



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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PTI leaders requesting govt for 'NRO': Ahsan

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal says Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) leaders are struggling to get 'NRO' from the ruling party Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz). The PTI leadership is sending messages through different resources requesting NRO and halting foreign funding case. We want to make the foreign funding case as test case. Imran Khan was seeking details of assets from other parties but he was reluctant to provide resources of his money in foreign funding trial.



PTI's foreign funding int'l conspiracy against Pakistan: Tarar

PML-N leader Attaullah Tarar says foreign funding of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf is actually an international conspiracy against the country. Imran Khan had prayed for Modi's victory and also praised Indian foreign policy in his speech at the rally. During the Imran era, false cases were made against our leadership, and Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Shahbaz, and others endured hardships but did not complain.

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Not US dollar

SBP allows export of foreign currencies

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Monday allowed all exchange companies to export foreign currencies other than the US dollar and bring in the greenback in their foreign currency accounts maintained with banks in Pakistan. In a statement issued in this regard, the central bank clarified that this decision has been taken to enable the exchange companies to divert the flow of foreign exchange, mobilised by them, towards the inter-bank market.

The move taken by the state bank is going to improve the dollar supply in the market. "It has been decided to allow the exchange companies to export US dollar on a consignment basis through cargo/security company," the SBP said, directing firms to ensure the availability of a sufficient amount of US currency notes at their counters to meet the demand of the general public. The central bank said that it should also be ensured that the proceeds of such export must reach in US dollar account of the exchange companies maintained with banks in Pakistan, within three days of such export.

"Exchange companies shall surrender 100% of foreign exchange received on the export of US dollar, in the interbank market on the same day," the statement read, adding that this facility will be available until September 30, 2022. All the firms are further directed to share data on such export and their surrender on a daily basis to the SBP, Banking Supervision Department - 3.

Meanwhile, exchange companies should also ensure the availability of all relevant records for examination by State Bank's inspection teams.

Economy matters

Ambassador of Uzbekistan, Mr. Oybek Usmanov calls on the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: PID

Shehbaz, MBS contact

Pak, Saudi Arabia agree to enhance economic coop

PM calls for urgent operationalization of TTA, PTAs with Uzbekistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to intensify mutual cooperation in the fields of investment, energy and trade. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman exchanged views to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries during a telephonic conversation Saudi press agency reported. According to a statement, PM Shehbaz made a telephone call to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. During the telephone conversation, PM Shehbaz discussed cooperation opportunities between the two countries and ways to enhance them in all fields.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has underscored the need for urgently operationalizing the Transit Trade Agreement and Preferential Trade

Rs50,000 cash relief should be provided to each flood-affected family: Shehbaz

Agreements with Uzbekistan to fully unlock the immense bilateral economic potential. He was talking to Ambassador of Uzbekistan Oybek Usmanov who paid a courtesy call on him here on Monday. The Prime Minister

underlined the significance of Trans-Afghan Railway Project to advance the connectivity agenda and promote regional prosperity. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide transit access to Central Asian Republics to the ports of Karachi, Bin Qasim and Gwadar.

Shehbaz Sharif also invited Uzbek investments in Special Economic Zones of Pakistan, particularly in industrial, electronics and agricultural sectors, which would accrue mutual benefits. He highlighted Pakistan's vision for deeper engagement with Central Asia and the important role of Uzbekistan in this regard. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the existing level of close and fraternal relations between Pakistan and

Uzbekistan and emphasized the need for further deepening bilateral ties in the realms of trade, economy, education, tourism and culture to promote people-to-people contacts. He stressed on direct air connectivity to facilitate the movement of businessmen, students and tourists between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also directed to ensure the provision of Rs. 50,000 relief to each flood affected family in the flood hit areas through a transparent process within the three days. Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will provide Rs. 50,000 cash relief to every flood affected family under the supervision of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), he added.

Zardari accelerates political activities

Calls Sindh minister to Dubai to discuss new political strategy

DUBAI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has accelerated his political activities in Dubai as he called Sindh Minister for Local Bodies Nasir Shah to the Capital of the UAE on Monday. Nasir Shah has reached Dubai where Zardari has been staying for many days. The PPP Co-Chairman has summoned Shah to discuss the country's current situation. Asif Ali Zardari is being said that he is chalking out a new political strategy to handle the fast-changing political scenario. The political pundits are saying that the PPP is afraid of the announcement by PTI Chairman Imran Khan's public meetings in Sindh and contesting by-elections on nine NA seats

across the country particularly in Karachi.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also called the party central leadership of Sindh to discuss the Karachi by-election. The channel added that Bilawal has assigned the leaders different tasks to win the by-polls at every cost. Zardari after the defeat of Hamza Sharif in the Punjab Chief Minister election case in Supreme Court of Pakistan had left for Dubai without any known reason.

Zardari's all efforts including many visits to Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and his persuasion to the Chaudhry to support Hamza Sharif in the run-off election of Punjab Chief Minister could not bear fruits and met defeat in the SC.

Nawaz returning home next month: PML-N

LAHORE: Federal Minister and senior PML-N leader Javed Latif confirmed Monday that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif — after a long hiatus — will return to the country in September to represent "the people". In a press conference alongside PML-N Punjab spokesperson Azma Bukhari, Latif said that the "doctors" have announced their decision and Nawaz will come back in line with their call. "The doctors change their opinion with time. The people are his doctors; the nation has announced its decision that Nawaz Sharif should come back," Latif said.

In 2018, an accountability court sentenced Nawaz to seven years in prison in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference, while he was also sentenced to a total of 11 years in prison and slapped an £8 million fine (Rs1.3 billion) in the Avenfield prop-

erties reference. Subsequently, in 2019, the Lahore High Court (LHC) after suspending his sentence, allowed Nawaz to go abroad for medical treatment. He departed for London on November 19, 2019, and since then, he never returned to the country.

Latif's statement comes after PTI Chairman Imran Khan, during his address to his party's jalsa in Lahore, claimed that a conspiracy was being hatched to disqualify him in the Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases to pave the way for Nawaz's return from London. "They have made a new plan to register new cases and disqualify Imran Khan in Toshakhana and prohibited funding cases," he said. "Under the conspiracy, Nawaz will be brought back to the country by the end of September [...] and a character assassination campaign will be launched to malign me."

Weekly inflation downs by 0.08%

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on August 11 for the combined consumption group, witnessed a decrease of 0.08 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 209.01 points against 209.17 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 37.69 percent.

The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The Sensitive Price Indicator for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 0.12 percent decrease and went down from 216.03 points in last week to 215.76 points during the week under review. Meanwhile, the SPI



for the consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs22,889-29,517, Rs29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.10 percent, 0.09 percent, 0.08 percent and 0.07 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 26 (50.98%) items increased, 09 (17.65%) items decreased and 16 (31.37%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis, included onions (10.18%), bananas (2.71%), chicken (1.03%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (0.79%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.55%), mustard oil (0.36%), rice Basmati broken (0.33%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.17%) and LPG (1.10%).

The commodities that witnessed increase on WoW basis included tomatoes (10.35%), salt (3.73%),

eggs (3.67%), pulse mash (3.65%), pulse moong (3.18%), pulse masoor (2.13%), garlic (2.03%), firewood (1.36%) and tea packet (1.29%). On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices included chillies powder (43.42%), sugar (16.27%) and gur (1.86%). The commodities that witnessed increase in prices included diesel (109.15%), pulse masoor (111.90%), diesel (109.15%), onions (90.05%), petrol (88.94%), cooking oil 5 litre (73.50%), mustard oil (72.31%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (70.54%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (67.61%), washing soap (61.92%), pulse gram (59.51%), chicken (57.14%), electricity for Q1 (52.61%), gents sponge chappal (52.21%), pulse mash (51.08%) and garlic (37.88%).

