



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ان سے ناس نے، ان سے ابن عمر رضی اللہ
عہما عنہما بیان کیا کہ (نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ
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RAWALPINDI

Indian unilateral action of Aug. 5 unconstitutional: Raja

National Assembly (NA) Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf says Indian government's unilateral action of August 5, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was unconstitutional and against the United Nations (UN) resolutions. The international community should break the silence for the rights of Kashmiris and play its role in resolving the Kashmir conflict according to the UN resolutions.



Funding case exposes Imran: Zubair

Former Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair says ECP's report unmasked real face of Imran Khan who received funds from prohibited sources. It is revealed now that Imran Khan and PTI received foreign funding from Indian and Israeli citizens but they kept blaming political opponents as foreign agents. PTI resorted to every possible measure in the previous eight years to block ECP's decision on the prohibited foreign funding case that was initiated by Akbar S. Babar - a founder member and then close aide of Imran Khan - in November 2014.

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SBP expands forex opts' monitoring



Bureau Report

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan has increased the monitoring of the foreign exchange operations of Exchange Companies (ECs) and banks after recent volatility in the exchange rate and the difference between the interbank rate and the rate offered by Exchange Companies and banks to their customers. The SBP started inspections of a number of exchange companies and banks since Monday (August 1), said SBP statement issued here on Wednesday. On Tuesday, SBP suspended the operations of four branches of two ECs (Galaxy Exchange Co and Al-Hameed International Money Exchange Co) for violation of SBP regulations. It had also imposed monetary penalties on some ECs in the recent past, the statement added. Furthermore, due to violations of SBP instructions, arrangements of 13 franchises had been terminated by six different ECs in the recent past, it said. The SBP has also started conducting mystery shopping exercise throughout Pakistan to investigate the apprehensions that some ECs are not selling foreign currency to their customers. A meeting of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan has also been called on August 4, 2022. If needed, SBP would augment its enforcement actions on the ECs and the banks in light of findings of the on-going inspections and mystery shopping.

ECP verdict

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting of leaders of PDM and other allied parties in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Floods rescue, relief opts should continue 24/7: PM

Orders an update on disbursement of funds to the flood victims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered round-the-clock monitoring of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation measures in the flood-affected areas of Balochistan. He also ordered an update regarding the relief and disbursement of funds to the flood victims through the submission of a report every 48 hours. The prime minister instructed the relevant authorities to speed up the distribution of relief funds in Balochistan, especially in areas like Bolan, Quetta, Zhob, Dakki, Khuzdar, Kohlu, Kech, Mastung, Harnai, Qila Saifullah, and Sibbi. PM Sharif also directed to pace up the relief and rehabilitation work in the flood-affected areas of Sindh, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, and Punjab. He said the affected people were looking towards

the government for mitigation of their sufferings and stressed that negligence in the supply of food, medicines, and accommodation would not be tolerated. He emphasized extending a uniform level of facilitation to flood victims across the country. The prime minister ordered to ensure proper cleaning, sanitation, and fumigation of the flood-hit areas to avert the spread of diseases including dengue. He also directed the provision of clean drinking water to flood victims to control gastric diseases. A report by the authorities concerned informed the prime minister that the arrangement of food, medical camps, and shelter had been made in the flood-hit areas of Balochistan. The report said that relief activities had been increased in collaboration with the provincial government of

Balochistan, while work was in progress in other provinces with the cooperation of the respective provincial governments.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif underlined the importance Pakistan attached to

PM reaffirms resolve to further deepen Pak-Japan partnership

its long-standing ties with Japan and reaffirmed the resolve to further strengthen this valuable partnership in all aspects.

He stressed that bilateral cooperation must be further expanded in trade, investment, IT, renewable energy and other related fields. The prime minister was talking to

Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Honda Taro who called on him. Highlighting the cordial and cooperative bilateral relations, the prime minister appreciated the support provided by the government of Japan for infrastructural and socio-economic development in Pakistan.

Appreciating investments by the Japanese enterprises in Pakistan over the past many years, the prime minister assured that the government would make all possible efforts to help further scale up such investments. He also stressed the importance of high-level exchanges between the two countries. The prime minister highlighted the dire situation in IIOJK and underscored the need for peaceful resolution of the dispute for durable peace, security and prosperity in South Asia.

Pakistan speed

PM Sharif pushing ahead CPEC: China

BELJING: China on Wednesday highly appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for pushing ahead building of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with new 'Pakistan speed' and acknowledged his untiring efforts for advancing practical cooperation between the two countries. "We highly appreciate the prime minister's statements. He (Shehbaz Sharif) has done so much for practical cooperation between the two countries," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said during her regular briefing in response to a question.

Shehbaz Sharif in a recent meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong underlined his commitment to unlock full economic and connectivity potential of CPEC through expedited and high-quality development of

CPEC projects. The spokesperson remarked that Prime Minister Sharif valued Pakistan's relations with China, adding, "Shehbaz Sharif has many times reaffirmed that Pakistan will push ahead the building of CPEC with new Pakistan speed." She said that after he took office, Prime Minister Sharif had visited Gwadar port twice and hosted seminar between the Pakistani side and Chinese companies and he had done so much for our practical cooperation.

"So with the guidance of the leaders of both countries and with our concerted efforts, we are seeing a lot of progress being made on CPEC," he added. Hua Chunying said, "We are ready to further implement well the understandings between the leaders of our two countries and building on what we have achieved and current projects." Agencies

Banning Imran, PTI not up to govt: Fawad

Claims verdict on prohibited funding changed at Law Minister's behest

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday stood adamant in the face of the government's announcement it may file a declaration against the party in the Supreme Court, saying that "it is not up to you" to ban Imran Khan or the party. His remarks, during a press conference, followed Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah saying that the government can give a declaration to the Supreme Court, on the basis of verified evidence, that PTI is a foreign aided party and if the apex court upholds this declaration, "the party will stand dissolved".

Fawad said that a reference has been filed against Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and that the party will appeal against

the Election Commission of Pakistan's decision, which he declared in contravention to the law and the Constitution. A day earlier, the ECP in a unanimous verdict, ruled that the PTI received funds from "prohibited" sources. The PTI leader also announced a protest outside the ECP office. He alleged that parties part of the Pakistan Democratic Movement alliance had "met the chief election commissioner" before the verdict was announced.

Fawad Chaudhry accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of making alterations in the verdict regarding the prohibited funding case saying that the decision was something else but it was changed at the behest of Law Minister. Agencies

PDM huddle

Coalition parties decide to hold rallies against PTI

Nawaz wants reference against PTI in SC within 48 hours

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PML-N supremo has advised the coalition government to file a reference against the PTI in the Supreme Court within 48 hours. Nawaz had called for filing the reference while speaking during a meeting of the coalition government's partners held at the Prime Minister's House with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair. Party officials privy to the meeting shared that Nawaz stressed "providing no concession to those who create instability on the agenda of anti-national elements", adding that former prime minister Imran Khan was directly involved in the roll-back of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and "selling of Kashmir". On the other hand, Qaumi Watan Party chief Aftab Sherpao said that the coalition government has to deliver now and control inflation.

The meeting also decided that all the coalition parties will hold rallies against the PTI across the country. PkMAP and BNP-Mengal in Quetta, and PML-N in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The heads of the component parties of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and the ruling alliance met in Islamabad today (Wednesday) to chalk out a future strategy following Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in PTI prohibited funding case. Matters related to the prevailing political and economic situation of the country also came under discussion. Sources privy to the development said Chief of Qaumi Watan Party (QWP), Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, who is a part of PDM alliance, strongly criticized the coalition government over rising inflation and "poor economic policies. The meeting was attended by the top leadership of the coalition allies, includ-

ing PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, JWP leader Shahzain Bugti, MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and a number of other leaders. In yesterday's meeting, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has appointed the heads of the political and legal committees to recommend action against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after the announcement of the prohibited funding case by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). PDM leadership has constituted the political and legal committees to seek recommendations for an action against the PTI following ECP's verdict in the prohibited funding case. The ruling coalition agreed on taking strict decisions on the political and legal fronts against Imran Khan-led PTI. The legal committee comprised on experts from all PDM parties will forward its recommendations to take action against PTI.

Verdict

ECP rejects PTI's criticism



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday while reacting to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) criticism over ECP's verdict on prohibited funding case said that those people saying that ECP announced verdict in urgency which came after 8 years is 'surprising'. The ECP spokesperson in a statement stated that a few persons are spreading misleading and false propaganda against the verdict which came after 8 years. "This propaganda has nothing to do with reality, the commission has given a single decision which is signed page by page and the decision was released by the Election Commission on the official website," spokesperson added.

ECP's verdict

Imran, President Alvi should resign: Fazl

Demands immediate arrest of PTI leadership

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PMD) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman Wednesday demanded resignations from PTI Chairperson Imran Khan and President Dr Arif Alvi following the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP's) verdict on the PTI's foreign funding case. The election commission on August 2 announced the verdict, stating that the party has been involved in accepting prohibited funding. It found that donations poured in from America, Australia, Canada, and the UAE. PTI received funds from 34 individuals and 351 businesses, including companies, the ECP's verdict stated. "Not only Imran Khan is a criminal but the whole party constitutes criminals," said the JUI-F chief while speaking at a press conference in the federal capital. He added that all the coalition parties have urged the commission to take action against the PTI and all those involved in this case. Fazl said that the members should be arrested and those four employees who received the funding in their accounts should be investigated. "This is now the matter of survival of the state and everyone responsible should stand together to save Pakistan," he added.



The PDM chief said that the verdict has proved that Khan was a "foreign agent with a foreign agenda," who has taken help from India, Israel, America, Canada, and Finland. "Imran Khan was putting pressure on the ECP; however, the commission did not get blackmailed. The election commission is an institute and its facts cannot be denied," said Fazl. He added that the details were provided to the ECP by the State Bank of Pakistan during PTI's tenure. PDM chief said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top brass should be immediately arrested after the foreign funding case. Fazl said that their (PTI) employees should be arrested and more details should be obtained. Maulana Fazl said that there has been an indictment against Imran Khan and PTI in the foreign funding case. Now the phase of deciding the punishment against him according to the constitu-

tion and the law has come, he added. JUI-F chief said that Imran Khan is no longer an accused, he has been declared a criminal. This party has been declared a foreign aided party as it has been proved that PTI has received foreign funding, Fazl added. Taking a swipe at the former premier, Fazl said that he (Imran) is constantly telling lies in front of the new generation. Every day Imran Khan is changing his statement. Clearing the air, the JUI-F supremo said that action will now be taken as per the constitution and law. The PDM chief said that the PTI leadership has submitted false certificates, which is a violation of the constitution. Maulana alleged that Imran had sought international cooperation to demolish the state building. Fazl emphasized that for the survival of the state, all those responsible for the defense of the state should be concerned about saving the country. Maulana Fazl attacked the PTI chairman and said that it has been proved that Imran Khan is a foreign puppet in the funding matter. He added that PTI was funded by 351 foreign companies and 34 foreign nationals. Fazl added that it has received funds from Israel, India, USA, Canada, Denmark, Finland.

Renaissance

DHAKA: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is holding a meeting with Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister for Information and Broadcasting of Bangladesh during his brief stopover at Chattogram, Bangladesh on his way to Cambodia on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

10 days

Pak-Iran rail service remains suspended



CHAGAI: Railway officials said that the freight train service between Pakistan and Iran, yet to be restored after being suspended for last 10 days. Four freight trains have been standing at Dalbandin railway station for last one week, railway officials said. The trains carrying rice cargo for Iran while an extreme hot weather could rot the cargo, officials have appreciated.

The railway traffic between Pakistan and Iran has been completely suspended, according to officials.

The repair work of a railway bridge destroyed near Ahmadwal yet to be started. "The lower portion of the railway track has still been under the water, officials said. The train service between two neighboring countries used to remain suspended mostly owing to its poor infrastructure.

Earlier in July, a goods train, destined for Iran from Quetta, was derailed near Padag resulting in suspension of the train service. Before it a freight train coming from Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin area of Chagai district. According to official sources, five bogies were derailed, leaving the routine operation suspended. The derailment caused the suspension of the train services for 72 hours. The sources cited the tracks' dilapidated condition as the cause of the accident. Pak-Iran freight train service was recently restored after completion of repair and rehabilitation work of railway track damaged due to heavy flash floods near Dalbandin in Chagai district.

Imran biggest thief in country's history: Bilawal

FM off to Cambodia to attend ASEAN's ministerial meeting

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD/DHAKA: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday said that Imran Khan has been exposed and now it has been proven that he is biggest thief in entire history of Pakistan. PPP Chairman, while reacting to verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in prohibited funding case, said that a person who submit a false affidavit can never be 'sadiq-o-ameen'. He further said that Imran Khan's anti-corruption narrative has been exposed as even the foundations of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were laid on corruption.

