needs. Still, with some intelligent diplomacy and investment, the Europeans may be able to coax some more much-needed energy from the Sahara.

The writer is CEO of Qamar Energy. Courtesy Arab News

Gig Economy – An answer to the current economy disruption

Fascinatingly, the term 'gig economy' finds its roots in jazz music. The term 'gig' was first coined in 1915 by jazz musicians to refer to their performances. It's a term that's now used by all genres of musicians, and even non-musicians. More and more people are turning to the gig economy as a way to make extra cash or even earn a living. The gig economy is where business and independent workers engage in short-term contracts or freelance work, as opposed to permanent employment. You're most likely already participating in the gig economy, either as a freelancer, employer, or someone who uses platform services like Uber.

Gig economy comes with big benefits. The talent pool is now truly global, and companies can hire talented workers from anywhere in the world. Organizations are no longer limited to local labor markets or the small pool of people who are willing to move for a job. Opening up the talent pool is extremely positive to address cultural intelligence and diversity. This allows businesses of all sizes to stay competitive and continue to scale their growth in the country.

Thanks to the internet, a gig worker can find work anywhere in the world.

Physical geography is no longer a factor when it comes to finding the right people to work with—whether you're a freelance illustrator looking for an author, or an agency on the hunt for an SEO specialist to help with a big project.

In addition, cutting-edge technology has resulted in the creation of digital, often app-based, gig economy platforms that link consumers directly with workers. Think of

Uber, which connects drivers with someone who needs a ride, or Airbnb connecting hosts directly with those looking for a place to stay.

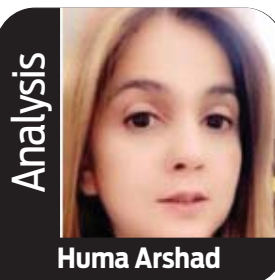
Today, it's not uncommon to hear about individuals pivoting from working as a contracted employee in one field to being a gig worker in another. One prime example is live event organizers who have switched gears to organizing online conferences as needed or content writers who had been employed full-time by one company and started freelancing for a range of clients. The gig economy has even helped keep restaurants afloat that would otherwise have shut their doors forever during the lockdown. While regular workers like servers and bartenders aren't required during the lockdown, delivery people have stepped in to help get food from the kitchen hungry customers.

This helps keep chefs employed and lets restaurants pay their rent so that—with a little bit of luck—they will be able to open their doors again once lockdown is over. The rise of the gig economy has changed the way we work forever. In our country, the current economic conditions after 2020 are worst than ever due to Covid-19 and the Russian – the Ukraine war. Global market chaos has directly affected many underdeveloped countries.

As countries and economies begin opening up in a post-pandemic world, more workers in the gig economy are moving toward a different career paths.

Make no mistake that the gig economy is an important industry in a country's GDP and does pay well for some jobs. However, employees in this area are seemingly looking to different types of work now that the pandemic is easing off.

The writer is senior analyst and columnist.



Huma Arshad

Relief for world as Ukraine grain ship leaves Odesa

Turkey and UN brokered agreement between Russia and Ukraine last month

KYIV: A ship carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for Lebanon on Monday under a safe passage agreement, Ukrainian and Turkish officials said, the first departure since the Russian invasion blocked shipping through the Black Sea five months ago.

Ukraine's foreign minister called it "a day of relief for the world," especially for countries threatened by food shortages and hunger because of the disrupted shipments. The sailing was made possible after Turkey and the United Nations brokered a grain-and-fertilizer export agreement between Russia and Ukraine last month — a rare diplomatic breakthrough in a conflict that is grinding on with no resolution in sight.

"The first grain ship since Russian aggression has left port," Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said. "Today Ukraine, together with its partners, makes another step to prevent world hunger." The Sierra Leone-flagged ship Razoni will head to the port of Tripoli, Lebanon, after transiting through the Bosphorus Strait with its cargo 26,527 tons of grain. Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has led to a worldwide food and energy crisis and the United Nations has warned of

the risk of multiple famines this year. Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat exports. But Western sanctions on Russia and military action along Ukraine's eastern seaboard had prevented grain ships safely leaving ports.

The deal aims to allow safe passage for grain shipments in and out of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter: "The day of relief for the world, especially for our friends in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, as the first Ukrainian grain leaves Odesa after months of Russian blockade."

Moscow has denied responsibility for the food crisis, blaming Western sanctions for slowing exports and Ukraine for mining the approaches to its ports. The Kremlin called the Razoni's departure "very positive" news. Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said the vessel would anchor off Istanbul on Tuesday afternoon and be inspected by a joint team of Russian, Ukrainian, United Nations and Turkish representatives.

"It will then continue as long as no problems arise," Akar said. Prior to the

Razoni's departure, Ukrainian presidential officials had said 17 ships are docked in Black Sea ports with almost 600,000 tons of cargo, mostly grain. More ships will follow it, Kubrakov said.

A junior engineer on the vessel, Abdullah Jendi, said all the crew were happy to be moving after their prolonged stay in Odesa. He had not seen his family in more than a year, said Jendi, who is Syrian.

"It is an indescribable feeling to be returning to my home country after suffering from the siege and the dangers that we were facing due to the shelling," he said. "The great fear knowing that at any moment something could happen to us because of the airstrikes."

Of the voyage ahead, he said: "I am scared from the fact that there are naval mines. We need around two to three hours to exit regional waters. We hope that nothing will happen and that we will not commit any mistake."