Pakistan signs IMF's letter of intent



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday signed the Letter of Intent (LoI) sent by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to Finance Ministry sources, the Finance Secretary signed the IMF Letter of Intent and will send the Letter of Intent back to the IMF today. In this regard, the sources further said that after receiving the letter of intent, a decision will be taken at the meeting of the IMF Executive Board while the meeting of the IMF Executive Board is likely to be held on August 24.

PTI rejects talks on charter of economy: Fawad

Says party decides to mount pressure on govt for early polls

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) senior leader and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Monday reacted to the charter of economy proposed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying that his party has rejected this proposal. Addressing the media, the former federal minister said that the entire party condemns the torture of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill. He alleged that efforts are being made to kidnap and shift him to PIMS. Lashing out at Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Fawad said that he has established a tradition of torturing children and women.

Fawad said that former prime minister and PTI Chairman has instructed Shireen Mazari to raise this matter on international forums. He said that the world will celebrate National Press Day on Thursday. Fawad also said that the PTI leadership would take to the streets for press freedom. Imran Khan will also



address the Bar Association, PTI leader added. Fawad claimed that all-out efforts are being made to divide the judiciary, which is old tactics of the PML-N.

The PTI leader said that campaigning for the early elections will be carried out with full vigor. He said that it is useless to talk to Shahbaz Sharif on the charter of economy. Supporting Shahbaz Sharif's economic policies is a sign of ignorance, he said. The former federal minister said PTI would be ready to talk only on the structure of elections, but nothing else would be discussed.

Fawad questioned why JUI-F's foreign funding is not being made public. He said that the PTI leadership has no confidence in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Asking Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif to bring back the looted money, Fawad said that Zardari should first try to save the Sindh government and then look at Punjab. Moreover, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) on Monday decided to put pressure on the coalition government regarding the demand for early elections. A meeting of party leaders

was held under the chairmanship of PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, in which the political situation of the country was discussed, while the public campaign and the program of PTI rallies were also discussed. During the meeting, senior PTI leaders decided to hold a major rally in Karachi on August 19, while other important matters were also taken into consideration. Sources privy to the matter said that large rallies will be held in major cities including Rawalpindi, Karachi and Peshawar during the next week.

Meanwhile, it was also concluded in the meeting that the former prime minister (Imran) himself will conduct the election campaign on nine seats. It was also decided to take legal action against those involved in the May 25 violence. The legal team will ensure all cases are filed within 7 days. The PTI leadership was of the view that the characters involved in the incident would not be spared under any circumstances.

Fiscal management

President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the under-training officers of the 49th Specialized Training Programme of Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: PID

PTI an imported party: Gilani



Bureau Report

MULTAN: PTI is an imported party, former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani snaps at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) during a media briefing in Multan on Monday as Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) prepares to contest by-elections in Punjab. The former prime minister said it has been proved that PTI has been collecting foreign funds to put forth its agenda. He said the government would not bow to pressure and the general elections will be held on time.

Gilani also told the media that Punjab Minister Muhammad Akhtar Malik has announced the dissemination of funds at such a crucial time to influence the results of the NA-157 by-polls. He requested the election commission to probe it. On a question regarding freedom of media, Gilani said he has always spoken against draconian laws and supports liberty.

"But, we will not support anyone ridiculing the country's martyrs or throwing shade on our institutions," he added. When pressed to share his views regarding the differential treatment meted out to the politicians of other political parties on speaking ill about the institutions, Gilani shied away and took shelter by saying he cannot comment on a subjudice matter.

Just in 10 days

Punjab govt reshuffles ministers' portfolios

CM Elahi directs to expedite relief operation in flood-affected areas

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Less than 10 days after the Punjab Cabinet took the oath, Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi has given a nod to change the portfolios of the Punjab ministers. The 21-member Punjab cabinet had taken oath on August 6 and within 10 days Elahi has decided to shuffle the portfolios of his ministers.

In a surprise reshuffle, the Punjab government has changed the portfolios of provincial ministers, including bigwigs like Raja Basharat and Yasmin Rashid. According to the notification of the new portfolios, Raja Basharat has been removed from the office of Public Prosecution Minister and was given the portfolio of parliamentary affairs and environmental protection. Khurram Virk has been removed from the office of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs while Brig (ret) Muhammad Musaddiq Abbasi has been given the portfolio of Public

Prosecution.

Yasmin Rashid, who had the portfolios of primary and secondary health, has been removed from the post and given the charge of specialized health and medical education. Akhtar Malik has been made the minister for the Primary and Secondary Health Care Department. Arsalan Khalid has been given the portfolio of Punjab Information Technology Board (PTTB) - the office previously held by Raja Yassir Humayun.

Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has directed Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and district administrations to expedite relief operation in flood-affected areas of Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur districts. He also directed to shift people to safer places besides establishment of relief camps in the affected areas. The Chief Minister said all necessary facilities should be ensured to flood-affected families. "The operation should be continued

until the last victim is transferred to a safer place", CM Pervaiz Elahi added.

According to details, the Punjab chief minister has directed Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and district administrations to expedite relief operation in flood-affected areas of the province. CM Punjab also directed to shift the victims to safer places besides establishment of relief camps in the affected areas. "All necessary facilities should be ensured to flood-affected families," he added. "The operation should be continued until the last victim is transferred to a safer place", CM Pervaiz Elahi added.

Earlier in July, CM Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi announced financial relief for flood-affected families in Punjab. An amount of Rs800,000 will be provided to families of people who died in floods. A committee would estimate losses and distribute relief packages among the deserving.

Imran Khan doing work of RSS, Modi: PDM spox

Says Niazi, Gogi gang damages more than terrorism to the country

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PDM spokesperson Hafiz Hamdullah reacting to Fawad Chaudhry's media talk said that Fawad Chaudhry has admitted today that the whole party stood with the Shahbaz Gill statement about state institutions. He said that Shahbaz Gill gave a party statement, not his personal statement. Hamdullah said that JUI-F supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman

survived three suicide attacks. "Connecting Maulana with terrorism is the worst terrorism," he added.

"Imran Niazi and Gogi gang damaged more than terrorism to the country's institutions and economy," he added. He said Shahbaz Gill is an American citizen. JUIF leader asked Shahbaz Gill why he gave a such statement and at whose behest. PDM spokesperson questioned whether PTI wanted to get billions of rupees fund-

ing from foreign companies and foreigners by giving such statements against state institutions.

He alleged that Imran Khan has been doing the work of RSS and Modi. "PDM will not allow PTI to commit hooliganism in the name of Jihad," he added. He said what PTI has done in KP province where they have been ruling for the last 10 years and what Imran Khan's party have performed in their four-year stint in the capital.

Differences

Bilawal summons PPP Sindh leaders to Islamabad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has summoned Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, provincial ministers and other party leaders to Islamabad. According to details, Bilawal Bhutto has summoned the PPP leadership over reports of differences among candidates of by-elections in Lyari and Malir. CM Murad Ali Shah has left for Islamabad by private flight. He was accompanied by Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Saeed Ghani, Waqar Mehdi, Shabbir Bajrani and other provincial ministers.

Bilawal Bhutto has directed



important ministers and Members of Sindh Assembly to reach Islamabad

immediately, sources added. Consultation on upcoming local government (LG) polls and by-elections in Lyari and Malir will be held. It is pertinent to mention here that PTI has submitted nomination papers of party chairman Imran Khan from three constituencies of the National Assembly in Karachi vacated after the speaker accepted resignations of the party MNAs.