Bilawal said that Imran Khan, who adopted various tactics to stop ECP investigation, has been exposed before the entire nation. Imran polluted domestic politics by receiving funds from foreign nationals, he added. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was received by Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister for Information and Broadcasting of Bangladesh during his brief stopover at Chattogram, Bangladesh on his way to Cambodia to attend the 29th Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), being held from 4-6 August 2022.

On the occasion, the two Ministers

exchanged gifts of books. The Foreign Minister stayed for around 40 minutes at the airport. The Foreign Minister during his transit in Chattogram conveyed his compliments and a message of goodwill for Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen and the people of Bangladesh. While flying over Bangladesh, I wish to convey my personal best wishes for Your Excellency's good health and happiness and for ever increasing

FM Bilawal meets with Bangladeshi Info Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud during his brief stopover at Chattogram, Bangladesh

progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Bangladesh."

Earlier, Foreign Minister left for Cambodia to lead the country's delegation at the 29th ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF), being held in Cambodia. The meeting, sched-

uled to take place from August 4-6, will be attended by the foreign ministers and representatives of the 27 ARF member countries and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

In his pre-departure statement, the foreign minister said he looked forward to attending the meeting and holding bilateral interactions with the representatives of ASEAN countries. At the ARF Ministerial, FM Bilawal Butto will participate in deliberations on political and security issues of concern to Asia-Pacific aimed at promoting common solutions through dialogue and cooperation. He will also meet with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia and have bilateral meetings with a number of his counterparts on the sidelines.

Established in 1994, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is an important platform for consultations among countries of the Asia Pacific on issues related to regional peace and security. Since joining the ARF in 2004, Pakistan has been an active member of the Forum and regularly participates in its activities. It is pertinent to mention here that the ministerial meeting of ARF was held through video conference last year due to COVID-19.

None to be allowed protest in front of ECP: Rana

Warns PTI of strict action if they try to enter Red Zone

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Wednesday warned PTI of strict actions against those who try to enter the Red Zone as the party announced to stage a protest outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) tomorrow. The interior minister issued the warning while addressing a press conference flanked by Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb in the federal capital.

Speaking to Geo News, Rana Sanaullah said that PTI would be "dissolved" if the Supreme Court upholds the declaration of the

government. "ECP has made a 100% correct decision," the interior minister said, adding that the judgment "proved PTI is a foreign-funded party". He accused the party of hiding its accounts and tampering its financial record.

The PML-N leader, citing the ECP verdict, said the PTI accepted funds from 34 foreigners and 351 companies in violation of the Political Party Act and the Election Act. ECP's ruling "proved Khan is a liar and forger", the interior minister said, adding that the ruling alliance has devised a future plan after the verdict. He maintained that they would "show the real face of Imran Khan" to the people.

Services' exports 17.2% up in FY2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The exports of services from the country witnessed an increase of 17.20 percent during the financial year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports of services during July-June (2021-22) were recorded at US\$ 6,968.16 million against the exports of US\$5,945.47 million during July-June (2020-21), showing a growth of 17.2 percent. The services' imports also rose by 43.52 percent growing from US\$ 8,461.27 million last year to US\$12,143.91 million during the period under review.

Based on the figures, the services trade deficit was recorded at the US \$ 5,175.75 million this year against the deficit of US \$2,515.80 million during the last fiscal year, showing an increase of 105.73 percent. On a year-on-year basis, the services exports during the month of June 2022 grew by 11.75 percent to US\$ 646.01 million against the exports of US \$ 578.10 million during June 2021. The imports also grew by 57.62 percent from US\$871.08 million last June to the US \$ 1,372.98 million in June 2022, according to the data.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports from the country went up by 29.68 percent as compared to the exports of US \$ 498.14 million in May 2022. The imports also went up by 37.95 percent as compared to the imports of US \$995.25 million in May 2022, the data revealed. Meanwhile, the merchandise exports from the country declined by 5.17 percent in July 2022 as compared to exports of July 2021.

GST on bills

LHC seeks reply from WAPDA

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday sought a response from Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) chairman and others in a case related to the collection of GST on electricity bills. Justice Shujaat Ali Khan of LHC passed the orders while hearing plea of Nasir Salman against collecting GST via electricity bills. Salman in his plea made the president, PM and WAPDA chairman respondents in his plea. The plaintiff said collection of GST from the small traders and retailers via electricity bills is illegal. The bill with General Sales Tax was also sent to the traders who consumed a single unit of electricity in the month.

The LHC has been pleaded to nullify the orders of GST collection on electricity bills. After the initial hearing, LHC Justice Shujaat Ali Khan sought a response from WAPDA chairman and other respondents. The hearing has been adjourned until August 22. Earlier, Karachi school on Monday moved the Sindh High Court (SHC) against collection of General Sales Tax on electricity bill.

A private school filed a plea with SHC against the school for sending an electricity bill with GST. We are running a school, not a retailer, the plea stated and added that K-Electric has slapped Rs6,000 each GST on the four commercial electricity meters.

Foreign funding

Imran Khan forms four-member legal team

Says PTI to file reference with SJC against CEC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Following the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in prohibited funding case, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has formed a four-member legal team. The legal team include Anwar Mansoor, Barrister Ali Zafar, Shah Khawar and Faisal Chaudhry. The team will be headed by former attorney general Anwar Mansoor. The legal team has been directed to prepare an appeal against ECP verdict. The team will prepare an appeal on the decision of the ECP and take approval from the former prime minister.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan

has said that the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) will be approached by his political party against the chief election commissioner (CEC). While talking to a private news channel today, Imran Khan said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) levelled foolish allegations against PTI. He said that the commission compiled two reports, one of them declaring PTI a foreign-funded party was included at the behest of 'someone'. He censured ECP saying the election commission was involved in the conspiracy with the 'imported government' against PTI as the institution was deliberately delaying the funding reports of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

MNA's resignations

IHC to take up PTI's plea today

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday fixed the PTI's petition against acceptance of the resignations of 11 MNAs by the speaker national assembly for hearing after the removal of the objections of registrar office. Acting Chief Justice Aamer Farooq would take up the case for hearing today (Thursday). The PTI had attached the authority letter and also made its 123 MNAs as respondents in the case following the instructions of the registrar office.

The petitioner Asad Umar had challenged the phase-wise acceptance of resignations of PTI's 11 MNAs by the speaker national assembly. The plea said that PTI's all 123 members should be de-notified as they had given resigns from the assembly. It further



said the speaker NA had no powers to keep pending the resignations of other members. The registrar office had raised objections against the petition and instructed the petitioner to remove the same.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has submitted the letter of authority and made 123 members parties in the case. Lawyer Faisal Chaudhry is pursuing the case on behalf of PTI. A day earlier, the IHC directed the PTI to remove the objections of Registrar's Office on

party's petition. The Registrar's Office had objected to the absence of authority letter of the respective MNAs from the petition.

It is pertinent to mention here that NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf accepted the resignations of 11 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Members of the National Assembly. The government accepted 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. All the PTI lawmakers had resigned en masse on April 11, two days after former prime minister Imran Khan was ousted from the top office after the no-confidence motion moved by the joint opposition in the parliament against him succeeded.

Pakistan 'deeply concerned' over China-US tension

Foreign Office reaffirms 'One-China' policy over Taiwan issue

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expressed "deep concern" over the confrontation of arch-rivals China and the US after House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the Taiwan Strait, which, according to the Foreign Office, has serious implications for regional peace and stability. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the "One-China" policy and supports China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The statement comes after China furiously condemned the highest-level US visit to Taiwan in 25 years as Pelosi hailed the self-ruled island as "one of the freest societies in the world" and pledged American solidarity. Pelosi arrived with a congressional delegation on an unannounced

visit late on Tuesday, defying China's repeated warnings, in what she said shows unwavering US commitment to Taiwan's democracy. However, the FO spokesperson said that the world is already reeling from a critical security scenario as a result of the Ukraine crisis, which has destabilised worldwide food and energy security.

The spokesperson said the world cannot afford another crisis that has negative consequences for global peace, security, and the economy. He said Pakistan strongly believes that inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful resolution of issues by upholding the principles of the UN charter, international law, and bilateral agreements. Beijing demonstrated its anger with Pelosi's presence on the island with a burst of military activity in surround-



ing waters, summoning the US ambassador in Beijing and halting several agricultural imports from Taiwan.

Some of China's planned military exercises will take place within Taiwan's 12 nautical

mile sea and air territory, according to Taiwan's defence ministry, an unprecedented move a senior defence official described to reporters as "amounting to a sea and air blockade of Taiwan". Pakistan reaffirmed its strong commit-

ment to 'One-China' policy and expressed firm support to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Pakistan is deeply concerned over the evolving situation in the Taiwan Strait, which has serious implications for regional peace and stability," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The FO said the world was already reeling through a critical security situation due to the Ukraine conflict, with destabilizing implications for international food and energy security. "The world cannot afford another crisis that has negative consequences for global peace, security and economy," it said. The FO said: "Pakistan strongly believes that inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful resolution of issues by upholding of principles of UN charter, international law and bilateral agreements."

IS Helicopter crash

COAS attends funeral prayers of martyred army officers

General Qamar Javed Bajwa meets families of army officers martyred in a helicopter crash in Balochistan

RAWALPIND: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday met the families of army officers martyred in a helicopter crash in Balochistan.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), General Bajwa met with the families of Lt Gen Sarfraz Ali and Brigadier Muhammad Khalid who were onboard the army aviation army helicopter that crashed during a flood relief operation in Lasbela district of Balochistan. The army chief also met the family members of Lt Col Laiq Baig Mirza who was kidnapped and martyred by terrorists in Ziarat last month. COAS Bajwa also attended the funeral prayers of Lt Gen Sarfraz Ali in



Quetta. Acting Governor Balochistan Jan Muhammad Jamali, Chief Minister Quddus Bizenjo, provincial ministers, civil and senior military officials, and relatives of the martyrs attended the funeral. The funeral prayers

of Lt General Sarfraz, Major General Amjad and Brigadier Khalid will also be offered in Rawalpindi after which they will be laid to rest.

The funeral prayers of other Pakistan Army soldiers martyred in a helicopter

crash were offered in their native towns, and participated by the senior military officials, civilians and their relatives.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Major Talha Shaheed was offered in Rawalpindi. Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas, Commander Rawalpindi Corps Lieutenant General Sahir Shamsahad Mirza, senior serving and retired military officials, relatives of the Shaheed and people from all walks of life attended the prayer.

Major Talha was buried with full military honour as a Pakistan Army contingent presented guard of honour. Lt Gen Mirza presented the National Flag to his father and also laid a wreath on his grave.

IS Thieves robbed a poor family's house in Wana city area

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Increase in theft incidents in the tribal district of South Waziristan, the thieves robbed the house of Janan Wazir, who was living in a tent, in the area of Wana City, took away a car and Rs.250,000.

According to the details, last night in Wana tribal district of South Waziristan, unknown persons broke into the house of Janan Wazir, a sub caste of Ahmadzai Wazir belonging to Gangi Khel living in a tent due to poverty in Wana Khowara area, where the thieves ran sacked the house, completely wiped out the thieves took away a vehicle and two hundred and fifty thousand rupees.

Digitalization transformation will make NTDC a state-of-the-art entity: MD

NTDC kicks off implementation of ERP for more accurate and efficient operations

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Managing Director National Transmission and Despatch Company, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, said that NTDC is committed to achieve Digital Transformation by allocating necessary in-house resources for this transition.

He was addressing the "kick-off ceremony" of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project, which aimed at Business Automation process of the company.

The MD NTDC further said that NTDC started digital transformation journey three years ago. The strategy was to work on short and long-term initiatives to achieve our goal. "I am very pleased to see that the ERP project is finally kicking off. We are now officially starting the implementation of project that would be completed in 18 months' time period."

It was further elaborated that this is the largest investment in terms of resource allocation with respect to Business Process Automation in NTDC's history.



LAHORE: Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan and MD Siemens Markus Strohmeier along with other officials cutting the celebration cake during kick off ceremony of implementation of ERP in NTDC.

"I am expecting that all employees shall actively participate, take ownership role and make required contribution. Higher management will be closely monitoring this project's progress and will facilitate the project team by providing complete support.

It was highlighted that this project is funded by the World Bank and M/s. Siemens, Pakistan has won the contract for the Supply, Design and implementation of ERP along with supply and commissioning of Hardware and change management.

Japan provides \$9m for sewerage, drainage services in Multan

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expresses his deepest appreciation to Govt of Japan for its generous support

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has agreed to provide new grant assistance worth 1,236 million Japanese Yen (Equivalent to around 9.062 million USD / around 1,855 million PKR) for upgrading the mechanical system for sewerage and drainage services in Multan.

In the presence of the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, HONDA Taro, on a visit to Pakistan, a signing ceremony for the assistance was held at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan, KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative of JICA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Economic Affairs, Mian Asad Hayaud Din, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and other officials from both countries attended this ceremony.