The US Embassy in Kyiv welcomed the shipping resumption, saying: "The world will be watching for continued implementation of this agreement to feed people around the world with millions of tons of trapped Ukrainian grain."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he hoped it would be the first of many such shipments. Chicago wheat and corn prices fell on Monday amid hopes that Ukraine's cereals exports could resume on a large scale.

Despite the breakthrough on the grain shipments, the war of attrition continued elsewhere. Three civilians were killed by Russian shelling in Donetsk region — two in Bakhmut and one in nearby Soledar — in the last 24 hours, regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

An industrial city and transport hub, Bakhmut has been under Russian bombardment for the past week as all of the Kremlin's forces try to occupy it. It is connected to the towns of Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk in Luhansk region, which is almost all occupied by Russia. Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai said the road was crucial for delivering weapons to Ukrainians fighting in Sievierodonetsk and evacuating people from that area.

Russian strikes also hit Kharkiv — Ukraine's second biggest city and near the border with Russia — on Monday, regional governor Oleh Synegubov said. Two civilians were wounded, he said.

Pelosi starts Asian tour



KUALA LUMPUR: U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi held talks with officials in Singapore on Monday at the start of her Asian tour, as questions swirled over a possible stop in Taiwan that has fueled tension with Beijing.

While there have been no official announcements, local media in Taiwan reported that Pelosi will arrive Tuesday night, becoming the highest-ranking elected U.S. official to visit in more than 25 years. The United Daily News, Liberty Times and China Times — Taiwan's three largest national newspapers — cited unidentified sources as saying she would arrive in Taipei after visiting Malaysia and spend the night.

Such a visit will spark fury in Beijing, which regards Taiwan as its own territory and has repeatedly warned of "serious consequences" if the reported trip goes ahead.

"If Pelosi insists on visiting Taiwan, China will take resolute and strong measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in Beijing, without giving details.

"Those who play with fire will perish by it," Zhao said. "We would like to once again admonish the U.S. that we are fully prepared for any eventuality and the PLA will never sit idly by." The People's Liberation Army is China's military.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also warned the U.S. against meddling in Beijing's dealings with the island in a phone call last week with President Joe Biden.

Spain ready to support Albania's EU integration: Sanchez

TIRANA: Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Monday that Spain is ready to support Albania to continue its reforms to improve people's quality of life and integrate into the European Union (EU). He made the remarks at a joint press conference in Albania's capital Tirana with his Albanian counterpart Edi Rama following a meeting.

Albania is the last stop of Sanchez's Western Balkan tour, which took him also to Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

Sanchez emphasized that Spain and Albania should strengthen ties in the judicial sector as well as in infrastructure, tourism and energy.

On Monday, the two countries signed a bilateral agreement on a joint investigation group to combat international organized crimes. Sanchez also met Albanian President Bajram Begaj on Monday.

Two weeks ago, the EU started membership negotiations with Albania and its neighboring country North Macedonia with the first intergovernmental conference between the EU and the two countries in Brussels.

Kuwait announces formation of new Cabinet

DUBAI: Kuwait on Monday announced the formation of a new government to defuse a protracted political feud blocking economic reforms in the oil-rich state.

Kuwait's newly-appointed prime minister, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Sabah, will lead the 12-member Cabinet until the dissolution of parliament ahead of early elections, the country's state-run news agency, KUNA, reported. The date of the vote has yet to be announced.

It represents Kuwait's fifth government in the last two years, as the country's emir-appointed Cabinet and elected parliament battle over power-sharing. Some ministers from previous administrations were reappointed to their posts, including Abdurahman al-Rushaid, the outspoken finance minister known for his criticism of the government's fiscal policies. The ministers will take over from the caretaker government that had submitted its resignation over three months ago.

Unique among Gulf Arab sheikhdoms, Kuwait's raucous elected parliament wields genuine power. But the political disputes have paralyzed decision-making in the crucial OPEC state, creating major budgetary problems during the low oil prices of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a bid to break the deadlock and placate opposition lawmakers frustrated with the prime minister and the political paralysis, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber earlier this summer announced he would dissolve parliament and call snap legislative elections.

Senegal's ruling coalition claims win

DAKAR: Senegal's ruling coalition says it has won 30 of 46 departments in Sunday's legislative election, giving it a majority over the opposition.

The head of the ruling coalition and former Prime Minister Aminata Toure claimed the victory late Sunday. "Of the 46 departments in Senegal, we won 30 departments. So we gave a large majority to our president," said Toure.

The head of President Macky Sall's coalition, Benno Bokk Yaakar, stressed that the information is "precise, accurate, fair and not invented" with wins in Senegal's North, West and Central areas.

"We congratulate all the citizens who voted for us," said Yaakar. The mayor of Dakar, Barthelémy Dias, denounced the results, claiming that "the opposition won the elections" and calling on the youth to mobilize to "preserve their victory."

Official provisional election results are expected later this week. The Autonomous National Electoral Commission, the body responsible for monitoring and supervising the elections, declared that the ballot took place in peace and calm.

US envoy signals optimism on Lebanese-Israeli maritime border deal

BEIRUT: The US official mediating a maritime border dispute between Lebanon and Israel said on Monday he remained optimistic about making progress toward a deal and looked forward to returning to the region to make a "final arrangement."

Amos Hochstein made the comments after meeting Lebanon's top leaders at the presidential palace, as he presses efforts to clinch a rare agreement between enemy states that should allow both to develop offshore energy resources.