Earlier, the PTI chairman announced to contest by-polls from all nine seats, vacated after the National Assembly speaker accepted the resignations of the PTI MNAs. According to the ECP schedule, the by-polls on the nine National Assembly seats would be contested on September 25.

Prohibited funding

IHC to take up PTI plea against ECP verdict today

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) will take up a plea from Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) against a decision from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the prohibited funding case. A cause-list issued by the registrar of the IHC showed that acting Chief Justice of the high court Aamer Farooq will hear the proceedings of the case today (Tuesday). The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday has challenged Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in prohibited funding case in the Islamabad High Court.

Additional Secretary Gener-

al of PTI Omar Ayub challenged the verdict in the IHC and pleaded with the court to strike down ECP's verdict in PTI prohibited funding case. ECP has been made respondent in the case.

The ECP bench in its reserved verdict said prohibited funding against PTI had been proven. ECP, in its unanimous verdict, ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and from 34 foreign nationals. A three-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, comprising Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Shah Muhammad Jatoti announced the reserved verdict.

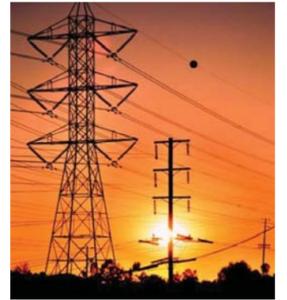
Rs1.85/unit

CPPA seeks hike in market operation fee

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has sought increase of Rs1.85 per unit on account of market operation fees. In yet another attempt to overburden the already inflation-hit people of Pakistan, the incumbent government has decided to jack up market operation fees on electricity. Currently, the CPPA is charging Rs2.71 per unit market operation fees and has sought an increase of Rs1.85 per unit. With the approval, the per unit cost of market operation fees will be Rs4.56, which will put an additional burden of Rs27.58 billion on the consumers.

The CPPA has filed plea to meet financial needs in the fiscal year 2022-23. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has fixed the hearing on the issue on August 31. Last week, the National Electric Power Regulatory



Authority (NEPRA) increased the power tariff for K-Electric consumers by Rs1.10 per unit. The approval was given in terms of fuel adjustment charges for June 2022 and the increase will not be applicable for lifeline consumers. The recent hike will be charged in the bills for August and September 2022, read the notification.

Govt can't afford subsidy on POL: Miftah

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that his ministry will not impose any more taxes and levies on petroleum products after lowering oil prices in the world market. In an interview to a private news channel, finance minister clearly said that the government cannot afford to subsidise petroleum products or bear losses. There were widely spread speculations that the prices of petroleum products will be slashed by 15 rupees per litre in proportion to the lower oil prices in the global market. Replying to a question Miftah Ismail said that "it will be more appropriate and better if Saudi Arabia confirms about providing dollars for petroleum products". "I will not comment further over this matter," he added. He said the IMF had set a condition for Pakistan to arrange \$4 billion worth of loans from somewhere before seeking help from the lending institution." He said the country has successfully managed to arrange the required loan from some friendly countries.

Imran to address Karachi rally on Friday

Establishes tiger force to prepare for general elections

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan will address a public rally in Karachi on August 19. Sources privy to the decisions in the meeting said that the PTI has decided to further exert pressure on the 'imported government' for early elections and approval was given for holding public rallies in multiple cities across the country. "Public gatherings will be held in Karachi, Rawalpindi and other major urban centres," they said, adding the first power show of the party will be held in Karachi on August 19.

It was also decided that Imran Khan will personally lead election campaigns in nine constituencies. Furthermore, Imran Khan also constituted a committee to restructure Insaaf Lawyers Forum and its constitution compris-

ing of Asad Umar, Babar Awan, Ali Zafar and Hassan Niazi. "Lawyers should be invited to join PTI as they are the frontline for upholding the supremacy of the law," Khan said.

Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has established tiger force and appointed Saifullah Khan Niazi as its convener to organize it at the grassroots level before the general elections.

Imran Khan has announced during the PTI rally at Hockey Stadium, Lahore that he was going to establish tiger force to bring forward male and female youngsters to lead the party from the front.

Khan has nominated Saifullah Niazi as its convener along with Khawaja Shams and Rana Nadeem as members from Punjab, and two members each from KP, Sindh and Balochistan provinces. The tiger force will be



organized nationwide and it will report directly to Imran Khan. The PTI chairman has also summoned the first meeting of the force in the ongoing week.

Polio Free Pakistan

KP Minister vows to eradicate polio from province

Sindh govt also launches province wide anti-polio drive

Spokesman Report

KARACHI/PESHAWAR: Minister for Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taimur Saleem Jhagra on Monday said the government was committed to eradicating polio virus from the region and underlined the need for tailored strategies to cater to ground challenges.



and missed children.

He said this while co-chairing Provincial Task Force Meeting (PTF) on Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) along with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Shahzad Bangash here.

Jhagra said that reporting of polio cases in the province is a wakeup call that needs remedial measures on war footing, adding that programme managers should encourage district teams to highlight real issues and challenges including fake finger marking

Earlier, speaking to the forum, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahzad Bangash thanked technical partners and all line departments specially Army and police for their sacrifices and all out support for the national cause of polio eradication.

He said that multiple challenges were being confronted in curbing virus spread in the province, adding the government was determined to

overcome these challenges and would succeed in achieving the goal.

The CS appreciated approach in the southern districts of province saying that it should continue and strongly recommended disciplinary action against poor performers across the board along with real time data reflecting the true picture of missed children.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday launched a province-wide anti-polio campaign. He launched this campaign at National Institute of Child Health (NICH). Minister Health Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Aziz Memon, Secretary Health Zulfiqar Shah, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, and others were present on the occasion.

The campaign will be in two phases starting from Karachi and Hyderabad which would continue till 21st August. The later phase would begin from

22nd August and would continue till 28th August for remaining districts of Shaheed Benazirabad, Mirpurkhas, Sukkur, and Larkana divisions.

The CM said that under the campaign oral polio drops would be given to over 9.9 million children under 5 years. "In the drive, 33,982 teams along with 9,137 supervisors will be participating across the province," he said and added 3556 partners staff from the different organizations would be deployed for supportive supervision and monitoring. According to Mr. Shah out of the target of over 9.9 million children, more than 2.4 million children live in Karachi. Murad Ali Shah termed it a great achievement for his government and Emergency Operation Centre, Sindh (EOC) that all the environmental samples from our province have been negative.

Syngenta plants thousands of trees

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Syngenta is a globally leading agriculture innovation and technology company, providing crop protection, biologicals, seeds and crop-enhancement products. Being an environmentally and socially responsible entity, Syngenta has been nurturing its strong relationship with Pakistani farmers for the past 65 years with a commitment to make resourceful contributions towards sustainability.



To commemorate the Independence Day of Pakistan, Syngenta Pakistan organized a country-wide tree-plantation drive named "Plant a Tree" across its offices, warehouses, plant and distribution network.

As part of this drive, the

main event was held at the "Clifton Urban Forest" in Karachi on 14th August, 2022 where the Member of Provincial Assembly Sindh – Sharmila Faruqi was the Chief Guest, along with the Secretary of Agriculture Department, Government of Sindh – Aijaz Ahmed Mahesar as the Guest of Honor. Syngenta Pakistan's General Manager – Zeeshan

Hasib Baig, Founder of Clifton Urban Forest – Masood Lohar, Syngenta Pakistan's country leadership team and employees were also present at this vibrant event where participants planted over 2,000 trees of different varieties.