Multan city has faced constant flooding of roads in the urban areas due to frequent sewer clogging, caus-



ing road closures and sanitary problems. Although the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Multan continues to enhance their sewerage services through repairing their old equipment for cleaning sewer pipes and relocating reusable equipment to where most needed, it has been difficult to adequately respond to citizens' requests for preventing sewer clogging.

This grant project will address the above issues by upgrading the sewerage equipment, such as cleaning equipment and drainage pumps, to effectively maintain the sewer pipes and channels. This will help improve sewerage

services and contribute to sustainable sanitation in the region.

In the signing ceremony, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister HONDA stated, "I am delighted to be able to visit Pakistan on the unique occasion of the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan. I will make every effort to strengthen the friendship between the two countries by continuous development cooperation, especially in the sectors such as water supply and sewage, disaster prevention, health, and education, as well as by promoting people-to-people exchanges and expanding trade and investment."

Ufone 4G gets global recognition

Company also named the most Consistent Quality Network in Pakistan by the independent analyst

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G has been recognized as the superior 4G services provider in Pakistan by Opensignal, a leading global analytics company specializing in quantifying the users' mobile network experience. Ufone 4G outdid other operators in several indicators of the 'Overall Experience' under the 4G subset as per the global analyst's insight's report 'Pakistan Mobile Network Experience Report August 2022', which also names the company as the most Consistent



Quality Network in Pakistan.

The independent analytics come as an endorsement of Ufone 4G's highest standards in 4G service delivery. The company outdid competition with a significant margin in the most indicators of 'Overall Experience' in the 4G subset. It stayed the outright winner in 4G Video Experience and joint winner in Overall Video Experience, which quantifies the quality of video streamed to mobile devices by measuring real-world video streams

over an operator's networks. The network also topped the 4G Download and Upload markers with significant margins against other players. It also emerged as the joint winner of 4G Voice App Experience.

As the most Consistent Quality Network, Ufone topped the 'Excellent Consistent Quality' and 'Core Consistent Quality' categories. As per Opensignal, Consistent Quality measure how often the experience of users on a network was sufficient to support the requirements of common applications by quantifying down-

load and upload speeds, latency, jitter, packet loss, time to the first byte, and the percentage of tests attempted which did not succeed due to a connectivity issue on either the download or server response component.

Ufone 4G acquired 1800Mhz spectrum in 2021 and it continues to expand its 4G services in Pakistan to provide an unrivaled telecom experience to its customers. The transformation went on to raise the bar in terms of service delivery and redefined quality connectivity through its world-class voice and data services.

Head of UNICEF's child protection program calls on Ombudsman Punjab

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: UNICEF's chief of child protection program Ms Daniela Luciani called on Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan at his office and discussed matters relating to the protection of children's rights. Chief Provincial Commissioner for Children of ombudsman office Mrs Tabana Sajjad Naseer and Child Protection Officer Zahida Manzoor were also present.

A detailed discussion was held about the elimination of online harassment and exploitation of children, the rehabilitation and protection of affected children and child labour to provide a conducive atmosphere to the little ones. Daniela Luciani appreciated the role being played by the CPCC office under Tabana Sajjad Naseer to stop child exploitation and assured support of UNICEF.

Azam Suleman Khan explained that the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has been providing important pro bono services for the last 25 years to help resolve public issues relating to the provincial government institutions. Meanwhile, the office of the Chief Provincial Commissioner for Children has been active since 2009 to protect children's rights and the primary function of this platform is to examine and investigate complaints made by or on behalf of children. It also works to proactively bring children's voices into policy-making arenas, he cited.

A working group consisting of line departments, NGOs and parliamentary representatives has also been formed to deal with the online exploitation and harassment of children. This working group will draft policy guidelines to protect children from online harrying while providing necessary guidance to the government as a think tank, he added.

Azam Suleman further mentioned that the Office of Ombudsman Punjab is active in all 36 districts of the province to protect public rights. Alongside, the departmental helpline 1050 is 24/7 operational to guide the people needing assistance for the redressal of their problems, he concluded.

IS Young Leaders Conference

EBM, SoL embark on a journey of self-discovery

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Keeping alive its two-decade-long tradition of nurturing young minds, English Biscuits Manufacturers – the makers of Peek Freans, in collaboration with the School of Leadership (SoL), once again sponsored the 21st Young Leaders Conference 2022.

The main theme of the Conference revolved around 'Pehchaan' (Identity). The participants were guided as to how looking within paves the way to desired outcomes. The six-day event touched on various aspects of life and emphasized reigniting the sense of exploring infinite possibilities and uncovering true human potential.

The 'SooperHaiMeriPehchaan' activity became a moment of binding for over 200 participants as they joined hands to create short documentaries to reflect back on their role towards themselves, society, and Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Managing Director and CEO of EBM, Dr Zeelaf Munir, said: "EBM's continuous support to YLC is a testament to its commitment to nurturing young minds. This year, YLC focused on helping individuals explore their true identities. I hope our youth used the platform to unlearn the preconceived notions about their limitations and go on a journey of self-discovery as to what could be achieved if they put their focus in the right place."

EBM has been at the forefront in creating a life-changing impact on over 200 students every year through YLC. This collaboration between EBM and SoL aims to help the youth to discover themselves. EBM hopes to continue empowering the leaders of tomorrow by providing them with such platforms where they can unveil new arenas of success and leadership.

Govt to pay Rs10 lakh compensation each to kin of deceased: Kaira

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that after reviewing the loss of lives and property caused by the monsoon rains in Azad Kashmir, measures will be taken on a priority basis for the rehabilitation and relief of the victims.

Kaira said this during a briefing session here on Wednesday. The State Disaster Management Authority, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Muhammad Usman Chachar were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the federal government and the government of Azad Kashmir would jointly redress the losses of the victims. "10 lakh rupees are being given as compensation to the families of those who died during the monsoon rains whereas financial aid is also being provided to the injured", he said.

Kaira on the occasion distributed relief checks amongst the families of those who died during the recent rains.

During the briefing, the secretary of state disaster management authority told him that 25 people have lost their lives and 16 were injured during the current spell of monsoon rains in Azad Kashmir. Besides causing damage to human settlements, he said that the flash floods caused by the rains have inflicted massive damage to the livestock in the region. "227 houses and 9 shops were destroyed, during which cattle were also killed", he said.

IS For visually-impaired customers

SCB introduces 'Braille-Inclusive' forms

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Standard Chartered Bank Pakistan Limited (SCBPL) has recently pioneered special 'Braille-Inclusive' banking-forms, for the convenience of visually-impaired citizens. SCBPL has been deploying innovative technologies for world-class financial-services, besides enabling socio-economic growth for the impoverished and the persons-with-disabilities. Launched in collaboration with Pakistan's Assistive Technology Startup – BoltayHuroof, this initiative will offer valuable facilities for the well-being of these 'Special' consumers.

Continuing with its generous contributions to elevate quality-of-life for the masses, this global financial leader, hosted a formal ceremony. This landmark agreement was signed between the co-founder of 'BoltayHuroof' – Hafiz Sheikh Umar Farooq and the Head of CPBB operations at SCBPL – Ms Saadya Rizaz. During the event, 'BoltayHuroof' showcased the new banking-forms of SCBPL that have been converted with

Braille-Inclusive features, while various other Braille facilities were also presented, including the first braille animal-book.

Rehan Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer at Standard Chartered Bank, said, "This resourceful initiative will enable broader Financial-Inclusion of Persons-with-Disabilities. Standard Chartered Pakistan is making it easier for the Visually Impaired persons, to open bank-accounts and engage in financial activities, at all branches of the bank. This agreement is the first step towards implementing the 'Diversity & Inclusion' agenda of Standard Chartered and the Inclusion-Directive of the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Co-founder of 'BoltayHuroof' – Hafiz Sheikh Umar Farooq stated that: "True inclusion can only become possible when we accommodate every segment of society in our social, educational and economic systems. This initiative towards financial inclusion by BoltayHuroof and Standard Chartered will bring an empowering difference in Visually Impaired Person's lives."

ISLAMABAD
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings
Fajr 3:46 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:05 pm
Maghrib 7:07 pm
Isha 8:41 pm

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
& 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

IB students in Pakistan receive Middle Years Program Results

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Globally, 89,201 International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) students received their eAssessment (e-Portfolios and on-screen examinations), and personal projects results, from the May 2022 examination session. This included 165 students from Pakistan. The MYP is currently offered at 9 schools in Pakistan for the May 2022 examination session, over 240 IB World Schools in 59 countries participated in the optional MYP eAssessment, representing a 13.4% increase in registrations. The students who registered for the full MYP certificate received an average score of 37.72 points (out of 56 possible maximum). The point average in Pakistan was 40.06. The eAssessments are based at the end of each programme and combines ePortfolios of coursework with media-rich on-screen examinations that enable creative responses, or responses that require students to manipulate data and present new understandings, using much more dynamic methods than on paper.

Promoting Coop

Consortium of Pakistan China Research Centres proposed

Webinar on '71 Years of China Pakistan Research and Development Cooperation: Way Forward' held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A consortium of Pakistan-China Research Centres has been announced to build strong collaboration amongst the academic sector to promote Pakistan-China Education and Knowledge Corridor. This consortium proposed to build collaboration in research projects and developing of further understanding in order to move China-Pakistan relations forward. Through such collaboration collaborate on research projects and build on recommendations for the governments on both sides to consider in moving ahead in addressing the regional and international challenges.

This was proposed during the Webinar on "71 Years of China Pakistan Research and Development Cooperation: Way Forward" hosted by the Centre for BRI and China Studies-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies- IPDS & Pakistan Research Center, Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, China. It is



proposed that consortium members would be from the China and Pakistan to prepare a roadmap for future research and knowledge collaboration.

Farhat Asif, President IPDS said that the research and education development collaboration is important between China and Pakistan and this webinar is organised to review the research and development progress and build a way forward. Prof. Tang Jun, Director, Pakistan Research Center, Inner Mongolia Honder College of Arts and Sciences, said that various joint research programs between China and

Pakistan contribute to promoting collaboration on issues of mutual interests and there is a growing opportunity for both sides to share research and intellect in various fields.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin Ul Haq, in his video message said that Pakistan and China's friendship is defined by resilience, trust, and active partnership. Ambassador has highlighted the role of research centers and think tanks in exploring the complex matrix of politics, economics, and socio-cultural areas of cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Nicotine Pouches: Dangerous product by Tobacco Industry

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: "Nicotine Pouches are deceptive and dangerous product launched by the big tobacco industry to profit at the expense of public health" claimed health activists in a joint press release shared by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC). The health experts and the child rights organization urged the government to

ban nicotine pouches as they are becoming increasingly popular among Pakistani youth due to elaborate social media campaigns.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, mentioned the commonly available nicotine pouch brand, manufactured by the largest tobacco company in the world, was launched in Pakistan in December 2019. Imran mentioned that in last

3 years there has been no policy or legislation to control and monitor sales, promotion and advertisement of nicotine pouches. As a result, tobacco industry has launched deceptive campaigns and profited from them. The advertisement tactics include misleading customers into believing it to be energizer or focus-enhancing product. The company was observed targeting specifically youth icons such as famous

musicians, actors and models for paid social media content and even launched their own music show.

According to Imran, these are all indicative of the target audience the brand is trying to reach i.e. youth and children. Imran stated that tobacco industry claims that these products are not tobacco products and they're launched to help people overcome nicotine addiction.

COMSTECH, PNAC cerebrate Accreditation Day

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH and Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) jointly celebrated the accreditation day by organizing a seminar on "Accreditation for Quality Assurance and Socio-economic Development in OIC Countries" on Wednesday.

Secretary for Ministry of Science and Technology, Ghulam Muhammad Memon participated as the chief guest in the event. He said that this is an honor and privilege to address such an august gathering of scientists, policy makers and diplomats. He said today's event emphasizes the importance of accreditation and its role for socio-economic development. Memon said that sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction can be achieved by augmenting the international trade which can only be possi-



ble through robust accreditation, certification, quality and testing infrastructure recognized by the relevant international forums. He appreciated COMSTECH and PNAC joint initiative to strengthen accreditation bodies to enhance the conformity and assessment quality in Pakistan and least developed African countries.

The Assistant Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Ambassador Askar Mussinov said in his message that I am really delighted to have an opportu-

nity of speaking at this event jointly organized by COMSTECH and PNAC. The OIC is at the same page in celebration of the accreditation day. He said that it is of immense importance to ensure the quality measurement for socio-economic development of any country. He said that accreditation and conformity assessment play major role in achieving technical competence, integrity and impartiality of organizations along with making them to conform with international standards.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, welcomed the participants and shed light on the importance of accreditation for OIC member states. Prof. Choudhary said that accreditation is an extremely important approach towards standardization of the processes and products, analytical and diagnostic methods, scientific research or even business. He said that accreditation is now globally accepted as the gold standard of best practices in all forms of human endeavors.

Health Corner

Common Viruses and Alzheimer's Disease

ISLAMABAD: Alzheimer's disease can begin almost imperceptibly, often masquerading in the early months or years as forgetfulness that is common in older age. What causes the disease remains largely a mystery.