"I remain optimistic that we can make continuous progress as we have over the last several weeks and I look forward to being able to come back to the region to make the final arrangement," Hochstein said. Prime Minister Najib Mikati gave a thumbs up as he emerged



from the meeting that also included President Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri.

Lebanese deputy parliament speaker Elias Bou Saab said the negotiations were now moving "within a short timeframe." "The atmosphere was positive. Everything came out of the meeting satisfied and, God willing, over the next few weeks we will begin to see results," he told journalists after the meeting.

Lebanese officials have not said what, if anything, Hochstein proposed during the meeting.

A senior Israeli official, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity on Sunday, said Hochstein would present a new Israeli proposal that "includes a solution that would allow the Lebanese to develop the gas reserves in the disputed area while preserving Israel's commercial rights."

This would entail "some

drilling there" by the Lebanese, the Israeli official said without elaborating. The United States in 2020 stepped up long-running efforts to mediate an agreement between Israel and Lebanon in indirect talks.

Tensions over the issue escalated in June when a ship arrived in an area deemed by Lebanon to be part of the disputed zone to begin developing a field for Israel. Israel said the area in question — Karish — was firmly in its exclusive economic zone.

Lebanon and Israel are located in the Levant Basin, where a number of big sub-sea gas fields have been discovered since 2009. Israel already produces and exports gas. But while Israel has moved ahead, Lebanese hopes of producing energy have been hamstrung by political paralysis.

UN chief warns world is one step from 'nuclear annihilation'

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief warned the world Monday that "humanity is just one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres gave the dire warning at the opening of the long-delayed high-level meeting to review the landmark 50-year-old treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and eventually achieving a nuclear-free world. He cited especially the war in Ukraine and the threat of nuclear weapons to conflicts in the Middle East and Asia, two regions "edging towards catastrophe."

Guterres told many ministers, officials and diplomats attending the month-long conference to

review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that the meeting is taking place "at a critical juncture for our collective peace and security" and "at a time of nuclear danger not seen since the height of the Cold War."

The conference is "an opportunity to hammer out the measures that will help avoid certain disaster, and to put humanity on a new path towards a world free of nuclear weapons," the secretary-general said.

But Guterres warned that "geopolitical weapons are reaching new highs," almost 13,000 nuclear weapons are in arsenals around the world, and countries seeking "false security" are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on "doomsday weapons."

"All this at a time when

the risks of proliferation are growing and guardrails to prevent escalation are weakening," he said, "And when crises — with nuclear undertones — are festering from the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula to Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

Guterres called on conference participants to take several actions: urgently reinforce and reaffirm "the 77-year-old norm against the use of nuclear weapons," work relentlessly toward the elimination of nuclear weapons with new commitments to reduce arsenals, address "the simmering tensions in the Middle East and Asia" and promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

"Future generations are counting on your commitment to step back from

the abyss," he implored the ministers and diplomats. "This is our moment to meet this fundamental test and lift the cloud of nuclear annihilation once and for all."

In force since 1970, the Nonproliferation Treaty known as the NPT has the widest adherence of any arms control agreement, with some 191 countries that are members.

Under its provisions, the five original nuclear powers — the United States, China, Russia (then the Soviet Union), Britain and France — agreed to negotiate toward eliminating their arsenals someday and nations without nuclear weapons promised not to acquire them in exchange for a guarantee to be able to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Myanmar leader announces extension of state of emergency

BANGKOK: The leader of Myanmar's military-installed government on Monday announced the extension of its mandate to rule for another six months in preparation for an election it has said will be held next year.

The army seized power on Feb. 1 last year from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. It cited alleged fraud in the November 2020 general election, which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party had won in a landslide while the military-backed party did poorly.

Independent election observers said they found no evidence of substantive irregularities, and the army takeover was met with widespread non-violent protests around the country. Security forces used deadly force to disperse them, prompting armed resistance by the pro-democracy forces. The escalation of violence has since plunged Myanmar into what U.N. experts have described as a civil war.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, head of the ruling State Administration Council, said in a broadcast speech Monday that the state of emergency declared after last year's takeover was extended because time was needed to prepare for new elections, or as the official announcement of the extension said, "to continue working to return the country to the path of a peaceful and disciplined multiparty democratic system and to hold multiparty democratic general elections."

The military originally declared that new polls would be held a year after its takeover, but later said they would take place in 2023. There is considerable doubt they will be free and fair, because most of the leaders of Suu Kyi's party have been locked up, and there is a large chance the party itself will be dissolved by the pro-military courts.

Min Aung Hlaing said the military had tried its "utmost to discharge (its) responsibilities" since it seized power.

"However, terrorists based inside and outside the country and the people and organizations supporting them are committed to the utter devastation of Myanmar, instead of trying to nurture democracy in Myanmar," he said.

Indian troops martyr six Kashmiris in July

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred six Kashmiris during the last month of July.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, on Monday, of those killed two youth were martyred in two fake encounters.

During the month, thirty eight civilians, mostly youth, activists and students, were arrested and several of them were booked under black laws, Public Safety Act and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act during 138 cordon and search operations.

Two youth received critical

injuries when Indian police and paramilitary personnel resorted to brute force in the occupied territory. The forces damaged a house during the period.

Meanwhile, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) while reiterating its call for a complete shutdown, civil curfew and large-scale protest demonstrations on 5th August, the Exploitation Day, appealed to the people to offer special prayers for the success of the ongoing freedom movement.

The incarcerated APHC Vice Chairman, Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar, in a special message from Srinagar Central Jail said that 05 August is one of the most tragic, painful and darkest days of modern Kashmir history and the

Kashmiris will always observe it as exploitation day, day of mourning and a black day.