The Chief Guest appreciated this valuable intervention and said that: "It is heartening to see that a global enterprise like Syngenta is making broad-based efforts

to ensure long term sustainability of the environment. Pakistan's robust corporate sector must take inspiration from this green initiative and contribute towards a healthier, more prosperous future for the nation. We must take maximum advantage of evolving-technologies to overcome the ecological threats and to accelerate the sustainable development of the country."

75th Diamond Jubilee, Independence Day held



Azad Baloch

DADU: On the occasion of the 75th Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the central event was held at Police Headquarters Dadu where Deputy Commissioner Dadu was the chief guest.

Deputy Commissioner Dadu Syed Murtaza Ali Shah and DSP City Abdul Khaliq Wagan unfurled the flag. A special Sindh Police contingent paid salutations to the National flag. DC Dadu Syed Murtaza Ali Shah, AC Dadu Dr. Shahnaaz Meeraani, DSP City Abdul Khaliq Wagan, DHO Dadu Dr. Ahmed Ali Samejo, inspector Ashfaq Ahmed and other district officers cut the Independence Day cake and prayed for the country's security and prosperity.

Martin Dow bleeds green to save lives

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Martin Dow, a leading multinational pharmaceutical company of Pakistan commenced the 75th year of the country's independence with a cause to save lives by carrying out a blood donation drive in collaboration with Indus Hospital.



Blood shortages are particularly acute in developing countries across much of the subcontinent, and Pakistan is no exception. Adequate and reliable supply of safe blood can only be assured through a stable base of regular, voluntary, and unpaid blood donors.

The primary goal was to facilitate the patients with blood donations for surgery, chronic illnesses, cancer

treatment, and transfusions for blood loss from traumatic injuries. The donation drive was efficiently managed at Martin Dow Group Corporate Office starting from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Expressing his views about these camps, Shahrukh Masood, Group Director HR & Corp Comms, said, "Martin Dow believes that

the opportunity marks a true test of leaders' commitment to save lives and accelerate progress towards health care for all in our lifetime. The leadership has realized that their commitment to safety is higher than ever. A single bottle of blood can save 13 lives. Every donation makes a difference. Not only is this cause necessary, but

also more important as it enhances social solidarity. It sends a powerful message of mutual aid, civic commitment and social buy-in to Health for All. For healthy adults, blood donation is not only safe, but provides a sense of belonging and pride, as well as a free health check-up.

Highlighting the need for an adequate and reliable supply of safe blood, Shahrukh Masood stressed on the importance of raising awareness for safe blood and blood products for transfusion. The theme 'Bleed Green' was selected to highlight the critical contribution that unpaid blood donors make to national health systems, and to promote solidarity in voluntary blood donations.

Descon continues growth trajectory

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading large-scale engineering company, Descon Engineering Ltd. (DEL), records significantly high growth in revenues on the back of major projects in Domestic and Overseas geographies as per its FY 2021-22 performance indicators.

DEL engineered equipment for the Oil & Gas sector in Qatar, Iraq, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Eastern Europe and Pakistan. It also engineered equipment for refineries in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Yemen, Oman and Russia. The company's engineering

services arm, Descon Engineering Services & Technology (DEST), also performed well in serving clients in Saudi Arabia.

Buoyed by its overseas performance in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, DEL is now planning to establish a foothold in South East Africa, Central

Asian and Eastern Europe markets. It seeks to raise the bar in addressing the challenges of the industry.

DEL's CEO Taimur Saeed: "Year closing 2021-22 results are a testament of the dedication of our employees who delivered our projects and served our clients in difficult times.

Shan Foods, TCS shares spirit of unity this Independence Day

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: On the account of Pakistan turning 75 years young, leading Food Company, Shan Foods, has partnered with TCS, Pakistan's largest logistics and E-commerce solutions provider, to distribute gift boxes across Pakistan as a symbol of inclusivity and unity as a nation.

Under this partnership, Shan Foods' premium range of recipe mixes and sauces

will be picked, packed and delivered with utmost care by TCS as a token of gratitude and love to our country fellowmen residing in far flung areas of Pakistan and make them a part of our Independence Day celebrations.

Maria Rashdi, Head of Corporate Communication & PR at Shan Foods, while commenting on the newly forged partnership with TCS, said, "Working to reduce poverty and hunger

has been one of the core missions of Shan Foods, for which we have launched several initiatives. On the Occasion of Pakistan's Platinum Jubilee, we wanted to reinforce our stance of creating an equitable society and we hope that this joint effort with TCS becomes a source of relief and sends across a message of togetherness in these hard times."

"This Independence Day, TCS wanted to encourage the idea of giving back to

the community and staying connected, in line with Quaid-e-Azam's three golden principles of Unity, Faith and Discipline", said Farrukh Nadeem, Chief Operating Officer at TCS Pvt Ltd. "We appreciate Shan Foods' support to further amplify our message of promoting inclusivity and displaying unity as a nation in these testing times by breaking geographical barriers and extending support for those in need," he added.

Tai-Pan relaunches at PC hotel Karachi



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Pearl-Continental Hotel Karachi, part of the largest chain of five-star hotels in Pakistan, announced the relaunching of its Chinese restaurant, Tai-Pan with refined and authentic flavours along with an enhanced ambience.

The event was inaugurated by the honorable Consul General of China, Li Bijian. Among the attendees were diplomats, city elite, media personnel, along with top management of the organization.

Serving traditional Chinese cuisine with an essence of the Canton and Shanghai provinces, Tai-Pan specialties are prepared using the four Chinese cooking methods: steaming, braising, baking and frying. Offering a classic ambience, Tai-Pan serves a myriad of meals to tantalise the taste buds.

Zhaokun Jiang, the new specialty chef at Tai-Pan, brings with him a unique set of skills for Chinese cuisine which comes from his diversified practical experience of working in China, UAE and Pakistan, enriching him with an exclusive blend of fusion and ethnic expertise.

NTDC completes augmentation work of 220/132kV Transformer At 500 kV Grid Station New Multan



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has successfully augmented a 160MVA, 220/132kV transformer to 250MVA rating at 500 kV grid station New Multan. The transformer was energized today.

The NTDC spokesman said that the company has chalked out a comprehensive plan for phase-wise removal of system constraints to alleviate overloading on the system, especially during summers. This augmentation of transformer will improve the loading capacity of the grid station & provide relief to MEPCO.

The spokesman further said that, since electricity demand surges during summers due to increased use of air conditioning – loads throughout the country, the enhanced capacity of replaced transformer of 160MVA rating with 250MVA rating will reduce transmission losses and facilitate the interconnected DISCOs.

The induction of new transformer will benefit the industrial, rural and urban consumers of MEPCO. MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan appreciated the concerned project team and other allied departments for early completion of the project.

Green Pakistan

Pak Army, Houbara Foundation jointly broadcasted seeds of desert



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Army and Houbara Foundation International Pakistan jointly broadcasted seeds of desert plants over the Cholistan Desert this morning for the 24th consecutive year.

Wildlife habitats are being degraded the world over because of over-grazing and wood-cutting by local communities. Consequently, wild animals and birds are unable to find their favourite foods in sufficient quantities, resulting in their rapid decline and ecological imbalances.

In 1998, Houbara Foundation International Pakistan undertook to reinforce the diminishing vegetation through aerial broadcast of seeds of desert plants in the Cholistan Desert, which is the prime wintering habitat of the Houbara Bustard.

177 kg seeds of houbara's favourite food plants have been broadcasted this year bringing the total seeds broadcast in the last 23 years to over 2789 kg. Regular monitoring of the habitat shows encouraging results, and higher yields of germination are expected as the work goes on.

Restoration of complete habitats is a long and laborious task. But, with dedicated support of Pakistan Army, Houbara Foundation aims at continuing to work on this project and restore the ecological balance by reinforcing the desert vegetation and building up populations of the houbara and other wildlife species.