But researchers at Tufts University and the University of Oxford, using a three-dimensional human tissue culture model mimicking the brain, have shown that varicella zoster virus (VZV), which commonly causes chickenpox and shingles, may activate herpes simplex (HSV), another common virus, to set in motion the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Normally HSV-1 — one of the main variants of the virus — lies dormant within the neurons of the brain, but when it is activated it leads to accumulation of tau and amyloid beta proteins, and loss of neuronal function — signature features found in patients with Alzheimer's.

"Our results suggest one pathway to Alzheimer's disease, caused by a VZV infection which creates inflammatory triggers that awaken HSV in the brain," said Dana Cairns, GBS12, a research associate in the Biomedical Engineering Department. "While we demonstrated a link between VZV and HSV-1 activation, it's possible that other inflammatory events in the brain could also awaken HSV-1 and lead to Alzheimer's disease."

"We have been working off a lot of established evidence that HSV has been linked to increased risk of Alzheimer's disease in patients," said David Kaplan, Stern Family Professor of Engineering and chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Tufts' School of Engineering. One of the first to hypothesize a connection between herpes virus and Alzheimer's disease is Ruth Itzhaki of the University of Oxford, who collaborated with the Kaplan lab on this study.



"We know there is a correlation between HSV-1 and Alzheimer's disease, and some suggested involvement of VZV, but what we didn't know is the sequence of events that the viruses create to set the disease in motion," he said. "We think we now have evidence of those events."

According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 3.7 billion people under the age of 50 have been infected with HSV-1 — the virus that causes oral herpes. In most cases it is asymptomatic, lying dormant within nerve cells.

When activated, it can cause inflammation in nerves and skin, causing painful open sores and blisters. Most carriers — and that's one in two Americans according to the CDC — will have between very mild to no symptoms before the virus becomes dormant.

Varicella zoster virus is also extremely common, with about 95 percent of people having been infected before the age of 20. Many of those cases are expressed as chicken pox. VZV, which is a form of herpes virus, can also remain in the body, finding its way to nerve cells before then becoming dormant.

Later in life, VZV can be reactivated to cause shingles, a disease characterized by blisters and nodules in the skin that form in a band-like pattern and can be very painful, lasting for weeks or even months. One in three people will eventually develop a case of shingles in their lifetime.

The link between HSV-1 and Alzheimer's disease only occurs when HSV-1 has been reactivated to cause sores, blisters, and other painful inflammatory conditions.

To better understand the cause-and-effect relationship between the viruses and Alzheimer's disease, the Tufts researchers re-created brain-like environments in small 6 millimeter-wide donut-shaped sponges made of silk protein and collagen.

They populated the sponges with neural stem cells that grow and become functional neurons capable of passing signals to each other in a network, just as they do in the brain. Some of the stem cells also form glial cells, which are typically found in the brain and help keep the neurons alive and functioning.

The researchers found that neurons grown in the brain tissue can be infected with VZV, but that alone did not lead to the formation of the signature Alzheimer's proteins tau and beta-amyloid — the components of the tangled mess of fibers and plaques that form in Alzheimer's patients' brains — and that the neurons continued to function normally.

However, if the neurons already harbored quiescent HSV-1, the exposure to VZV led to a reactivation of HSV, and a dramatic increase in tau and beta-amyloid proteins, and the neuronal signals begin to slow down. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

85 FGEI non-teaching staff promoted

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: 85 non-teaching staff of the Federal Government Educational Institutions (Cantt/Garrison) (FGEI) received the regular departmental promotion.

The Departmental Promotion Committee has approved the promotion of 03 x Assistant (BPS-16) to Superintendent (BPS-16) , 15 x Accountant (BPS-14) to Bursar (BPS-16), 22 x Upper Division Clerk (BPS-11) to Accountant (BPS-14) and 45 x Lower Division Clerk (BPS-09) to Upper Division Clerk (BPS-11). Promotion has spread the ripples of joy among the non-teaching staff of FGEIs.

Book Review

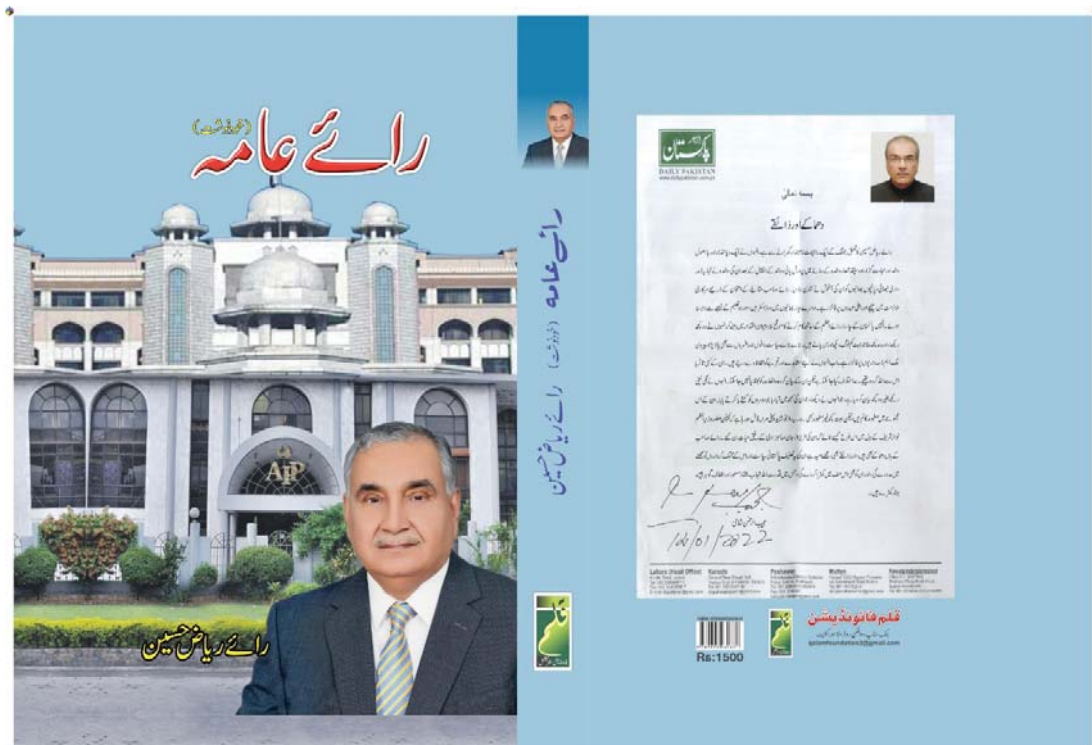
'RayeAama' reveals secrets, techniques of power corridors

Book the 'RayeAama', autobiography of Rai Riaz Hussain

Marium Rauf

The 'RayeAama', autobiography of Rai Riaz Hussain, former government official who became the press secretary to the four prime ministers of our country, is now available to bring a valuable asset in the world of books. This autobiography has been printed with unique care and interest through the famous publishing house, 'Qalam' Foundation International Lahore. It reveals the secrets and techniques of the power corridors that is Parliament and Prime Minister house.

There are numbers of thrilling incidents, statistics and hidden memories of the ups and downs of Pakistani politics that the people are mostly unaware of. The author has very boldly uncovered the conspiracies of power corridors. During his service, he has been press secretary to 4 prime ministers and has served as press officer in three countries; Japan, Sri Lanka and India. His experience is of great value. He has narrated his observations in a very simple and interesting way. His views about India are very relevant to two nations theory and the socio cultural



difference between two neighbors. Such experiences must reach to the younger generations who are born after the

creation of Pakistan. In fact his target audience is younger generation. In this autobiography, Rai Riaz

has expressed his observations about the politicians and bureaucrats. He has written explicitly about the coun-

try's politics, diplomacy as a real and straight forward and true writer without any exaggeration. He has provided a gripping narrative of the events that led up to his assuming service of Pakistan and his reflections on the world into which Pakistan was shoved after many major events that are unique and quite valuable to anyone seeking to understand a crazy time in a corner of the world about which everyone seems to hold an opinion without actually having a foundation of understanding.

In the opinion of renowned journalist Hamid Mir, the uniqueness of the writer has been his simplicity, truth and humbleness.

He used to speak the truth in front of the prime ministers with politeness and did not say yes sir on everything. In this autobiography, Rai Riaz has described the observations and experiences of his work with the prime ministers in detail.

In this book many prominent personalities are mentioned in which Capt Saifdar, Asif Ali Zardari, Mir Zafarullah Jamali and many other high profile politicians. Writer has also eloquently described the tough situation faced by Mohsin-e-Pakistan DrAQ Khan while Gen Pervez Musharraf wanted to extradite him to America.

Title of Book: RayeAama
Author: Rai Riaz Hussain
Pages: 272
Price: Rs.1500/
Publisher: Qalam Foundation International, Yasrab Colony, Bank Stop, Bank Stop, Walton Road, Lahore Cantt.
Email: qalamfoundation2@gmail.com
Mobile: 0300-0515101

In 'RayeAama', readers will also discover writer's family, especially his mother who guided her family and eight children as a widow within meager resources.

This book is indeed worth to read. In order to broader one's thought spectrum this book can help one to look at Pakistani culture, politics with some different angles too.

The price of the book is affordable with lovely appealing title, great paper and great printing. The book is available in all book stalls and easily accessible to the public.

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Early stages of news



Analysis

Raja Furqan Ahmed

The earlier stages of organizing news were in Ancient Greek time however due to the lack of evidence we can't talk much more about. During the Roman Empire around 1300 BCE, the earliest form of current event reporting was the Acta diurnal of the Empire. Acta diurnal is a Latin word means Daily Events of the Roman Empire. This was organized by the Roman government. They also hired scribes who carved the information into the stone. The Roman government posted the stones in public places like Markets so that people can read the news.

woodblocks and printed many copies. They posted the reports in public places for people to read. Throughout history, people know about current events through posted announcements or word of mouth. Everything changed with the invention of movable type printing presses, machines with small metal parts that move so that any text could be created and then many identical copies made.

In 1440, Johannes Gutenberg built the first printing press. This was the first time that the English language could be printed quickly and efficiently. This invention changed the way. Before it takes a lot of time but after this machine, it was much quicker and cheaper to print texts and almost anybody could do it. Technology plays a key role in spreading the news. Soon, they were publishing or preparing and distributing papers, journals, and books. As more and more written material was published, more and more people became literate, or able to read and write. However, the government still controlled what people wrote.

In 14-century people wrote single-page news letter's called corantos which only focused on wars and other current events. Few corantos were also criticized on the government and the churches but the government censored them. 1644 in England, John Milton wrote and published a famous coranto called Areopagitica. This speech also refers to the

freedom of the press, the right to report the news without being controlled by the government. Public Occurrences, the first newspaper in the Americas, was published in Boston in 1690. It contained four pages and was supposed to be published every month but it was censored immediately and its one edition was only published.

A politician from the British parliament in 1787 during his speech argued that the press should be allowed to report in House of Commons, the lower house of Great Britain. He spoke about the three traditional parts of European governments commonly known as the Three Estates. Then he pointed to the journalists and called them the Fourth Estate. A few years later, in 1791, ten amendments to the US Constitution called the Bill of Rights became law. It talked about the freedom of religion, speech and also freedom of the press. This amendment protects the journalist rights. Even though journalism was no longer controlled by the government, most newspapers in the early 19th century were biased.

In sub-continent, William Bolts proposed to set up a printing press at Calcutta in 1768. His intentions were also to bring out newspaper but was not approved by the East India Company and he was ordered to quit India. The first regular newspaper in India was started by James Augustus Hickey at Calcutta. It was entitled

the Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser. The first issue appeared on January 29, 1780. The paper was generally known after the name of its founder as Hickey's Gazette. Hickey remembered as the pioneer of the freedom of the Press in the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent.

The second oldest paper was the Indian Gazette which appeared in November 1780, at Calcutta. Then followed in quick succession the Calcutta Gazette, quarto-size publication, in February 1784; the Bengal Journal in February 1785; the Oriental Magazine or Calcutta Amusement, the first month in the sub-continent, in April of the same year; and, lastly, the Calcutta Chronicle in January 1786. In 1835, a newspaper called The New York Herald was started with the objects of providing unbiased news. This newspaper also tried to be politically independent.

In the 1850s due to the technological improvements, the movement was easier to spread newspapers from local to national. The invention of the telegraph revolutionized journalism again. The telegraph made it possible to quickly share information around long distances, international borders or oceans. The telegraph was very expensive which also led to the creation of the first news agencies. A news agency gathers news reports and sells them to news organizations. The first-ever American news agency was the Associated Press, which

was founded in New York City in 1846.

Newspapers of the 19th Century were mostly biased. They only told one-sided news story. To attract readers and to protect their interests, newspapers mostly published sensational stories that were not always accurate. These stories were exciting or shocking and many people wanted to read them. This led to the rise of so-called "yellow journalism." The early years of the 20th century saw the development of investigative journalism. Although newspapers continued to be popular throughout the 20th century, by the 1920s, they also had to compete with news on the radio. Listening to the news on the radio allowed the whole family to sit down and hear the news at the same time.