It was on 05 August in 2019 when RSS-backed fascist government led by killer of humanity Narendra Modi usurped political, social, religious and all other basic rights of Kashmiris, turned IIOJK into a big open-air prison, he added. He termed the August 5 action as AN attack on Kashmir's unique identity, culture, demography and fundamental rights by Hindutva forces.

The APHC leader deplored that the RSS-backed Modi government was hell-bent on turning Jammu and Kashmir into a graveyard and wasteland for imposition of its devil Hindutva ideology.

He said the Hindutva forces have started the settler-colonial project by bringing administrative changes in the disputed region which started with the introduction of new domicile law.

APHC General Secretary, Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani in a statement in Srinagar that slavery is a curse and Kashmiris will prefer martyrdom over Hindutva slavery. He maintained Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and scrapping its special status is not only a violation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir but also a blatant violation of international law.

Molvi Bashir Irfani said that the motive behind abrogation of Arti-



cles 370 and 35-A was to change the demography of the territory

and turn it into a Hindu state. He said that abolition of special

status was followed by coercive administrative steps which include domiciles to thousands of Indian Hindus, amendment in land laws and setting up of soldiers' colonies in the territory. These all steps are aimed at settling Hindus in Kashmir and turn Muslims into a minority, he added.

Ghulam Ahmad Gulzar and Molvi Bashir Irfani urged the Kashmiris all over the world to protest on 5th August against Indian aggression and promote freedom movement and expose Indian crimes in IIOJK. They also appealed to the Kashmiri diaspora to hold protest demonstrations on that day and draw the attention of the world towards the plight of oppressed people of IIOJK.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,075.96	40,150.36
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,380.64	40,070.67
Index Value	Change
2,853,710,632	-74.40
Percentage	Time
-0.19%	1 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,413.42	-10.01
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,960.44	+115.31
Percentage	Time
+0.35%	1 Aug, 11:48 am GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,993.35	+191.71
Percentage	Time
+0.69%	1 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	167.81	169.06
Bahrain Dinar	638.56	643.06
Canadian Dollar	187.57	188.92
China Yuan	35.6	35.85
Danish Krone	32.97	33.32
Euro	241	245
Hong Kong Dollar	30.59	30.94
Indian Rupee	3.03	3.11
Japanese Yen	2	2.05
Kuwaiti Dinar	780.68	785.68
Malaysian Ringgit	53.95	54.4
New Zealand \$	150.83	152.03
Norwegians Krone	24.84	25.14
Omani Riyal	624.44	628.94
Qatari Riyal	65.96	66.46
Saudi Riyal	63	64
Singapore Dollar	173.91	175.21
Swedish Korona	23.76	24.06
Swiss Franc	252.05	253.8
Thai Bhat	6.53	6.63
U.A.E Dirham	65	66
UK Pound Sterling	288	294
US Dollar	241	246

China's SEDA, STZA to cooperate in technology sector

Zhao Yongsheng pledges his organization's resolute support to cooperate with STZA in areas of innovation, entrepreneurship

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Shenyang Economic and Technological Development Area (SEDA) of China and the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of Pakistan have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to boost technology sector cooperation between the two organizations. Established in 1988, SEDA is a production hub of major biotech & automobile organizations including BMW Group, Neusoft, Pfizer, NCR and IKEA. Speaking at the virtual ceremony, Zhao Yongsheng, the Director of the Management Committee of SEDA highlighted their successes.

Elaborating further, he revealed that SEDA hosts the largest manufacturing facility for BMW in the world, while 84 fortune 500 companies from all over the globe are operating in SEDA in high-tech manufacturing, automotive, research and development areas, and next-generation information technologies.

He hailed the strong relationship between China and Pakistan and pledged his organization's resolute support to cooperate with STZA in areas of innovation, entrepreneurship, human capital development and digital



economy through the integration of science, technology and economy. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of STZA Amer Hashmi stated that Pakistan's technology sector due to its rapid growth offers globally competitive opportunities for Chinese partners and investors. He highlighted that Pakistan has a unique demographic advantage, as almost 64% of its population consisted of youth and sees great potential

in working with SEDA through STZA's dedicated China Desk to streamline cooperation with the Chinese technology sector.

He expressed his gratitude to Moin ul Haque, Pakistan's Ambassador to China and the leadership of SEDA for enabling cooperation between STZA and SEDA and expressed his support for implementing the shared vision. Gao Wei the Vice Mayor of Shenyang Municipal People's

Republic stated that China and Pakistan are strategic partners, with a long history of peaceful cooperation in various development sectors. He also explained that Shenyang is creating hubs for scientific, industrial and technological growth - with a special focus on fintech. He pledged to support cooperation between SEDA and STZA, remarking that the technology sector represented a new avenue for potential cooperation between the two friendly nations.

Moin ul Haque, Pakistan's Ambassador to China highlighted longstanding ties between the two countries and appreciated Chairman STZA and his team for their efforts to foster a knowledge economy in Pakistan. He expressed the commitment of the Embassy of Pakistan in China to facilitate ongoing engagements between STZA and the technology ecosystem in China and called the LOI a step forward towards strengthening linkages and relationships between the two countries. He also stated that both sides will increase their cooperation under a Joint Working Group, to practically implement the shared vision of creating a world-class technology ecosystem in Pakistan, creating jobs, and empowering the youth through technology-led economic transformation.