Terrorist gunned down in North Waziristan

Raja Furqan Ahmed

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces on Monday killed a terrorist during an Intelligence Based Operation in the Mir Ali area of the North Waziristan district.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during the operation in the Mir Ali area, an intense fire exchange took place between the security forces and terrorists, resulting in the killing of a terrorist. "Weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorist," the military's media wing said.

It said that the killed terrorist remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens. "He was also involved in the target killing of Qari Sami in North Waziristan district," the ISPR said. It further shared that the locals appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the area.

Rupee continues to gain ground against dollar

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to strengthen against the US dollar for the tenth successive working day, gaining Rs1.51 to close at Rs213.98 in the interbank market on Monday.

The local unit maintained the upward streak, with the dollar trading at Rs213 after its depreciation during intraday trade in the interbank market for most of the day.

On Friday, the Pakistani rupee had gained Rs3.38 to close at Rs215.50 against the US dollar in the interbank market.

Despite shrinking foreign exchange reserves, the rupee has continued to recover against the greenback as the supply of foreign currency increased consistently compared to its demand in the system.

Huawei announces 2022 H1 business results

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Huawei announced its business results for the first half of 2022 today. Overall performance was in line with forecast.

In 2022 H1, Huawei generated \$45 billion in revenue, with a net profit margin of 5.0%. The Carrier BG contributed \$21.3 billion, and the Enterprise BG \$8.1 billion, and the

Device BG \$15.1 billion. "While our device business was heavily impacted, our ICT infrastructure business maintained steady growth," said Ken Hu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman. "Moving forward, we will harness trends in digitalization and decarbonization to keep creating value for our customers and partners, and secure quality development."

Islamabad
24° - 32° rainy

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:21 am
Zohr	12:13 pm
Asr	5:12 pm
Maghrib	7:22 pm
Isha	9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Pakistan's legal fraternity must advocate Kashmir cause

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's legal fraternity must advocate the Kashmir cause, establish Kashmir cells in all District / High Courts; experts propound in a seminar organised by IHCB& LFK. The seminar was jointly organised by Islamabad High Court Bar Association, and Legal Forum for Kashmir to mark India's Independence Day as Black Day Quaid e Azam Hall, Islamabad High Court, August 15. A seminar titled, "August 15 Black Day: Exposing India's sham pretence of democratic values in IOJK" was organised jointly by Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) and Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCB&A) on Monday - August 15 to mark India's Independence day as Black Day. The session was chaired by Advocate Shoaib Shaheen, President, Islamabad High Court Bar Association. The panellists included Advocate Nasir Qadri, Executive Director, LFK; Prof. Abdur Rauf Khatana, Assistant Professor, Department of Sharia and Law, IIUI; Muhammad Ali Baig, Research Associate, India Study Centre, ISSI; Muhammad Ashraf Qureshi, Advocate Supreme Court Pakistan; Advocate Malik Qamar Abbas, Vice President, Islamabad District Bar Association.

Mushaal flays fascist Indian govt for turning IIOJK into slaughter house

Says Kashmiris mark Indian Independence Day as Black Day to expose India's criminal face globally

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal Hussein Mullick lashed out at the supremacist Indian government for turning the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into a world largest open prison and a slaughter house to terrorise and force Kashmiri people so as they could shun the freedom struggle; however she added that such brutal tactics did not work for the last over 70 years.

Mushaal, who is the wife of Jailed Hurriyat Kashmiri Leader Yasin Malik, said this in a video message on India's 75th Independence Day, which was observed as Black Day by Kashmiris

living on both sides of Line of Control and across the world to highlight the Indian state terrorism and war crimes before the world.

She said that India and Pakistan are celebrating their 75th Independence Day but Kashmiri nation has been deprived of their fundamental rights to live with peace and harmony as citizens of Independent country due to India's forceful and illegitimate occupation of the valley.

Mushaal said that the people of the scenic valley had been battling for their independence for the last over seven decades during which over 100,000 innocent Kashmiris were martyred.

The hurriyat leader stated that the fascist Indian forces unleashed a wave of

barbarism and committed war crimes in the IIOJK but the international community and human rights organizations observed a criminal silence.

Mushaal said that the brave Kashmiri people would keep on the fight for the right to self-determination till breaking the shackles of Indian subjugation.

Mushaal said that Indian forces were committing war crimes, genocide against innocent and defenceless Kashmiris.

She went on to say that her husband Yasin was a face of peaceful resistance movement but he has been languishing in Tehar death cell for his sole crime to raise voice for the Kashmiris just and birth right of right to self-determination.

Protest

ISLAMABAD: The protestors under the aegis of All Parties Hurriyat Conference burning Indian flag outside Foreign Office near Indian High Commission. They observed Indian Independence Day as Black Day in protest against unprecedented brutalities being perpetrated by Indian forces in IIOJK.



Photo by Ghulam Farid

To digitise education

Beaconhouse, Tech Valley sign MoU for Leaders of Tomorrow

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Beaconhouse, a global network of private schools and institutes educating over 315,000 students in seven countries, has partnered with Tech Valley, an innovative digital consulting firm and trusted country partner of Google for Education in Pakistan. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two parties to work towards incorporating different Google technologies in Beaconhouse schools, carrying forward its mission to inculcate global best practices to improve education delivery.

Under this MoU, Tech Valley, with the support of international Google for Education teams, will assist Beaconhouse in procuring and incorporating Chromebooks for their programmes such as Homebridge and the inception of the Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD) model on their campuses. Additionally, Tech



Valley will conduct training for teachers and admin staff to help them effectively utilise Google technologies such as Google Workspace and Google Cloud Platform.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ali Ahmed Khan, Chief Operating Officer of Beaconhouse, said, "Beaconhouse looks forward to working with the Google for Education team and its local partner, Tech Valley. As its first education sector partner, we are excited to kick off this project and

empower our students with Google tools and devices."

Umar Farooq, CEO, Tech Valley, noted that as a local partner of Google for Education in Pakistan, their goal is to revolutionise the education sector of Pakistan by empowering students, teachers, and administrators with a simple solution for intuitive, and easy-to-manage teaching and learning model through Chromebooks and other Google technologies.

Health Corner

Vitamin D may help with depression

ISLAMABAD: An extensive meta-analysis suggests that vitamin D supplementation may alleviate depressive symptoms in adults with depression. Conducted by an international team of researchers, the meta-analysis includes dozens of studies from around the world.

Depressive symptoms cause a significant disease burden worldwide. The therapeutic efficacy of current antidepressants is often insufficient, which is why further ways to alleviate the symptoms of depression have been sought, for example, from nutritional research.

Vitamin D is believed to regulate central nervous system functions the disturbances of which have been associated with depression. In addition, cross-sectional studies have observed an association between depressive symptoms and vitamin D deficiency. However, previous meta-analyses on the effects of vitamin D supplementation on depression have been inconclusive. In a meta-analysis, results from several different studies are combined and analysed statistically.

The new meta-analysis on the association of vitamin D supplementation with depression is the largest one published so far, including results from 41 studies from around the world. These studies have investigated the efficacy of vitamin D in alleviating depressive symptoms in adults by randomised placebo-controlled trials in different populations. The studies included those carried out in patients with depression, in the general population, and in people with various physical conditions. The results of the meta-analysis show that vitamin D supplementation is more effective than a placebo in alleviating depressive symptoms in people with depression. There were major differences in the vitamin D doses used, but typically the vitamin D supplement was 50-100 micrograms per day.