1950s television became popular and almost every family in the world had one. Later on, in the 1990s the internet became popular and it was the decline for the newspaper. People use the internet and also social media to read news and information. As technology plays a key role in the development and also spreading the news in society. It also reflects the reader mindset that they are willing to move with the advancement of technology.

The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He tweets @furqanraja1122.

Oppressed minorities in India

India's brutal actions against minorities are causing dissent voices and raising questions in the international community about its claim as a secular country. In the particular case of illegal Indian-occupied Kashmir and Khalistan, India has committed grave human rights violations killing thousands. India has been avoiding the right of plebiscite according to the United Nations resolution. More than 0.9 million uniformed force is used to suppress their voice. Use of chemical weapons, pellet guns, illegal detention, extrajudicial killings, rape, and lock down altogether has not been able to suppress the struggle.

To cap it, in the RSS-controlled and BJP-led India, political and socio-economic space is being systematically curtailed for the minorities. It is indeed a herculean task to demand one's constitutional rights in the Indian states where RSS-BJP is ruling the roost. India claims itself to be the largest secular country but does not justify it because religious minorities and dissenting voices are being suppressed resulting in grave human rights violations.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the biggest advocate of Hindutva ideology and is highly critical of secular policies such as freedom of expression, and the right to freedom of religion and practices for the last eight years. This approach towards Hindu nationalist policies are resulting in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom which negatively impact non-Hindu religious communities including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Adivasis.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had also been criticized in the Human Rights Watch (HRW) World Report 2022 which pointed out that BJP-led government adopted laws and policies that discriminated against religious minorities, especially Muslims. This, coupled with the vilification of Muslims by some BJP leaders and police failed to take action against BJP supporters who commit violence, emboldened Hindu nationalist groups to attack Muslims and government critics with impunity.

Even, the Indian government cracked down on activists, journalists, peaceful protesters, and even poets who were raising voices against this injustice. The recent controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) combined with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) provided a pathway to citizenship for non-Muslims but has no remedy for Muslims caught up in NRC processes. Those who were unable to prove their citizenship through documentation are subject to statelessness, deportation, and even detention.

Nationwide protests were witnessed against this cruel law but the Modi-led government suppressed these voices by use of force violating basic human rights. The 2021 annual report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended India be placed on a religious freedom blacklist.

However, during Modi's regime minorities were suppressed expeditiously and due to this political trend, India is moving towards its disintegration and instability, for instance, in Khalistan's movement. Furthermore, as far as the rights of the people of Kashmir, hundreds of people remained detained without charge in Jammu and Kashmir under the draconian Public Safety Act, which permits detention without trial for up to two years.

Similarly, BJP is linking the basic demands of Indian nationals including Sikhs as agenda of separation, such as Hundreds of thousands of farmers, many of them from the minority Sikh community, protesting amendments to farm laws since November 2020, was accused by BJP leaders and pro-government media of having a separatist agenda. For instance, according to Indian media, BJP alleged that the Khalistani agenda is being propagated under the garb of the Punjab farmers' agitation. While in February 2021, Prime Minister Modi described people participating in various peaceful protests as parasites.



N. Pelosi visits Taiwan



Analysis

Turan Rzayev

What will Beijing's response be? Despite China's strong objections, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan yesterday. Even now, Pelosi is leaving the island. Pelosi made a statement at the airport and said that they stand by Taiwan once again. Pelosi's democracy message During her visit to Taiwan, Pelosi said, "Washington cannot stand by while the Chinese Communist Party threatens Taiwan and democracy itself." "In the face of increasing aggression from the Chinese Communist Party, the visit of our congressional delegation should be interpreted as a clear statement that America stands with Taiwan, our democratic partner in defending itself and its freedom," Pelosi said. In fact, Pelosi's words give reason to propose certain ideas about her visit to Taiwan. Pelosi's statement "the growing aggression of the Chinese

Communist Party" and "we stand with Taiwan" are especially noteworthy. In general, the United States recognizes the principle of "One Genie". But what kind of China are we talking about? Although the reason for Washington's strained relations with China is often cited as Beijing's growing economic indicators, this is not exactly the case. Looking at the official indicators, it is clear that China's economy



is currently overtaking the US economy. The main issue that worries official Washington is China's current political regime and this regime's support for anti-democratic authorities such as North Korea, Iran, and Russia. Washington is actually worried about China taking this line in foreign policy. Washington is making

a show of muscle to Beijing to prevent this. He made this clear both by conducting military exercises around Taiwan and by sending Nancy Pelosi to the island. Can China intervene militarily in Taiwan? First of all, let me note that China is right in the current situation in terms of inviolability of territorial integrity. Therefore, China could not be silent about Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. It is no coincidence that

after Pelosi landed in Taipei, China began military exercises around Taiwan. In general, before the visit, the Chinese government sent warplanes to the island and issued stern warnings to the United States. Even the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Zhao Lijian, said that China will take drastic measures to

protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the Chinese military will not sit back and watch Pelosi's visit: "We are ready for any contingency. If they dare, let them wait and see what we do."

There were also claims that it could launch missile strikes on Taiwan. Fortunately, this did not happen. In fact, China's military intervention in Taiwan is not realistic.

First of all, the Chinese economy is characterized by high growth dynamics, and although it surpasses the US economy, it is quite fragile. The main reason for its fragility is the dependence of raw materials from abroad.

Beijing's possible military intervention in Taiwan means that the United States will first impose economic sanctions on this country, which also means Western sanctions. But this does not mean that China will remain silent about the situation. Beijing will not forget Pelosi's visit to Taiwan so easily. Sanctions have already started on Taiwan. It is possible that this sec increase the share package. As for the United States, official Beijing will continue the tension with Washington for some time, but in a different context.

The writer hails from International Relations and Diplomacy Research Center Baku, Azerbaijan.

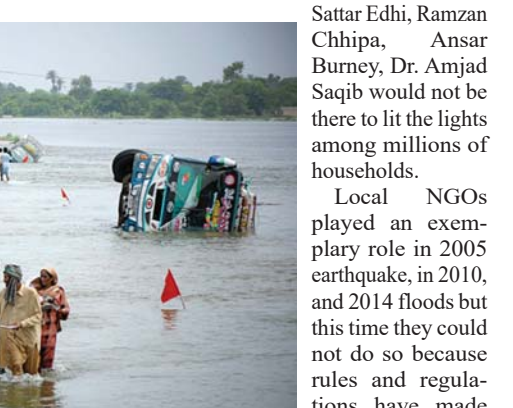
NGOs and the brink of disasters in Pakistan

Khizar Manzoor

Three weeks ago, I got up early when my cell rang and found one of my friends calling from his number. When I picked up the call, he started telling me his agony about the registration of his NGO which he started registering in early 2021 and has not completed yet. He said the matter of registration is still pending and relevant authorities are not providing details at all. When I assured him of help, he said, I want to make the organization to help my villagers but officials are not registering it. After one and a half year of submitting the required documents, I still do not know what to do and how would philanthropy work in this country.

This is the story of a common man who wants to help the masses but legal and administrative hurdles creating unnecessary obstructions. I got disturbed by the visuals circulating on social and mainstream media about the recent floods across Balochistan, Southern Punjab, KP, and Sindh. Feeling the pain, miseries, and sufferings of the people left devastated by the torrential rains pushed me to think about what went wrong? Certainly, I realized that the number of NGOs mitigated drastically in Pakistan due to unnecessary checks and indifferent behaviors of the government machinery. No doubt, the government can't bear the losses incurred by the natural disaster and many NGOs are

working side by side to help those in need. Nonetheless, there is a vacuum which can be filled by involving more Non-profit and Non-Governmental organizations. Keeping a check on International NGOs like Save the Children and Open Society Foundation is good but creating hurdles tacitly in the way of registration of local NGOs is not good. Overseas Pakistanis can do much more for their motherland if they are allowed, so government must show some leniency and let the rules of registration of NGOs easier so that Pakistanis can help their fellow beings in the times of need. Remember if there was no NGO, Abdul Sattar Edhi, Ramzan Chhappa, Ansar Burney, Dr. Amjad Saqib would not be there to lit the lights among millions of households.



Local NGOs played an exemplary role in 2005 earthquake, in 2010, and 2014 floods but this time they could not do so because rules and regulations have made it harder to raise funds. They are considered as agents of foreigners and dole collectors despite their valuable contribution to the national economy and their services to deprived and underprivileged segments of society. It is time to change perception and allow NGOs to work openly in all districts of Pakistan so that they can do their duties without any further discrepancy and the masses can get some relief.

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Taiwan's return to motherland historical inevitability: Chinese FM

Nancy Pelosi offers praise, support for Taiwan during visit

PHNOM PENH/BELJING/TAIPEI: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday made clear here China's solemn position on Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region.

Wang, who is attending meetings on East Asia cooperation and on a visit to Cambodia, told reporters that Pelosi's tour is a complete farce. Wang said the U.S. side, under the guise of so-called "democracy," is doing the heinous deeds of violating China's sovereignty.

Such "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces represented by Tsai Ing-wen, riding the U.S. coattails, have betrayed the righteousness of the great national cause, said Wang.

These perverse practices will not change the international consensus that there is only one China, nor will they change the historical trend that Taiwan will return to the motherland, Wang said. Those who play with fire will not end up well, and those who violate China's sovereignty will certainly be penalized, he added.

On the other hand, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi left Taiwan after a visit that heightened tensions with China, saying Wednesday that she and other

members of Congress in her delegation showed they will not abandon their commitment to the self-governing island.

Pelosi, the first U.S. speaker to visit the island in more than 25 years, courted Beijing's wrath with the visit and set off more than a week of debate over whether it was a good idea after news of it leaked. In Taipei she remained calm but defiant.

"Today the world faces a choice between democracy and autocracy," she said in a short speech during a meeting with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. "America's determination to preserve democracy, here in Taiwan and around the world, remains ironclad."

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng had summoned the U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns and lodged stern representations and strong protests over Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region. Noting that Pelosi risks universal condemnation to deliberately provoke and play with fire, Xie said that this is a serious violation of the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiqués.

It has a severe impact on the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and seriously infringes on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Xie said, adding that it gravely undermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and sends a seriously wrong signal to the separatist forces for "Taiwan independence."

"The move is extremely egregious in nature and the consequences are extremely serious. China will not sit idly by," Xie noted. Xie said the U.S. government must be held accountable. For a while, the U.S. has said one thing and done another thing, constantly distorted and hollowed out the one-China principle.

It deleted the key expressions such as Taiwan is part of China from the U.S. State Department website, put Taiwan in its so-called "Indo-Pacific strategy", openly upgraded its ties with Taiwan and increased arms sales to the region and supported separatist activities for "Taiwan independence," according to Xie. He said the U.S. government has

indulged rather than restrained Pelosi's willful act, leading to the escalation of tensions across the Taiwan Strait and seriously undermined the China-U.S. relations.

Noting that the U.S. side shall pay the price for its own mistakes, Xie urged the U.S. to immediately address its wrongdoings, take practical measures to undo the adverse effects caused by Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. The United States must not go further down the wrong path, escalating tensions and making the situation across the Taiwan Strait and China-U.S. relations irreparable, Xie said.

He added that the United States should stop playing the "Taiwan card", stop using Taiwan to contain China in any form, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs. The United States must take concrete actions to observe the one-China principle and the provisions of the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, deliver on the "five noes" commitment made by the U.S. leadership (i.e. not seek a "new Cold War"; not seek to change China's system; the revitalization of its alliances is not against China; not support "Taiwan independence"; not look for conflict with China), and not go further down the wrong and dangerous path, Xie noted.



Cementing Ties

ANKARA: Upon her arrival at Ankara Esenboga Airport, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri was welcomed by the Deputy Minister Ridvan Duran. Pakistan's Ambassador to Türkiye Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi was also present at the occasion.



Photo: The Spokesman

Nuclear Talks

Iran's negotiators set to leave for Vienna

TEHRAN: Iran said its negotiating team led by Deputy Foreign Minister and lead negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani is set to leave for Vienna on Wednesday to resume nuclear deal talks.

In a statement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the fresh round of talks would be held "within the framework of the policy of lifting cruel sanctions" against Iran.

Expected to resume on Thursday, the new round of talks to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal, with the coordination of the European Union, will see discussion of new ideas and proposals presented by the parties, including Iran, the spokesman noted.

He added that Iran is "determined" to reach an agreement that "guarantees the rights" of Iranians while

calling on other parties to "seriously focus on solving the remaining issues." Shortly before the statement was released, the EU deputy foreign policy chief and the coordinator of Vienna talks Enrique Mora took to Twitter to announce his trip to Vienna.

"On my way to Vienna to discuss JCPOA back to full implementation on the basis of the coordinator's text tabled on 20 July," he wrote. "Extremely grateful to Austrian authorities."