EZ Wage partners with Bank Alfalah

To revolutionize financial wellness in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Singapore-based EZ Wage, a leading regional financial wellness platform, has signed an agreement with Bank Alfalah as its Digital Payments Partner to facilitate Earned Wage Access (EWA) in Pakistan with secure payment transfers. Under the agreement, EZ Wage will route payments in real-time to its users through Bank Alfalah's platform.

EZ Wage's state-of-the-art mobile app enables employees to withdraw a portion of their earned salary before their scheduled payday. This earned wage access facility allows them relief in case of monetary emergencies, such as an unexpected expense due to a medical emergency in the family.

The financial wellness platform has already signed up companies employing more than 135,000 salaried individuals across Pakistan and is rapidly adding more companies that are interested in providing this revolutionary employee benefit to their employee base. EZ Wage will also be introducing additional offerings specifically geared towards improving employee financial literacy and independence.

The Founder and CEO of EZ Wage,



Fatima Batool, hopes to bring about a revolution in financial wellness for the masses in the emerging markets of South/Southeast Asia. She is focused on the women segment in particular, which in her opinion is the most marginalized segment in terms of financial independence.

Yahya Khan, Group Head, Digital Banking Group at Bank Alfalah stated

"Bank Alfalah through its diverse and ever-evolving services portfolio is empowering employees and working towards the financial wellness of the masses in Pakistan.

This FinTech partnership is another step towards our objective to offer seamless services in order to digitize the payments eco-system and revolutionize daily use finance."

Public tired of repeated economic crises

Industrialists are considering relocating businesses, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said three economic crises have occurred in the last three years due to economic mismanagement.

The public is tired due to the economic disasters, businessmen are experiencing sleepless nights and many industrialists are planning to relocate their businesses to other countries, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that many investors are investing billions in Dubai's real estate market due to uncertainty at home which is eroding the value of the rupee.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the first crisis came in 2018-2019 when Prime Minister Imran Khan delayed taking loans from the IMF for several months, which caused irreparable damage to the economy. However, after that an agreement was



reached and there was some stability in the foreign exchange reserves and the rupee, after which the coronavirus pandemic started, during which, like other countries, funds were used mercilessly, he added.

The business leader noted that after this crisis, Imran Khan's government started such measures to please the voters, which were objected by the local experts and international institutions, but the ruling elite did not listen to anyone and emptied the treasury.

After the departure of his government,

political tensions began that almost bankrupted the country. A staff-level agreement has been reached with the IMF, but due to the delay in receiving the money, it has not had any positive impact on the country's situation.

Meanwhile, the three global rating agencies have downgraded Pakistan's credit rating due to political instability and inflation touching the highest rate of 22 percent. Mian Zahid Hussain said that a new oil crisis may hit Pakistan during the current months therefore the government should take measures to increase the oil storage capacity of the oil companies and the new refinery policy should also be approved soon to pave the way for new investment of 5 billion dollars in this sector.

The new investment will help furnace oil to be produced in the country which will be converted into diesel and petrol and cheap oil will be provided to the people.

The current government imported huge quantities of oil and gas to end load-shedding at a time when prices were skyrocketing due to the Ukraine war and now the masses are paying a heavy price for this decision.

Supernet, Trend Micro awarded TPS Project in Pakistan Rs450m

Our Correspondent



KARACHI: Supernet Limited ("Supernet") announced on Monday in conjunction with their Japanese technology partner Trend Micro Incorporated ("Trend Micro") that they have been awarded a new multi-year project for the acclaimed "Tipping Point" Threat Protection System (TPS) by a major Pakistani customer valued at over PKR 450 million.

Trend Micro's Tipping Point Threat Protection System (TPS) is a powerful network security platform that offers comprehensive threat protection against known and undisclosed vulnerabilities with high accuracy. The TPS uses a combination of technologies, including deep packet inspection, threat reputation, URL reputation, and advanced malware analysis on a flow-by-flow basis to detect and prevent attacks on the network. The TPS enables enterprises to take a proactive approach to security, providing comprehensive contextual aware-

ness and deeper analysis of network traffic providing the visibility and agility necessary to keep pace with today's dynamic and evolving enterprise and data center networks.

Trend Micro's and Supernet's combined solution successfully addressed the customer's stringent requirements for state-of-the-art throughput and latency parameters, as well as addressed challenging scalability and business continuity criteria. In addition, Trend Micro's leadership in cybersecurity research through its flagship "Zero Day Initiative" as well as Supernet's local presence and experience of implementation, integration and post delivery services provide the customer continuous assurance around innovation and access to cutting edge cybersecurity knowledge base.

4.5% Intra D-8 trade is insufficient: President FPCCI



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his astonishment that the potentially potent economic and trade bloc of Developing Eight (D-8) has only achieved 4.5 percent regional or intra D-8 trade so far; despite being formed 25 years back and having a D-8 Preferential Trade agreement (D-8 PTA) in place.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has stressed the need to implement the D-8 PTA at the earliest and in its true spirit; as regional trade will bring prosperity and economic cooperation in the entire region. He added that regional economic blocs have up to 70-75 percent of their total trade intra-regionally; and, we are still stuck at a meager 4.5 percent.

He has apprised that D-8 includes seven other very important countries for Pakistan economically for trade, investment and joint ventures; i.e. Bangladesh, Indonesia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria and

Turkiye.