"Despite the broad scope of this meta-analysis, the certainty of evidence remains low due to the heterogeneity of the populations studied and the due to the risk of bias associated with a large number of studies," Doctoral Researcher and lead author Tuomas Mikola of the Institute of Clinical Medicine at the University of Eastern Finland says. The meta-analysis is part of Mikola's PhD thesis. (Courtesy: Science Daily)



For regional prosperity

Public diplomacy strengthens Shanghai Spirit in SCO

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Public Diplomacy is an important instrument for promoting regional peace and stability by advancing the essence of the Shanghai Spirit. Strong people-to-people ties, languages, cultural cooperation, youth interactions, media cooperation, health development, technology knowledge sharing, arts and craft, and history will improve togetherness, understanding, and mutual trust.

These were the remarks by the policy leaders and scholars from the SCO region during the Webinar on "Role of Public Diplomacy for Strengthening Shanghai Spirit in SCO" organized by SCO Studies Centre-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies and Pakistan SCO Friendship Forum. After the welcome remarks, Farhat Asif highlighted the webinar's significance and shared the aims and objectives of the Pakistan SCO Friendship Forum and SCO Studies Centre. Speaking on occasion, the keynote speaker Zheng Wei, Secretary General of the Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Commission (GNFCC) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), highlighted that people-to-people amity promotes the development and people-to-people diplomacy serves the people. She reiterated that member states are gradually expanding people-to-people exchanges, establishing cooperation mechanisms, strengthening solidarity and cooperation, and building the true Shanghai Spirit. Zheng Wei also shared that GNFCC-SCO has significantly advanced people-to-people ties in SCO through various initiatives. Kabuljon K Sabirov, Director of SCO Center of the Public Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, mentioned that SCO needs to promote regional economic cooperation. Moreover, regional governments must devise thoughtful ethnocultural policies to promote a deep understanding of multiculturalism in the region and induce an idea of mutual rapprochement.

Aisha Farooqui, the National Coordinator of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan, explained and highlighted several key areas for enhancing Intra SCO-level cooperation. She proposed enhancing tourism and business collaboration to promote cultural interactions through language development. She has also emphasized using media, music, and film to enhance cooperation in the SCO. She also stressed language being the key to unlocking cultural cooperation. Dr. Vladimir Evseev, Head of Division of Eurasian Integration and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Institute of CIS Countries, Russian Federation, shed light on the internal instability of the member-states being one of the greater challenges for the development of SCO. According to him, it is necessary for SCO member states to unite and work for the common cause of development in the region.

Dr. Akbota Zholdasbekova, Professor Eurasian National University of Kazakhstan, emphasized that the cultural and historical affiliation between states play an important role in cooperation. She highlighted several challenges that states faced in cooperation among states, such as terrorism and extremism in the region. SCO provides a platform for the states to overcome regional threats and promote peace through collaboration among states. Dr. Anton Dudaronak, an Analyst at the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research Belarus, stated SCO is one of the key systems of international cooperation.

Diamond Jubilee celebrations of 1st Constituent Assembly of Pakistan held

Principal and students of Workers Welfare School Girls Rawalpindi attended the session

RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Principal of Workers Welfare School Girls Rawalpindi along with students were invited in Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the first constituent Assembly of Pakistan. They got selected in different categories. Muntaha Mehdiya was selected in Naat. Aqsa Jabeen was selected in Question Answer session with Speaker. Shaiza Ishaq also took part in Question Answer session with Speaker. 14 students sang National Anthem in Parliament House.

Total 17 students attended National Parliamentary Convention on Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Parliament House Islam-



abad from 11-8-2022 till 14-8-2022.

This Ceremony was held on 12-8-2022. It was the honourable and memorable moment of Pride for Punjab Workers Welfare Fund. Students performed really well even Speaker of National Assembly and all Parliamentarians who were present there applauded the

confidence and performance of students in making the convention a success. Team efforts in planning the convention have attracted a great deal of attention and praise. It was overall exceptional, fabulous, extraordinary and incredible journey of students of Workers Welfare School Girls Rawalpindi.

At the end of the ceremony the Principal of Workers Welfare School Girls Rawalpindi Ms Arooj Hamdani was awarded by sovereign by National Assembly Speaker of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Minister for Labour and Human Resource department Ansar Majeed Niazi Secretary Punjab Worker Welfare Fund Muhammad Rizwan Sharif Director Education Punjab Worker Welfare Fund Khalid Ahmed Guniana Sial appreciated the marvellous efforts of Principal Arooj Hamdani Students and staff of workers welfare school girls Rawalpindi on the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan at Parliament house Islamabad.

Independence Day is a day of renewal, says Dr. Jamal Nasir

Tableaus, National songs, speech competitions held at PAC

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts council in collaboration with All Pakistan Private Schools management association organized tableaus, National songs and speech competition to mark Pakistan Diamond Jubilee.

Chairman Pakistan Green Task Force Dr. Jamal Nasir was the chief guest of the program. Dr. Jamal Nasir while addressing the prize distribution ceremony said that Independence Day is the day of renewal of pledge, today we pledge to make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state. The establishment of Pakistan is a blessing for the Muslims of the subcontinent, he added. Our forefathers sacrificed their lives and money for an independent state. It is the need of time to make the young generation aware of the freedom movement. For the survival and stability of Pakistan, we have to put aside personal interests and move forward.

Finally, he congratulated all the chil-



dren who participated in the competitions. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that the Pakistan Movement is the spirit of freedom and sacrifice. We can brighten the future of the country by realizing the value of freedom. Our first and last priority should be the stability of Pakistan. Today we need to follow the guiding principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to work and work only.

Aysha, Aysha Daniyal, Muhammad Ali and Abrasha got first second

third fourth position in the national song competitions. Noor Sehar, Aishal, Roshana Malik and Arfa Malik were awarded the first, second, third and fourth prizes respectively in the speech contests. In the tableau competitions, Iqra School came first, City Lyceum second, New Education School third and ASA School fourth. Chief guest Dr. Jamal Nasir and Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed distributed shields and appreciation certificates among the children who won positions.

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Tensions with China, Russia & US elections, 2022

Elias Cepeda

As Democrats seek new wars of empire, there's good reason to believe that the US' ruling party could soon suffer losses at the polls. The Democratic Party currently controls the executive branch of our federal government as well as its legislature, just as it did at the start of Barack Obama's presidency. Today, the US' thinking is based too much on politics. The new bills are intertwined with politics, which has seriously increased the complexity and difficulty of China-US economic exchanges. It is impossible for China to make unlimited concessions to the US or sacrifice its own national security and legitimate interests of its companies. The delisting of many Chinese state-owned enterprises from the US is our countermeasure to safeguard our security and development rights.

Just as they did in 2008, Democrats swept into federal offices over the course of 2018-2021, promising a host of reforms and benefits for the American people, only to immediately abandon those goals and

pledges once in office. When Obama took office, and even with a congressional supermajority, he quickly gave up on the goal of providing public healthcare for all Americans. After carrying on the billionaire-backing, war-mongering policies of their Republican predecessors, Democrats lost control of Congress in the 2010 mid-term elections.

Now, Democrats seem poised to do the same once again in the coming 2022 mid-term elections, despite having in recent years won legislative and executive races after bashing Donald Trump's policies, promising to protect marriage equality, abortion rights, expand healthcare, end some of our many wars, and to provide a coherent and effective public health plan along with financial relief during this COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important to see that this is a struggle over the audit, but on the other hand, the issue is not so "simple." China has its own national conditions, and if there is sufficient political trust between China and the US, it would be possible to settle the dispute through negotiation. However, since the US launched the trade war, there has been extreme rhetoric in the US arguing that China is taking

advantage of Chinese companies' listing in the US and that the US side is "feeding potential threats." The audit dispute has become more prominent in this context, and it could even be argued that the HFCOA is aimed mainly at Chinese companies.