The negotiations between Iran and world powers have been underway in the Austrian capital since last year, with a series of interruptions caused by key disagreements between Tehran and Washington.

Last month, the talks moved to Doha in a different format—indirect negoti-

ations between Iran and the US mediated by the EU. The first round, however, failed to produce any substantial result.

The talks in Doha were followed by US President Joe Biden's maiden trip to the Middle East, where he signed two anti-Iran resolutions, which drew sharp reactions from Tehran and inflamed tensions again. In a bid to break the deadlock, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell last week said he proposed a new draft text to Iran and the US to revitalize the accord.

In response, Bagheri on Sunday said Tehran has responded to Borrell's new proposal while calling for a swift conclusion of the talks.

"We shared our proposed ideas, both on substance and form, to pave the way for a swift conclusion of Vienna

negotiations," Bagheri said in a Twitter post.

While details about the EU proposal and Iran's response are still now known, a senior Iranian lawmaker said on Wednesday that the EU text was in line with Iran's demands in many ways.

Javad Karimi Ghoddusi said given the current status, the conclusion of talks could be imminent. The former US administration unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018, followed by the reinstatement of sanctions.

In response, Iran initiated a series of measures to scale back its commitments under the deal, including ramping up its nuclear enrichment activities up to 60 percent purity.

Horn of Africa

WHO appeals for \$123.7m to respond to health needs

NAIROBI: The World Health Organization (WHO) has appealed for 123.7 million U.S. dollars to respond to the urgent health needs of millions of people in the greater Horn of Africa facing an acute food crisis until December.

The funds will go toward urgent measures to protect lives, including shoring up the capacity of countries to detect and respond to disease outbreaks, procuring and ensuring the supply of life-saving medicines and equipment, identifying and filling gaps in health care provisions, and providing treatment to sick and severely malnourished children, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement issued in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi on Tuesday evening.

"WHO is looking to the international community to support our work on the ground responding to this dual threat, providing treatment for malnourished people, and defending them against infectious diseases," the WHO director-general said.

According to WHO, more than 80 million people in the seven countries spanning the region—Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda—are estimated to be food insecure, with upward of 37.5 million people classified as being in a stage of crisis where people have to sell their possessions to feed themselves and their families, and where malnutrition is rife.

The Horn of Africa region, beset by conflict, changes in climate, and the COVID-19 pandemic, has become a hunger hotspot with devastating consequences for the health and lives of its people.

WHO said it has already released 16.5 million dollars from its Contingency Fund for Emergencies to ensure people have access to health services, treat sick children with severe malnutrition, and prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

It warned that the situation is worsening with the upcoming rainy season expected to fail amid reports of avoidable deaths among children and women in childbirth.

657 Indian paramilitary personnel committed suicide in 5 years

NEW DELHI: Indian government has admitted that as many as 657 personnel belonging to the paramilitary forces like the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) died by suicide in the past five years. Indian Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha, upper house of Indian parliament, that 153 personnel died by suicide in 2021, 149 in 2020, 133 in 2019, 97 in 2018 and 125 in 2017.

Independent sources, however, say the actual number of suicide cases among Indian paramilitary forces is far more than stated by the Indian minister as around 450 Indian paramilitary personnel had taken their life in IIOJK alone since January 2007.

Italy ratifies NATO membership for Finland, Sweden

ROME: Italy's parliament on Wednesday gave its final approval to a bill ratifying the accession of Finland and Sweden to the NATO alliance. The Senate voted by 202 to 13 in favour of the bill, a day after the lower house approved it by a large majority.

The accession needs to be ratified by the parliaments of all 30 North Atlantic Treaty Organization members before Finland and Sweden can be protected by the NATO defence clause that states that an attack on one member is an attack against all.

The lower house vote on Tuesday was welcomed by Giorgia Meloni, whose far-right Brothers of Italy party is seen as the front runner in the national election which will take place on Sept. 25. "In the face of Russian aggression against Ukraine, strengthening the European front of the Alliance is an important step that can act as a deterrent to new Russian threats," Meloni said in a statement.

Meloni, leader of the most popular party in the conservative coalition, had supported Prime Minister Mario Draghi's decision to ship weapons to Ukraine, even though it was in opposition to his government.

However, her two main allies, the League and Forza Italia, have been much more ambivalent, reflecting their historically close ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Aasiya Andrabi challenges seizure of Srinagar house

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has issued a notice to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on a plea filed by Kashmiri woman leader and Dukhtar-e-Millat chief Aasiya Andrabi challenging the agency's decision to seize her house in Srinagar.

A Division Bench of Justices Mukta Gupta and Anish Dayal sought the response from NIA on Andrabi's plea as well as that of her associate, Fehmeeda Sofi, challenging the seizure of her car. The matter will now be considered on September 28. Aasiya Andrabi and Fehmeeda Sofi were booked under the draconian law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

In 2019, the NIA had passed an order to seize the house of Andrabi and the car of Fehmeeda on the charge that these IIOJK women are involved in pro-freedom activities. The order by NIA to attach the property of Andrabi and Fehmeeda was the first such attachment of pro-freedom activists' property in Kashmir.

55th ASEAN FMs' meeting kicks off in Cambodia



PHNOM PENH: The 55th ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings kicked off here on Wednesday, with a focus on post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery and key regional and global challenges.

Cambodia is the chair of ASEAN for 2022, which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said the post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery, regional security, Myanmar issue, the war in Ukraine, and climate change, among others, would be high on the agenda during the meetings.

"ASEAN needs to exert its utmost care to ensure that its unity remains strong and its centrality is respected," he said.

Hun Sen said it is necessary for all ASEAN member states to pool collective efforts and combine a sense of "togetherness" to tackle the above-mentioned issues in the most effective way possible.

"Cambodia emphasizes our stance in 'unity for cooperation' and not in 'unity for confrontation.' We strive to focus on issues that bind us rather than those that divide us," he said.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian leader said the war in Ukraine has caused serious economic disruptions, exacerbated food and energy security, and threatened to divide the world once again.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn said it is remarkable that foreign ministers of ASEAN and its dialogue partners are able to meet face-to-face for the first time in two years since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our gathering here today reflects the success of our collective efforts to overcome and recover from the crisis and its adverse effects on public health, social, economic and the daily livelihood of the people," he said.

Sokhonn said over the course of three days, the participants would deliberate on many key regional and international issues, especially the pressing security challenges that could destabilize regional peace and stability if they are not handled properly.

First ship with Ukraine grain cleared to sail on to Lebanon

ISTANBUL/KYIV: The first grain ship to leave Ukraine and cross the Black Sea under a wartime deal passed inspection Wednesday in Istanbul and headed on to Lebanon. Ukraine said 17 other vessels were "loaded and waiting permission to leave," but there was no word yet on when they could depart.

A joint civilian inspection team spent three hours checking the cargo and crew of the Sierra Leone-flagged ship Razoni, which left Odesa on Monday carrying Ukrainian corn, a U.N. statement said.

The Joint Coordination Center team included officials from Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and the United Nations, who signed deals last month to create safe Black Sea shipping corridors to export Ukraine's desperately needed agricultural products as Russia's

war upon its neighbor grinds on. Ukraine is a major global grain supplier but the war had blocked most exports, so the July 22 deal aimed to ease food security around the globe. World food prices have been soaring in a crisis blamed on the war, supply chain problems and COVID-19. Mistrust between Kyiv and Moscow has kept a cloud over the deal, which lasts for 120 days but can be renewed.

Although U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Razoni's journey a "significant step," no other ships have left from Ukraine in the past 48 hours and officials on all sides have given no explanation for that delay.

A U.N. statement said three Ukrainian ports are due to resume exports of millions of tons of wheat, corn and other crops. It

said inspectors "gained valuable information" from the Razoni's crew about its voyage through the Black Sea maritime humanitarian corridor.

The Joint Coordination Center is "fine-tuning procedures," it said. Pictures tweeted by the Turkish Ministry of National Defense showed an inspector reaching into the Razoni's open hold and touching some of its cargo: 26,527 tons of corn for the chicken feed. The Razoni's horn rang out as the inspectors left the ship, and it then headed off to Lebanon.

The checks seek to make sure that outbound cargo ships carry only grain, fertilizer or related food and not any other commodities, and that inbound ships are not carrying weapons.

An estimated 20 million tons of grain — most of it said to be

destined for livestock — has been stuck in Ukraine since the start of the 6-month-old war. The U.N.-brokered agreement provided for the establishment of safe corridors through the mined waters outside Ukraine's ports.

A Black Sea voyage entails significant risks because of the war. Two civilian ships hit explosive devices there last week near the Danube River's Bystre estuary, according to Bridget Diakun, a data reporter at Lloyd's List, a global shipping news publication.

It appears that the first priority for authorities is bringing out vessels that have been stuck for months at the three Ukrainian ports covered by the deal, analysts say. Sixteen ships loaded with grain have been stuck at the ports of Odesa and Chernomorsk since Russia's invasion, according to Lloyd's List data.



Meanwhile, Russian forces kept up their bombardment of the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv, shelling it twice over the past 24 hours — around 9 p.m. on Tuesday and 5 a.m. on Wednesday, Mykolaiv regional governor Vitaliy Kim reported.

The shelling damaged a pier, an industrial enterprise, residential buildings, a garage coopera-

tive, a supermarket and a pharmacy, Kim said.

Mykolaiv is a southern port city on the Black Sea. The Russians said in April they wanted control over not just eastern, but southern Ukraine, cutting off the country from its Black Sea coast and creating a possible land corridor to the breakaway Moldovan region of Transnistria.

The mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Stenkevych, told The Associated Press that 131 civilians, including a child, have died so far in the city from Russian rocket and artillery shelling and another 590 others were seriously injured, including seven children.

In eastern Ukraine, Russian shelling killed at least four civilians in Donetsk province in 24 hours, Ukraine's presidential office said Wednesday. Amid the relentless onslaught there by Moscow's forces, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy issued an order to all those remaining in the embattled province to evacuate as soon as possible. Officials said due to Russian attacks, people in areas still held by the government are unlikely to have heat, electricity or running water this winter.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,068.87	40,191.61
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,208.09	40,191.61
Index Value	Change
7,377,674,291	+ 877.26
Percentage	Time
+ 2.18%	3 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,445.68	+36.57
Percentage	Time
+ 0.49%	3 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
32,742.08	+345.91
Percentage	Time
+1.07%	3 Aug, 11:44 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,741.90	+147.17
Percentage	Time
+ 0.53%	3 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	165.9	167.15
Bahrain Dinar	634.58	639.08
Canadian Dollar	185.62	186.97
China Yuan	35.47	35.72
Danish Krone	33.11	33.46
Euro	238.5	241
Hong Kong Dollar	30.4	30.75
Indian Rupee	3.04	3.12
Japanese Yen	2	2.05
Kuwaiti Dinar	778.15	783.15
Malaysian Ringgit	53.57	54.02
New Zealand \$	152.27	153.47
Norwegians Krone	24.51	24.81
Omani Riyal	620.55	625.05
Qatari Riyal	65.94	66.44
Saudi Riyal	63	64
Singapore Dollar	172.87	174.17
Swedish Korona	23.76	24.06
Swiss Franc	250.03	251.78
Thai Bhat	6.65	6.75
U.A.E Dirham	63	64
UK Pound Sterling	286.5	291
US Dollar	227	229

Landmark Advisory Projects

IFC boosts private sector in Pakistan with record trade support

IFC invested about \$680m in Pakistan in short-and long-term financing between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: IFC more than doubled its trade financing program in Pakistan in fiscal year 2022 to support critical imports and foster a resilient post-pandemic recovery. That work came alongside other milestone engagements to boost financial inclusion, bolster key sectors, like agriculture and retail, structure groundbreaking public-private partnership projects, and promote gender diversity.

IFC invested and mobilized about \$680 million in Pakistan in short- and long-term financing between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. That included a record \$485 million in commitments through IFC's Global Trade Finance Program to enable the import of essential goods and services, more than double the amount of the previous fiscal year. IFC also invested the equivalent of \$25 million in

Pakistani rupees for an equity stake in leading fashion retailer Khaadi Retail to create jobs, promote gender equality, and support the crucial textiles sector.

Alongside the investments, IFC launched advisory and upstream projects designed to unlock the private sector's potential and attract funding in key sectors, including two landmark public-private partnership (PPP) projects. IFC signed an agreement with Sindh province to structure a PPP to provide clean drinking water to nearly 1 million people in Karachi, and another with authorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to arrange a PPP to construct a state-of-the-art hospital with up to 500 beds.

In addition, IFC helped roll out a pioneering electronic warehouse receipt financing system to boost the flow of credit to the key agriculture sector - particularly to maize farmers - and launched the country's Asaan Karobaar

program with the government to streamline regulations and enable smaller businesses to grow.

IFC also joined forces with the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) to celebrate private sector employers committed to empowering women at work through gender diversity awards. The awards recognized firms that had not only implemented strong gender diversity policies, but had also publicly disclosed them, encouraging others to do the same. Daraz, Pakistan's biggest online marketplace, received the highest score using a scorecard of five key gender principles developed by IFC and PBC.