FPCCI President noted that the D-8 bloc represents more than 5 percent of the global GDP; which makes the alliance a significant one for the D-8 countries in particular and the entire region in general. He explained that only if we can capture the D-8 market in value-added textiles; IT & ITES services; sports goods; rice, fruits & vegetables; surgical equipment and construction materials, Pakistan can enhance its exports by \$5-10 billion within 2-3 years.

FPCCI Chief said that the latest high-profile assembly of the bloc, i.e. D-8 Business Forum & Expo 2022, held in Dhaka Bangladesh; and, has seen the participation of several foreign, commerce and investment ministers from D-8 countries. Specifically, presidents of various federal and apex chambers of the D-8 countries also attended the business forum and expo; along with prominent business leaders of their respective countries, he added.

MMBL launches Business Plus Current Account

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital Bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), launched an exciting new product, Business Plus Current Account (BPCA), as part of its strategic goal to keep supporting and strengthening businesses across the nation. Designed to facilitate entrepreneurs, especially Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the BPCA provides access to essential financial tools and services to support the sustainability and digitalization of business ventures. The BPCA, a first of its kind in the microfinance industry, will provide exclusive banking services to business and corporate

entities across Pakistan and help stabilize cash flows and positively impact revenue streams.

With the Bank's dedication to keep introducing innovative digital banking solutions, the BPCA is the latest addition to MMBL's diverse portfolio of digital financial products & services, in a bid to promote financial inclusion and encourage SMEs and home-based business owners to maximize their potential and become financially independent. By providing access to a range of financial services through the BPCA, the new account will help increase the footprint and outreach of businesses, ultimately contributing towards Pakistan's economic and financial landscape.



The product was launched in Islamabad by the President & CEO of MMBL, Ghazwanfar Azzam, in the presence of company executives. Sharing his thoughts on the launch of BPCA,

Mr. Azzam stated, "We are thrilled to launch this ground-breaking product that will provide increased access to seamless digital financial solutions for a wide range of businesses and their

ever-evolving financial needs. MMBL is dedicated to financially empowering enterprises by facilitating simplified access to tailored digital financial services."

Atta Ur Rehman, Chief Branch Business Officer, further shared some key features of the BPCA that include account opening with a minimum balance of PKR 100, access to a wide range of offerings such as pay orders/bankers cheques, accidental life insurance coverage of up to PKR 2 Million, free ATM/Debit card, increased interbank fund transfer limits up to PKR 1.5 Million/day, daily ATM withdrawal limits up to PKR 200,000 across any bank ATM machine without any additional charges, and much more.

Ali Razaq spearheads Central Punjab U19 Whites' 10-wicket win

Northern U19 Whites were bowled out for 220 in 94.4 overs

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: An all-round performance from Ali Razaq guided Central Punjab U19 Whites to a 10-wicket win over Northern U19 Whites in the first round match of the National U19 Championship on Monday. In a Pool B encounter at the NBP Sports Complex, after being asked to follow-on, Northern U19 Whites were bowled out for 220 in the 94.4 overs.

On day three, resuming their second innings at the overnight score of 90 for three, Mohammad Arshad batting at number eight scored 43 off 75 balls and knitted 53 runs for the seventh wicket with Dawood Nazar (34, 57b, four fours) to end up taking 25-run lead. Central Punjab Whites' Ali Razaq bagged



three wickets for 27 from 7.2 overs. The all-rounder had also contributed 67 with the bat in the first innings. Ali was well supported by Mohammad Ibtisam who also took three wickets in the second innings.

In return, Central Punjab U19 Whites chased down the target in the fifth over without losing any wicket.

At other venues in Karachi, the day's play was disrupted due to rain and two

matches of the Pool A and one match of Pool B ended in no result.

At the Hanif Mohammad HPC, match was drawn between Central Punjab U19 Blues and Northern U19 Blues after only 29 overs of action took place on day three. Meanwhile, at the UBL Sports Complex, only three overs of action took place on day two between Balochistan U19 Whites and Southern Punjab U19 Whites before rain interrupted the day's proceedings.

Twelve sides of six Cricket Associations are in action as they are locking horns in the National U19 Championship (three-day event) in Karachi till 23 August. The 12 sides have earlier featured in the National U19 Cup (one-day tournament) that was won by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites beating

Central Punjab Blues by five wickets in the final on 8 July.

Six Blues squads have been placed in Pool A, while six Whites squads are in Pool B. The matches are taking place at UBL Sports Complex, Rashid Latif Academy, NBP Sports Complex, TMC Ground, KCA Stadium and Hanif Mohammad HPC Ground. The final of the tournament will be played between the top team from each group from 20 to 23 August at the UBL Sports Complex.

Performances of players in the recently concluded Cricket Associations Divisional U19 Tournament were also taken into consideration. The performers from last year's National U19 tournaments who are still eligible to feature in the age-group event were also considered for the tournament.

Nishtar Park Sports Complex witnesses its first esports event

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Grand Final of the Free Fire Soobai Series was held on the 31st of July, at the Gymnasium Hall in Nishtar Park Sports Complex, courtesy of the Punjab Sports Board, where the sports locality marked its first-ever esports event. Garena Free Fire, together with Sports Board Punjab and the Directorate General Sports and Youth Affairs announced the start of a strategic collaboration aimed at strengthening the esports landscape in Pakistan last week. The initiative seeks to enable and equip the growth of a new tide of young esports professional players throughout the country.

The Free Fire Soobai Series took center stage in Lahore as the national esports tournament's Grand Final unfolded on Sunday, with RGA Official securing the major share of the PKR 4 Million Prize Pool and a guaranteed spot in the group stages of the upcoming FFPL. Free Fire Soobai



Series has also been marked as the first esports event that was broadcasted live on television in Pakistan.