Since taking back power Democrats have instead mostly either continued or expanded on Trump's own policies. In under two years of Democratic control, they have lost women the right to abortion, ended free COVID testing and vaccination as the death toll continues to rise, refused to give us healthcare, overseen our highest gas prices, ever, and ushered in an economic recession along with artificial inflation due to our own corporate capture and the sanctions we're unilaterally imposing on other nations.

Oh, and more war. The Democrats have started a proxy war with Russia and are now willfully and needlessly inflaming tensions with China, with provocative military exercises and our third most powerful elected official Nancy Pelosi visiting with Taiwan regional separatist leaders, in contradiction to officially stated US policy and agreement with China.

Liberal outlets printed critiques of Pelosi's visit while

dozens of leading Republican conservatives praised her aggression. Average Americans have been left witnessing this confusing mess from afar, in between working our multiple jobs for increasingly devalued dollars, wondering what this all has to do with our unmet needs, and why we are being told to cheerlead our government risking World War III on multiple fronts as our own domestic situation grows more dire by the day.

As our government continues with its particularly cruel version of capitalist policies, an increasing number of Americans report having favorable opinions of socialism (65 percent of Democrats in particular have a positive image of socialism according to polls while their leaders like Biden and Pelosi insult it) and increasing dissatisfaction with capitalism. Over 60 percent of Americans disapprove of the Democratic-controlled Congress' performance.

President Joe Biden's approval rating has hit an all-time low of just 38 percent, with 45 percent of Americans strongly disapproving of his job performance. Another recent poll of registered voters shows that 68.8 percent of Americans don't even want Biden to run for re-election in

2024, with a mere 21.8 percent of us wanting him to run.

The Democratic Party's insistence on inflaming tensions with other nations like Russia and China instead of focusing on rebuilding America has resulted in embarrassing unpopularity among voters. That, combined with the phenomenon of voters from the out of power party typically being more motivated to turn out to vote during mid-term elections throughout our history would seem to spell electoral trouble for Democrats over the next two years.

China will resolutely defend its core interests and is not afraid of conflict with the US. However, conflict is not China's goal, and so-called decoupling from the US is not China's wish. I believe that China will adhere to the path of opening up to the outside world. Although the environment has become more complicated and difficulties have increased significantly, closing the door will never be China's choice. But of course, China will prepare various plans to deal with extreme actions by the US and maintain the bottom line thinking.

The writer is a Chicago-based columnist covering US politics & culture. Courtesy Glob-

August 15—A Black Day

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and the world over observed the Indian Independence Day, as Black Day in protest against New Delhi's illegal occupation of their homeland. The day is marked by a complete shutdown and civil curfew in IIOJK call for which has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by all Hurriyat leaders and organizations. Black flags are hoisted everywhere in the occupied territory. The Kashmiris across the world are held anti-India demonstrations to draw world's attention towards the Indian brutalities in IIOJK. India has no right to celebrate its Independence Day in IIOJK as it is holding the territory against the will of the Kashmiri people. India is rejoicing on its freedom but killing Kashmiris for demanding the same. Isn't it a matter of shame for New Delhi? India has mercilessly killed over 96,000 Kashmiris in last 32 years but is still observing its Independence Day in the territory shamelessly.

In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmir valley wore a deserted look on India's 76th Independence Day. The day was marked by a complete shutdown in IIOJK call for which has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by almost all Hurriyat leaders and organizations. The entire IIOJK, particularly Srinagar, gave a look of a military garrison and a big concentration camp as the occupation authorities have deployed troops and police personnel in every nook and corner of the territory to prevent people from staging anti-India demonstrations.

The shops and other business establishments remained closed in most parts of the valley while checkpoints and barricades were erected at the main squares and points from North to South Kashmir. The occupation authorities ordered all government employees and educational institutions to attend the Indian Independence Day functions and hoist the Indian flags at offices and schools. Meanwhile, posters appeared in different areas of the territory, saying that India had invaded Jammu and Kashmir and forcibly occupied it against the will of the Kashmiri people. The posters also read slogans like "Indian Independence Day is a Black Day" and "We want freedom".

Srinagar, August 15 (KMS): A mysterious blast took place during an India's Independence Day function in Nar Balakote area of Mendhar area of Poonch district in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A parked vehicle suffered damage in the blast. The incident took place when a BJP sarpanch, Aftab Khan, was unfurling Indian flag at Panchayat Ghar. A police officer while confirming it to the media said that investigations have been launched into the incident. It was a mysterious blast. Nature and other technical details are being investigated. Even PDP President, Mehbooba Mufti said people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir are forced to join the ongoing charade of patriotism on India's 75th Independence Day. The PDP Chief took to Twitter and posted a photo of the first Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru stating that everything the Indian flag stood for lies in perils now. Mehboob Mufti tweeted a video in which a government employee was seen threatening the shopkeepers to pay 20 rupees for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. J&K admin shamelessly boasts about Kashmiris hoisting Indian flag. Truth is they were threatened to do so or else face the consequences. Post 75 years of accession, India used all the might at its disposal to force people here to join its charade of pseudo & monetised patriotism.



A new period of energy insecurity

Karen Karniol-Tambour

We have entered a new period of energy insecurity, in which acute shortages of the kind seen this summer will remain a persistent risk. The economic, political, and social consequences of this shift are already apparent. Energy shortages mean rationing, and if rationing is left to market forces, the outcome will be deeply regressive, with poorer people spending disproportionately larger shares of their incomes on basic needs such as heating and transportation. Energy inflation, in turn, will increase the risks of social upheaval, as incumbent leaders in rich and poor countries alike are quickly learning. Though energy shortages naturally will lead to greater investments in additional capacity, new projects will take time to come online. And unless most are carbon neutral, investments to address a near-term need will exacerbate a much larger long-term problem.

Today's energy insecurity has been long in the making. Most energy investments take years to complete, and their associated infrastructure tends to be used for decades. The world's current energy footprint was thus "baked into the cake" years ago, which is why fossil fuels still account for over 80% of global energy consumption. Even before Russia invaded Ukraine, years of underinvestment meant that global oil demand reliably outstripped supply. What the war has done is rapidly amplify the imbalance, by removing Russian supply from the market through a mix of official government sanctions and self-sanctioning by merchants and consumers. Since Russia was still supplying some buyers, the war had reduced global supply by perhaps 1.5% as of May.

With most energy sources being expandable only on a multi-year time horizon, and

with inventories at historic lows, the market has been left with only one way to achieve a near-term equilibrium: a sharp increase in prices, resulting in lower aggregate demand. The new world of persistent energy shortages is thus stagflationary as well as regressive. While inflation rises, economic activity declines, because there is inadequate energy to fuel it. Without subsidies, lower-income people could be priced out of the energy market entirely, introducing a dangerous form of inequality. Europe experienced a "rehearsal" for these circumstances in 2021 when Russia cut back on its natural gas shipments. Governments stepped in to offset rising energy costs for the most vulnerable households, but energy-intensive industries became unprofitable and were forced to stop or slow production.

This was an "efficient" way of rationing energy, but it still led to slower growth. As shortages have worsened in 2022, the same circumstances have appeared worldwide, and most governments have yet to devise a co-ordinated response. The challenge is not only to produce more energy in the short term but also to introduce energy infrastructure that will help in the fight against climate change. Locking in fossil fuels would merely bake more global warming into the cake. There are two ways to avoid this outcome. The first strategy is to create regulatory certainty that carbon will be taxed in the future. This is already happening to some degree, with many oil producers thinking twice before making new investments in oil fields that have decades-long operational lifespans.