"Accelerating private sector development is essential to foster a resilient, inclusive and green recovery, create more job opportunities, and help reduce poverty," said Zeeshan Sheikh, IFC's Country Manager for Pakistan and Afghanistan. "Pakistan is a priority coun-

try for IFC and this is reflected in our strong engagement in the country over the last year and our plans going forward. We are aiming to support critical trade flows, address bottlenecks to private investment in key sectors, and enhance shared prosperity. Going forward, we are committed to continue scaling up both our investments and advisory engagements in the country to help spur sustainable economic growth."

IFC's strategy in the new fiscal year includes diversifying into newer sectors, such as agri-related value chains, healthcare, digital and urban infrastructure. We also plan to support greater sustainability in industry. IFC will also pursue innovative PPPs through strategic partnerships with government and private sector stakeholders and will aim to increase the role of PPPs in key sectors, ramping up collaboration with other development finance institutions.

RCCI inks MOU with WCCI Malir

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide women a platform to improve their networking and excel in the field of entrepreneurship.

The MOU signing ceremony was held at chamber house which was attended by President RCCI Ch Nadeem A Rauf along with Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Asim Mahmood Malik and Vice President Taltat Awan and representatives and members of WCCI Malir.

Ms. Nazli Abid Nisar, Founder & President Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir signed and exchanged MOU documents with RCCI President Nadeem Rauf.

President RCCI assured all kinds of support and cooperation to facilitate and empower women members. He



said RCCI, being a proactive business facilitation entity, always took the lead for women entrepreneurs to get into the mainstream of the economy.

Under the agreement both organiza-

tions will provide all kinds of support and cooperation to facilitate and empower women members a platform to connect in Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Consumer (B2C) meetings.

PTCL launches smart solutions powered by Huawei

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited, the largest telecom services provider in Pakistan launched Smart Solutions powered by Huawei. The initiative will enable enterprises with smart ICT services that are completely secure and reliable through one-window operations.

The event was attended by Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone, Mengqiang, CEO Huawei Pakistan, Gaoweijie, Managing Director, Huawei Enterprise Pakistan, Daniel Kirk, VP Strategy in Huawei's Global Carrier Enterprise Unit, Haroon Khan, Head of IT Infrastructure at Khushhali Microfinance Bank and Abrar Ali Khan, CEO Rockville Technologies.

This is a first-of-its-kind intelligent NaaS - Network as a Service platform to provide innovative Smart Solutions to provide next generation AI and software defined ICT services to help multi verticals of healthcare, Ed-tech, banking, commercial sector to digitalize, bring efficiency and productivity in their day-to-day businesses. Backed by PTCL's state of the art infrastructure coupled with decades of industry best practices experience, these smart solutions offers one stop shop, pay as you grow & cost-effective next generation services to help business grow and effectively play their part in national growth of Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Zarrar Hash-



am Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone, said, "We at PTCL Group are committed to uplifting our customer experience through adoption of state-of-the-art products & solutions. PTCL has achieved another milestone by successfully introducing Smart Solution that will further strengthen and enhance our efforts to new heights through intelligent upgrades and comprehensive solutions. Together, we can help our customers go digital successfully and accelerate Pakistan digital transformation"

Daniel Colum Kirk VP Strategy in Huawei's Global Carrier Enterprise Unit, stated on the event that; "Huawei believe

that solutions such as PTCL's Smart Solutions are a powerful way for businesses in Pakistan to gain the benefits of Digital Transformation. We are delighted to support this product launch with our NaaS solutions. This provides customers with a world class, intelligent and flexible smart ICT service hosted securely in Pakistan by PTCL. We look forward to working together with Ufone-PTCL Business Solutions to bring the benefits of these Smart Solution services to customers across Pakistan."

Zarrar Hasham Khan GCBSO, PTCL & Ufone and Abrar Ali Khan, CEO Rockville Technologies signed first contract for Smart Office Solutions.

Scott J. Miller's Master Mentors Volume 2 launched

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The second iteration of "Master Mentors: 30 Transformative Insights from our Greatest Minds" by best-selling author Scott Jeffrey Miller was announced. The book is a condensed collection of practical strategies and methods designed to help readers reach new heights in their personal lives and professional careers, by distilling essential learnings from the top business minds and thought leaders of our time.

In continuation of Master Mentors Volume 1, published in September 2021, Miller has

added 30 new transformative insights to the Master Mentors library in his easy-to-understand manner; written with an express focus on the requirements of readers that are short on time, highly challenged, or facing a critical life or career decision. Miller identifies and analyzes key learnings from each of the 30 Master Mentors, and provides simple, intuitive ways for readers to apply these learnings in their personal and professional lives.

Master Mentors Volume 2 features Mr. Zafar Masud, President & CEO The Bank of Punjab, as the book's first Master Mentor. Mr. Masud

is also the first thought-leader from outside the Western Hemisphere to be featured in either of the volumes; more specifically, he is the first Master Mentor from Pakistan who was invited to lend his insights to this literary undertaking. The book starts off strong with the first chapter dedicated to Mr. Masud, as he provides his unique perspective, drawing from his extensive international banking experience, and his wealth of personal experiences (not least of which was his miraculous survival in the crash of PIA flight PK8303, in May 2020).

In the opening chapter of the

book, Mr. Masud offers a fresh perspective into what guides his decision-making process, and the significance of discovering what one considers to be the most important thing; finding out what matters most. Mr. Masud posits that without this knowledge, one cannot possibly know what to do next, and that one should not wait for a close brush with death to begin pondering on life's big questions - the time to reflect is now.

FranklinCovey (the book's publisher) had arranged an interview between Mr. Masud and the author, Mr. Scott, on the podcast "On Leadership" in March, 2021.

IMF loan is the key to all other loans

IMF loan will not help amid political tensions, 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 Wednesday said the IMF loan is the key to other loans.

A telephone call by COAS to the US official had a positive impact on the situation; the positive statements from the IMF improved the confidence of the Pakistani market which has helped improve the situation, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that efforts of COAS have led to a fall in the value of the dollar by Rs15 in two days.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that politicians should not compromise the country's



future for their superficial interests.

He said that the current account deficit of the previous financial year has reached 18 billion dollars, which is equal to about five percent of the GDP. Vehicles worth four billion dollars were imported while agriculture imports remained at 17 billion dollars which increased the GDP but the trade deficit went out of control.

There is a dire need to balance the payments on a permanent basis, he demanded.

Engro, Excelerate Energy sign MoU

To develop private RLNG Sector in Pakistan

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Engro Eximp FZE, a subsidiary of Engro Corporation, announced today that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Excelerate Energy, Inc. (NYSE: EE) (Excelerate), a leading provider of flexible LNG infrastructure solutions around the world, related to the development of a private sector gas marketing business in Pakistan.

Under this MOU, both partners will jointly evaluate the possibility of establishing a regasified LNG (RLNG) marketing business with maximum partic-



ipation from the country's private sector. This initiative has the potential to increase private company participation in Pakistan's LNG sector and enhance Pakistan's energy security by opening up new RLNG supply avenues for businesses and consumers. This endeavor comes at a point when the need for energy security has become a critical issue globally, and particularly for Pakistan, against the backdrop of current geopolitical dynamics.

METRO join hands with Indus Hospital

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: METRO, the leading international wholesale company, has joined hands with Indus Hospitals and Health Network (IHHN), to extend its support for their health and charity initiatives. As part of the support METRO Pakistan (Pvt) Limited commemorated the World Hepatitis Day at its Canal and Model Town Stores in Lahore, where Indus Hospitals setup kiosks for creating awareness and distributed flyers among the staff and customers.

Speaking at the occasion, Pervaiz Akhtar, Director Corporate Affairs, METRO Pakistan, said; "We, as a responsible corporate citizen,

are always open to provide support to the health related initiatives, and this cooperation with Indus Hospitals & Health Network is part of the same thought process. We hope that our small contribution will help spread the right knowledge for our customers, as well as for our own staff."

A detailed session on types, prevention, and cure of Hepatitis was held for METRO staff at the Model Town Store conducted by the qualified doctors from IHHN, which estimated that approx. 14 million patients across Pakistan suffer from Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and how Indus hospital provides free of cost and quality treatment to as many patients as possible.

EC judgement will bring political stability to country

Strong rupee will provide relief to masses, businessmen

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Wednesday said the judgement of the Election Commission (EC) will bring political stability to the country.

Because of the verdict of the EC, the political environment and limping economy will improve after a long time while it will also help improve overall political environment in the country.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the economic diplomacy of the Army Chief is admirable which has helped to improve the situation.

He said that a few days before the Election Commission's decision in the foreign funding case, the leaders of a political party changed their tone and started talking about reconciliation.

After the verdict, the attitude of a firebrand leader, who has always claimed to fight corruption, has softened to save his politics and now the politics of protests and threats of marching on Islamabad have diluted which is good for the political and economic future of the country.

In the next few weeks, table talks between the government and the opposition may begin, which will make the public and business community take a sigh of relief.

Mr. Butt said that after the EC verdict, the business community has estimated that now the efforts to destabilize the country will not succeed, there will be no immediate election and that efforts of COAS have helped quick disbursement of IMF's instalment.

In the current situation, the rupee has started to stabilize and the dollar is shedding points but the rate of stabilization of the rupee is slow, which needs to be improved through reforms to provide relief to the public and the business community.

Pakistan name squads for Netherlands ODIs, Asia Cup

Naseem Shah replaces Hasan Ali; Salman Ali recalled for Rotterdam matches

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan on Wednesday announced its 16-player squad for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League fixtures against the Netherlands from 16-21 August and a 15-member side for the ACC T20 Asia Cup, which will be played in the United Arab Emirates from 27 August to 11 September.

Fast bowler Naseem Shah has been named in both the squads in place of Hasan Ali, while Salman Ali Agha, who toured England in 2021 for the ODIs, has been recalled. Shaheen Shah Afridi has been retained in the ODI and T20I squads, and his rehabilitation programme will be overseen by the team trainer and physiotherapist, who will also decide on his return to international cricket.

There will be five changes from the Netherlands ODI squad to the ACC T20 Asia Cup side. Abdullah Shafique, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Haris, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood will be replaced by Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed and Usman Qadir.

Chief selector Muhammad Wasim:

PAKISTAN	
ODIs AGAINST NETHERLANDS	ACC T20 ASIA CUP
Babar Azam (c)	Babar Azam (c)
Shadab Khan (vc)	Shadab Khan (vc)
Abdullah Shafique	Asif Ali
Fakhar Zaman	Fakhar Zaman
Haris Rauf	Haider Ali
Imam-ul-Haq	Haris Rauf
Khushdil Shah	Iftikhar Ahmed
Mohammad Haris (wk)	Khushdil Shah
Mohammad Nawaz	Mohammad Nawaz
Mohammad Rizwan (wk)	Mohammad Rizwan (wk)
Mohammad Wasim Jnr	Mohammad Wasim Jnr
Naseem Shah	Naseem Shah
Salman Ali Agha	Shaheen Shah Afridi
Shaheen Shah Afridi	Shahnawaz Dhanani
Shahnawaz Dhanani	Usman Qadir
Zahid Mehmood	

"We have only made changes that were necessary. Both the competitions are important for us and, as such, we have picked our best available players in consultation with the captain and head coach. "Hasan has been given a break from

international cricket and he has been replaced by Naseem Shah. He is express fast and can give further impetus to the fast bowling department, which already boasts Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shahnawaz Dhanani. Naseem has not played any international white-ball cricket, but he has demonstrated with the red-ball that he is an attacking option with good pace and controlled swing. "Salman Ali Agha has been recalled to the ODI side after he performed well in the past two Pakistan Cup tournaments, averaging 40.33 and 48.8, respectively. He also gives Babar Azam an additional bowling option."

The training camp for the players will be held in Lahore from 6-11 August, during which they will also play two 50-over matches. The side will depart for Amsterdam in the wee hours of Friday, 12 August. T20I players will join the squad in Dubai for the ACC T20 Asia Cup on 22 August.

Squads: Pakistan squad for Netherlands ODIs—Babar Azam (captain) (Central Punjab), Shadab Khan (vice-captain) (Northern), Abdullah Shafique

(Balochistan), Fakhar Zaman (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Haris Rauf (Northern), Imam-ul-Haq (Balochistan), Khushdil Shah (Southern Punjab), Mohammad Haris (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mohammad Nawaz (Northern), Mohammad Rizwan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Naseem Shah (Southern Punjab), Salman Ali Agha (Southern Punjab), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Shahnawaz Dhanani (Sindh) and Zahid Mehmood (Sindh)

Pakistan squad for ACC T20 Asia Cup—Babar Azam (captain) (Central Punjab), Shadab Khan (vice-captain) (Northern), Asif Ali (Northern), Fakhar Zaman (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Haider Ali (Northern), Haris Rauf (Northern), Iftikhar Ahmed (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Khushdil Shah (Southern Punjab), Mohammad Nawaz (Northern), Mohammad Rizwan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Naseem Shah (Southern Punjab), Shaheen Shah Afridi (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Shahnawaz Dhanani (Sindh) and Usman Qadir (Central Punjab).