The tournament enabled the induction of new professional esports players into the Pakistan ecosystem, with participation restrictions placed on the top 9 teams from this year's FFPL III. Teams TG and All Stars finished at second and third place, earning play-off spots for FFPL IV and taking home their shares of the prize pool as well. The MVP of the day was Jx.Junaid from Team Janbaz.

The Final was attended by Asadullah Faiz, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab, who presented the championship trophy and awarded cash prizes to the winning teams. Tariq Qureshi, DG Sports Punjab and Umair Hasan, Director Youth Affairs Punjab were present at the event as well where the Memorandum of Understanding was signed.

Commenting on the occasion, Sports & Youth Affairs Secretary Punjab, Asadullah Faiz said "We're delighted to join hands in this strategic collaboration with Garena

Free Fire. With the launch of this initiative we will seek to elevate the esports landscape in Pakistan, while engaging the youth and providing professional opportunities in the field of esports. Under Punjab's first Sports Policy the Punjab Sports Board is committed to facilitating the esports revolution and progressing the field as any other sport in the country.

Free Fire is the world's leading mobile battle royale game with over 1 Billion downloads and has been at the forefront of the esports revolution in Pakistan. Free Fire is also the proud sponsor of FFPL, Pakistan's First Professional Esports League, which had previously attained the coveted endorsement status by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Fawad Chaudry and has since then grown to become Pakistan's top-level Esports League. FFPL IV is scheduled to return this August with a prize pool worth PKR 10,000,000.

Verstappen exploits Ferrari flop to win in Hungary

BUDAPEST: World champion Max Verstappen fully exploited another Ferrari flop to pull 80 points clear of Charles Leclerc in this year's title race with an emphatic Red Bull triumph in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix.

Just a week after his crushing win at the French Grand Prix, where Leclerc crashed out of the lead, the 24-year-old Dutchman scored his first win at the Hungaroring, his eighth this year and the 28th of his career. Starting from 10th on the grid, after engine problems in qualifying on Saturday required a new power unit, he sliced through the field to finish 7.8 seconds ahead of Mercedes' seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton and George Russell, who had started from his maiden pole position. "When we woke up this



morning who would have thought we would win this race?" said the Dutchman.

With Russell on pole and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and Leclerc second and third on the grid, pre-race forecasts made the Italian team favourites to control and win with some ease as the Red Bulls were 10th and 11th. But a combination of poor tyre management, slow pit-stops

and questionable strategy saw them finish fifth and sixth, behind Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull, who started 11th, after looking likely winners. "I was hoping I could get close to a podium, but it was very tricky out there," said Verstappen.

"But we had a really good strategy, we were really reactive, always pitting at the right time." Hamilton, who

started seventh was seeking to increase his record haul of eight Hungarian wins, registered his fifth consecutive podium and a successive second position. "I was definitely struggling at the beginning, but bit by bit I got more comfortable with the balance," he said. "I had a really good start so I want to acknowledge my team. We've had a tough year and for both cars to be on the podium is an amazing way to go into the summer break. "The other guys have an edge, but we are clearly closing the gap. Hopefully, we can bring some more into the second half of the season and start fighting with them." Russell, who led for 30 laps, said he had a strong first stint, but that he struggled on the medium compound tyres and lost temperature in the closing laps.

'World will change' as England sweep to Euro title

WEMBLEY: England manager Sarina Wiegman said "the world will change" for her players after the Lionesses won Euro 2022 with a 2-1 extra-time victory over Germany at sold out Wembley on Sunday.

In front of a record crowd of 87,192 for any match in the history of the European Championships, Chloe Kelly prodded home the winner in the 110th minute to deliver England women's first ever major tournament win.

"The world will change, we know that," said Wiegman, whose post-match press conference was interrupted by the England squad singing "football's coming home!". "We change society and that's what we want, that's so much more than football. "Winning is what we are here for, our job is to do as good as possible, but through football

you can make changes in society and that's what we are here for." Kelly only just made Wiegman's squad after fighting back from an anterior cruciate ligament tear to be fit in time for the tournament and made herself a national hero by being in the right place to pounce when Germany failed to clear a corner.

The Manchester City winger tore off her shirt in celebration in scenes reminiscent of Brandi Chastain's famous reaction to scoring the winning penalty at the 1999 World Cup for the USA. "This is what dreams are made of, as a young girl watching women's football," said Kelly, who broke off a post-match interview to join in a chorus of "Sweet Caroline" with the crowd and her teammates. "Thank you for everyone who played a part in my rehab. I always believed I'd be here, but

to be here and score the winner, wow.

These girls are amazing," England looked set for victory in the 90 minutes when substitute Ella Toone's sublime chip over Merle Frohms put the hosts in front. Germany showed remarkable resilience to bounce back as Lina Magull levelled 11 minutes from time. But 56 years on from England's last major tournament win in either the men's or women's game, they were not to be denied a major tournament success. Queen Elizabeth II led the tributes to the Lionesses, calling them an "an inspiration for girls and women today, and for future generations". Fortune did not favour Germany, who lost captain and top goalscorer Alexandra Popp to a muscle injury in the warm-up. German boss Martina Voss-Tecklenburg

was also furious that a penalty was not awarded in the first half for a handball by England captain Leah Williamson. But England will feel their time for some luck was due as 12 months on from the Three Lions' defeat on penalties to Italy in the Euro 2020 men's final, the nation's women went one better. "I can't stop crying.