Babar Azam's gains continue in Test rankings

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who is the only player to feature in top three ICC player rankings across formats by the virtue of being number one in ODIs and T20Is and number three in Tests, has made further strides in the newly-updated ICC Test player rankings.

The 27-year-old has closed his gap in Test rankings with second-ranked Australian batter Marnus Labuschagne by improving his rating points by five and jumping to 879. Labuschagne sits a rung above the Pakistan captain with 885 points, while England's Joe Root continues to lead the table.

The Pakistan captain was the joint-highest run-getter with Sri Lanka's Dinesh Chandimal in the recent-



ly drawn two-Test series in Galle. The two scored 271 runs, with Babar being one of the three batters to score centuries – with his compatriot Abdullah Shafique and Sri Lanka's Dhananjaya de Silva being the other two.

In the current ICC World Test Championship cycle, Babar has the third most runs with 953 at an average of 63.53. He has struck two centuries and seven half-centuries.

Despite missing the second Test due to a knee injury, Shaheen continues to occupy the third spot. He is joined by India's Jasprit Bumrah, who jumps a place. The two bowlers have the most wickets in the current ICC WTC cycle. Bumrah leads the table with 45 scalps in 19 innings, while Shaheen has snared 41 wickets in 15 innings.

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins and Indian

off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin continue to occupy first and second place in the rankings for bowlers.

In other developments in the batters' rankings, Pakistan Test vice-captain and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan has jumped three places to 17th spot and Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq has entered top fifty for the first time since his Test debut. After jumping 15 places, Imam joins Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza on 49.

The star of the first Galle Test, Abdullah Shafique, whose incredible 160 not out, helped Pakistan to highest run chase at the venue, has slipped four spots to 20th.

Pacer Hasan Ali and leg-spinner Yasir Shah have also dropped places. The former has slipped four rungs to 17th and the latter two places to 34th.

Pool queen McKeon makes Commonwealth history

BIRMINGHAM: Australian swim star Emma McKeon made Commonwealth Games history on Tuesday by winning her 19th medal as Jacob Kiplimo raced to victory in the 10,000m on the first day of track and field. McKeon pulled one ahead of shooters Michael Gault and Phil Adams and fellow swim star Chad le Clos, who has endured a nightmare Games in Birmingham. The 30-year-old South African had looked set to take the record himself when he came to Birmingham but so far he has just a silver medal to show for his efforts. On another dramatic night of action in the pool, Adam Peaty showed the mentality that has brought him three Olympic titles.

The 27-year-old Englishman admitted to being at the "bottom of the bottom" after his shock defeat in the 100m but bounced back on Tuesday to take gold in the 50m. "I had two options this morning I either fight or don't fight," he told the BBC. "Everyone who knows me, knows I fight." Prince William, his wife Kate and their seven-year-old daughter Charlotte attended the morning session of the swimming events. The evening again belonged to dominant Australia, who have now won 22 golds at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre out of a total of 43 on offer. Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo made light of the absence of two-time world 10,000m champion Joseph Cheptegei by destroying his compatriot's Commonwealth Games record at the Alexander Stadium.

Kiplimo, who took bronze at the recent world championships, celebrated with a dance on crossing the line after finishing in 27min 09.19sec, ahead of Kenyan pair Daniel Ebenyo and Kibiwott Kandie. "I think for me for winning this Commonwealth Games title was everything, the most important thing for me this season," said the 21-year-old Olympic bronze medalist.

"But I still have a lot of things to do in the future at the Olympics and world championships." There were golds too for Australia's Nina Kennedy, who built on her bronze in the world championships to take the pole vault title with a best of 4.60 metres, and Chioma Onyekwere of Nigeria in the discus (61.70m). England's Jake Jarman claimed a fourth gold medal on the final day of gymnastics while compatriot Joe Fraser grabbed his third with victory in the parallel bars.

"I'm going to find somewhere in my house to store them (the medals) – maybe a glass cabinet or something like that, if there's space," said the 20-year-old Jarman. On another stellar day for the home nation, Alice Kinsella won the women's floor while Australia's Kate McDonald won gold in the women's balance beam.

Women's British Open breaks new ground at Muirfield

GULLANE: In a week when England's European Championship football victory was hailed as a major breakthrough for female sport, Muirfield will make history by staging the Women's British Open golf championship.

The famed Scottish links course has been host to 16 men's British Opens – but the club has not always been so welcoming to women and received widespread criticism with a vote to maintain an all-male membership policy in 2016.

Following the backlash – and a threat to remove the club from the Open rota – the decision was overturned in 2017 and five years on the best women's golfers in the



world will face the challenge set by one of the sport's toughest tests.

For 2009 champion Catriona Matthew, it is a dream come true. The two-time winning Europe-

an Solheim Cup captain has lived in North Berwick all her life, just a few minutes drive from Muirfield.

"Growing up, I could never have imagined playing in a British Open at Muir-

field, it's going to be a great experience for everyone," said the 52-year-old, who has been given the honour of hitting the first tee shot on Thursday morning.

"It elevates the Championship going to (men's) Open venues. Hopefully, girls and boys will be inspired by seeing the men and women play over the same courses.

"I've been a litter picker and a scorer at men's Opens here, it will be nice to actually play in a Championship." Sweden's Anna Nordqvist will defend the title she won at Carnoustie a year ago – an ideal venue for someone whose Scottish husband grew up in the Dundee area.

Premier League primed for tough title race

LONDON: Desperate to close the gap on Manchester City and Liverpool at the top of the Premier League, Chelsea, Tottenham, Arsenal and Manchester United have spent the close season aggressively pursuing new recruits with varying degrees of success.

All four have little margin for error if they are to have any hope of rivaling champions City and perennial contenders Liverpool in the title race. But even if the top two pull away once more, another tight race is expected for the final two lucrative places in the Champions League. AFP Sport looks at how the battle for the top four is shaping up.

Charged with ensuring Chelsea's new era gets off to a flying start, Blues boss Thomas Tuchel has showed signs of feeling the heat during his club's hectic

summer. With former owner Roman Abramovich's lieutenants all swept away as part of the house-cleaning at Stamford Bridge, Tuchel took on more responsibility as the German worked with new co-owner Todd Boehly on overhauling his squad. First impressions have been mixed, with Boehly flirting with a move for Cristiano Ronaldo before Tuchel demurred at the prospect of handling the volatile Manchester United star.

Raheem Sterling became Chelsea's first signing of the Boehly era after a £47.5 million (\$57.8 million) move from Manchester City, but the England international has been the only addition to the attack as Tuchel looks set to start the season without a natural striker after Romelu Lukaku was sent back to Inter Milan on loan. Instead, Chelsea's

focus has been on replacing lost centre-backs Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen, who joined Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively on free transfers. The Blues paid £33 million for Napoli's Kalidou Koulibaly and are reportedly close to a £50 million deal for Brighton's Marc Cucurella.

Tuchel has also been growing frustrated with unsettled quartet Cesar Azpilicueta, Marcos Alonso, Timo Werner and Hakim Ziyech, questioning his team's commitment in a furious tirade after Chelsea's 4-0 defeat against Arsenal in pre-season. Erik ten Hag's first pre-season as United manager has been overshadowed by Ronaldo's demand to leave Old Trafford. The studios Ten Hag is said to have impressed his squad with his attention to detail and intense training sessions since

arriving from Ajax in May. But the Dutchman's ability to lift United from the depths of their dismal sixth-place finish last season will hinge on how he handles the fall-out from Ronaldo's bombshell. The Portugal striker wants to join a club in the Champions League and missed United's pre-season tour to Thailand and Australia for "family reasons".

Losing a player with Ronaldo's lethal instincts in front of goal is not the way Ten Hag would prefer to begin his time in Manchester, but he may eventually feel the departure of such a demanding superstar would be addition by subtraction. Adding to Ten Hag's woes, United have found it impossible to land his top target – Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong. Instead, they have settled for Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen, Argentina's Lisandro



dro Martinez – the Premier League's shortest centre-back at 5ft 9in – and Dutch left-back Tyrell Malacia.

A return to the top four cannot be guaranteed against such a troubled backdrop. In north London, Tottenham and Arse-

Inaugural CA Divisional Senior Tournament starts today

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The PCB will host its maiden Cricket Associations Divisional Senior Tournament (three-day event) from 4 August to 21 August in all six Cricket Associations. A total of 24 teams will feature in the tournament where around 480 players will get an opportunity to showcase their talent and impress the selectors for the forthcoming domestic season.

These 480 players have been selected after impressing in the recently concluded City Cricket Association Tournament 2022-23 that was played from 19 June to 21 July in the jurisdictions of six Cricket Associations. Around 1,860 players from 93 teams had featured in the CCA tournament.

The CA Divisional Tournament was recently introduced at the pathways level, 24 sides comprising of 480 under-19 players featured in the CA Divisional U19 tournament at six Cricket Associations from 10 to 17 June. The players were selected through their performance in the 93-team CCA U19 Tournament which was held from 21 May to 4 June.

Commonwealth Games

Australia beat Pakistan by 44 runs

Spokesman Report

BIRMINGHAM: Australia women recorded a 44-run victory over Pakistan women in Group A match of the Commonwealth Games at the Edgbaston, Birmingham on Wednesday.

After opting to bat first, Australia scored 160 for two in their allotted 20 overs. Losing two wickets in quick succession, Australia's batters Tahlia McGrath and Beth Mooney added an unbroken 141-run partnership for the third wicket. McGrath top-scored with an unbeaten 51-ball 78, hitting 10 fours and one six, while Mooney returned undefeated on 70 off 49 balls, striking eight fours and one six.

For Pakistan, right-arm fast Fatima Sana and left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal bagged a wicket each.

Chasing 161 to win, Pakistan managed to score 116 for eight in their 20 overs. Right-handed Fatima coming to bat at number seven top-scored with an unbeaten 35. She struck two fours and as many sixes from 26 balls faced. Bismah Maroof and Omaira Sohail scored 23 runs each.

For Australia, McGrath was the most successful bowler with match figures of 3-1-13-3. Pakistan lost their all three matches in the event and will now depart from Birmingham to Pakistan today.

Napoli president wants African players to skip Cup of Nations

ROME: Napoli will only sign new African or South American players if they agree to skip competitions with their national teams, said the Serie A club's president Aurelio de Laurentiis.

"I'm not going to have them in the African Cup of Nations or the South American championships," de Laurentiis said in an interview broadcast on Tuesday night.

Several key Napoli players are African internationals. Last season they lost Senegalese defender Kalidou Koulibaly, who has since left for Chelsea, and Cameroonian midfielder Frank Zambo-Anguissa to the African Cup of Nations in January and February. Nigerian striker Victor Osimhen missed the competition after testing positive for Covid.

"Don't talk to me about Africans anymore," de Laurentiis told business website Wall Street Italia. "I wish them well, but either they sign a waiver for the African Cup or else..." "Between that tournament and the World Cup qualifiers in South America, these players are never available!"

Poland's Jakub Moder to miss World Cup

WARSAW: English club Brighton & Hove Albion informed on Wednesday that Poland international Jakub Moder will miss the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 due to a serious knee injury.

The midfielder suffered the anterior cruciate ligament injury in April during the match against Norwich City and he had an operation to correct the issue. On Wednesday the technical director of the club David Weir revealed that the player underwent a second surgical procedure this week which rules him out of the World Cup. "Moder's initial diagnosis was a very complex and severe injury to his knee. We always felt it was unrealistic to expect him back before the end of this calendar year," Weir said in the interview with The Athletic.

"We fully appreciate the desire to be available for the World Cup, but we have always been clear that the chance of this was always very slim. His rehab is still following the timescale that we originally envisaged," he added.

The 23-year-old played two matches at the UEFA Euro 2020. It was believed that his chances of getting a call from coach Czeslaw Michniewicz for the World Cup were very high.

"At the beginning, we tried to get him rehabilitated in Poland, but the club didn't agree, saying that he had very good medical care and that they knew how to treat such injuries. We keep our fingers crossed for Jakub to return on the pitch as soon as possible," Poland's team manager Jakub Kwiatkowski said on Wednesday.

tering run that included a 3-0 win over the Gunners. Antonio Conte's response to achieving what he described as a "miracle" in qualifying for the Champions League was to demand Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy loosen the purse strings, a request which has so far yielded the signings of Richarlison, Yves Bissouma, Djed Spence, Ivan Perisic and Fraser Forster. Arsenal have bounced back from the bitter disappointment at how last season ended by splashing over £100 million in new signings. Arteta raided his old club Manchester City for Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus and Ukraine defender Oleksandr Zinchenko in deals worth a combined £75 million. Fabio Vieira, a £34 million signing from Porto, arrives heralded as a potential future star.