We talk and we talk and we've finally done it," said Williamson. "It's the proudest moment of my life. I'm taking in every single second because I'll want to relive this for a long time." Under Wiegman, England are unbeaten in the 20 games but were pushed to the limit by the eight-time winners despite missing the massive presence of Popp, who had scored six goals in five games en route to the final.

Strength in depth has been one



of the key features of England's success under Wiegman and the Dutch coach turned to Alessia Russo and Toone to change the game as they did in the quarter-final win over Spain. The changes worked to perfection once more as Toone timed her run through the heart of the German defence to latch onto

ler should have converted the rebound rather than rolling the ball into the arms of the grateful Mary Earps.

Voss-Tecklenburg's side were not to be denied, though, and fittingly it was Magull who sent the game to extra-time as the Bayern Munich midfielder slotted Tabea Wassmuth's cross into the roof of the net. Both sides felt the pace of a physical encounter in the extra 30 minutes. England just had enough left in the tank to finally get the job done as Germany failed to deal with the second ball from a corner and Kelly's telescopic right leg flicked the ball home. "Enjoy the free rounds of pints and dinners for the rest of your life from all of England," Chastain tweeted to Kelly. After decades of disappointment, a major tournament trophy has come home for England fans.

Saudi Arabia among nations interested in hosting Women's Asian Cup

SYDNEY: Australia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan have expressed interest in hosting the 2026 Women's Asian Cup, the Asian Football Confederation said on Monday.

The AFC "will now work with all bidding member associations on the delivery of the necessary bidding documentation in accordance with the bidding process".

The winning bid will be announced next year and the AFC hailed the growing popularity of the tournament.

India hosted the 2022 Women's Asian Cup, which was won by China and was expanded from eight to 12 teams. The 2026 edition "is expected to build on the solid foundations of the tournament's celebrated legacy," the AFC said.

Ronaldo 'happy to be back' for Man Utd

MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo played 45 minutes as he made his first Manchester United appearance in 12 weeks during a 1-1 pre-season draw with Rayo Vallecano at Old Trafford on Sunday and later proclaimed: "Happy to be back".

The 37-year-old Portugal forward, who missed the club's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia for personal reasons, reportedly wants to leave the club he rejoined last year. Former Real Madrid and Juventus star Ronaldo finished as United's top scorer last season with 24 goals. But the campaign as a whole was a huge disappointment for the club, with a sixth-place finish in the Premier League meaning they missed out on qualification for the Champions League.

Ronaldo was left out of United's squad for Saturday's friendly with Atletico Madrid in Oslo. But, commenting on a post on a fan page about him missing the game in Norway, Ronaldo wrote Friday: "Domingo o rei joga" which translates as "Sunday the king plays". Ronaldo applauded fans on both sides of the ground as he led the team out for their pre-match warm-up on Sunday. The veteran forward had one clear chance during his 45-minute appearance but drove over the bar after running on to Donny van de Beek's lay-off. After the match, Ronaldo posted a photograph of himself playing in the game on his Twitter feed beneath a caption of "Happy to be back".

Sinner stuns Alcaraz for Umag title

UMAG: Jannik Sinner defeated Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz for the second time in four weeks on Sunday to take the Spaniard's Umag clay-court title. World number 10 Sinner came from a first set deficit to beat the fifth-ranked Alcaraz 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 6-1 in the final.

Sinner, who now has six career titles but a first on clay, had also defeated the 19-year-old in the fourth round at Wimbledon earlier this month. "I am obviously very happy," said Sinner who saved all nine break points he faced. "I have had a tough year until now, I had some unfortunate moments, but we worked every time to play better, to be a better player, to be a better person.

"So, I'm very happy to be finally lifting a trophy this year, but I know that I still have a lot of things to improve. It's all about the process." Alcaraz had been seeking his fifth title of 2022 but instead was defeated in a final for the second successive week after losing to another Italian, Lorenzo Musetti in Hamburg. Despite those back-to-back setbacks, Alcaraz will rise to a career high of four in the world rankings on Monday, replacing Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Mosaddek to lead Bangladesh in Zimbabwe decider

DHAKA: Bangladesh have named all-rounder Mosaddek Hossain to lead the side in the series-deciding third Twenty20 against Zimbabwe in Harare on Tuesday.

Mosaddek replaces Nurul Hasan as captain after the wicketkeeper-batsman was ruled out of the rest of the tour with a finger injury he sustained in Sunday's seven-wicket win in the second match. The three-match series in Harare is locked at 1-1 after Zimbabwe won the first by 15 runs.

Mosaddek led Bangladesh's comeback with a career-best 5-20 in the second match. A Bangladesh cricket board (BCB) statement on Monday also said that the experienced Mahmudullah Riyad will replace Nurul in the squad.

Mahmudullah, who led Bangladesh's T20 side for 43 matches until this series, is already in Zimbabwe as part of the one-day international squad.

Afghanistan begin T20 World Cup preparation

KABUL: Afghanistan have named a 16-member squad for the upcoming five-match T20I assignment against Ireland, starting 9 August.

All the five T20Is are slated to be played in Belfast which will form a vital part of their preparation for the Asia Cup and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia later this year. Star spinner Mujeeb ur Rahman is awaiting his visa and has been named on the reserve list.

"We have had good results in our recent tours, the squad has done well recently and we are looking forward to having good results again in our next series against Ireland," said ACB Chief Selector Noor Malikza, "Mujeeb's visa is not yet issued and thus he has been added to reserve players.