But there is still significant uncertainty about how new policies will lead to a decline in fossil-fuel consumption in the coming decades. Moreover, a large swath of producers – especially state-owned oil giants that are less reliant on private funding – will have incentives to expand production capacity in response to today's shortages. With inflation already at its highest level in 40 years, there

will be little political appetite for measures that increase energy prices further. One possibility, then, is to legislate carbon pricing far into the future, so that it takes effect only after today's inflationary pressures have eased. Given that many fossil-fuel producers adhere to long budget timelines, even carbon pricing with a decade-long countdown would be sufficient to discourage long-term investments in capacity.

The second strategy is to ensure that more green investments are made today. This could take the form of fiscal spending on research and development and market-making (advance purchase orders) for potential breakthrough technologies, especially those that currently are too risky or underdeveloped for the private sector. Moreover, governments can subsidise the adoption of renewables, electric vehicles (EVs), heat pumps, and retrofitting of buildings through tax credits and public-procurement policies. While government spending could add to inflationary pressures (depending on how it's carried out and offset), it also would reduce prices and costs for the businesses and households that take advantage of the new subsidies and incentives. Compared to carbon pricing or supply constraints, this approach therefore seems more promising in today's stagflationary environment.

Whatever governments do about today's energy shortages, their decisions will have major implications for global growth, inflation, and asset prices. Massive quantities of iron, copper, nickel, and other commodities will be needed to build the renewables power grid and to scale up production of EVs. But securing an adequate supply of these metals will take years. The irony is that to address climate change, policymakers will need to adopt the decades-long time horizons of the oil producers they hope to push aside.

The writer is Co-CEO for Sustainability at Bridgewater Associates. Courtesy GulfTimes

Israel: normalising terror, one dawn at a time

Belén Fernández

Israel's latest military assault on the Gaza Strip – codenamed Operation Breaking Dawn – spanned three days in early August and killed at least 44 Palestinians, including 16 children. According to the Israeli government, the attack was a "preemptive" operation against the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group – which is as creative an excuse as any for spontaneously bombing people for no apparent reason. A total of zero Israelis were killed over the course of Israel's sanguinary dawn-breaking in Gaza, an acute discrepancy in casualties that is par for the course in the Zionist state's dealings with the besieged Palestinian coastal enclave. While lethal and non-lethal forms of Israeli military torment have continued to be fixtures of daily existence in Gaza even after Israel's so-called "withdrawal" from the territory in 2005, Breaking Dawn was the bloodiest episode since the 11-day Israeli attack in May 2021 – nobly dubbed Operation Guardian of the Walls – which killed more than 260 Palestinians, including 67 children.

Of course, if your state's policy happens to be terror, then seemingly senseless systematic slaughter is one way to implement it. The online version of the Cambridge Dictionary defines terrorism as "(threats of) violent action for political purposes". And indeed, this has pretty much been the name of Israel's game since it violently founded itself on Palestinian land in 1948 – an action that entailed massacring more than 10,000 Palestinians, expelling three-quarters of a million more, and destroying some 500 Palestinian villages.

Thanks to a US-backed Israeli monopoly on the regional discourse and an all-out assault on logic, however, Israel's Palestinian victims are instead the ones vilified as "terrorists". In response to this month's bloodbath in Gaza, US President Joe Biden reaffirmed his "support for Israel's security... including its right to defend itself against attack" – which is neither a surprising pronouncement from the man who recently enthusiastically self-defined as a "Zionist" nor a departure

from the tired rhetoric of the US establishment, which holds that Israel is permanently and indubitably acting in self-defence.

Never mind that the whole "self-defence" line doesn't really fly when you're "defending" yourself against the people whose land you brutally appropriated and whom you continue to periodically slay in large numbers. It's like saying Mount Vesuvius was defending itself against the people of Pompeii – or that the fish in the proverbial barrel were threatening the security of the person shooting them. The Western corporate media have also done their fair share to ensure the propagation of a pro-Israel narrative in lieu of fact – and rarely is there an Israeli military massacre of Palestinian civilians that is not cast as fundamentally the Palestinians' fault or the result of "clashes" between the two sides. Sure enough, both CNN and Reuters went with "clashes" in their write ups of the truce that went into effect on the night of August 7 – as though this were a remotely suitable descriptor for a situation in which 44 people had died on one side and none had died on the other.

Was five-year-old Alaa Qaddoum "clashing" when she was obliterated by Israeli airstrikes? Were the other 15 dead children also "clashing"? The Washington Post saw Operation Breaking Dawn as an example of "intense cross-border violence" – a similar line was taken by the Associated Press – while the New York Times' coverage included nefariously ambiguous reports like: "Israel and militants trade fire as death toll reaches 24". And yet the most obvious takeaway from Israel's manoeuvres in the Gaza Strip is the one that cannot be said: that Israel is engaging in straight-up terrorism – at least according to, you know, the Cambridge Dictionary definition.

In the end, terrorism is terrorism, whether it occurs under the name Operation Summer Rains or Whipping Wind or Scampering Goat. And as Israel continues to routinise "systematic slaughter" and normalise terror, it should also be normal to call the country out.

The writer is editor at Jacobin Magazine. Courtesy Al Jazeera

China conducts fresh drills around Taiwan as US lawmakers visit

Beijing calls drills a 'deterrent' against Washington and Taipei

BELJING: China said Monday it had organized fresh military drills around Taiwan, as a delegation of visiting United States lawmakers met the island's leader after a similar trip by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi heightened fears of conflict.



The unannounced two-day trip came after Beijing sent warships, missiles and jets into the waters and skies around Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that China's leaders claim and have vowed to one day seize. The five-member congressional delegation — led by Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts — met with President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday, according to Washington's de facto embassy.

"The delegation had an opportunity to exchange views with Taiwan counterparts on a wide range of issues of importance to both the United States and Taiwan," it said. The bipartisan trip sparked a caustic response from Beijing, which said it had carried out "combat readiness patrol and combat drills in the sea and airspace around Taiwan island" on Monday.

"This is a solemn deterrent against the US and Taiwan for continuing to

play political tricks and undermining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," Shi Yi, spokesman for the Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command, said in a statement, promising to "resolutely defend national sovereignty." Taiwan's government has accused Beijing of using Pelosi's visit as an excuse to kickstart drills that would allow it to rehearse for an invasion.

China's Communist Party has never ruled Taiwan but says it will use force if necessary to take the island and bris-

les at any perceived treatment of it as a sovereign nation state. In response to the delegation's visit, Beijing called on Washington to "stop going further down the wrong path of hollowing out and distorting the one-China principle, so as not to cause further damage to China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait."

"China will take firm and forceful measures to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity," foreign ministry spokesman Wang

Wenbin told a regular briefing.

That decades-old threat was reiterated in a white paper published last week when China's Taiwan Affairs Office said it would "not renounce the use of force" against its neighbor and reserved "the option of taking all necessary measures." It added, however: "We will only be forced to take drastic measures to respond to the provocation of separatist elements or external forces should they ever cross our red lines."

Taipei has remained defiant throughout the standoff with Beijing, with foreign minister Joseph Wu saying after a meeting with the delegation that their visit showed the island had not been cowed by China's threats.

"Authoritarian China can't dictate how democratic Taiwan makes friends, wins support, stays resilient and shines like a beacon of freedom," Wu said in a tweet. "Their visit once again demonstrates that China cannot dictate nor instruct other countries' politicians not to visit Taiwan," Lo Chih-cheng, a lawmaker with the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), said.

KC-EU

Protest held in Brussels against Indian brutalities in IIOJK

Sohail Anjum Malik

BRUSSELS: Kashmiri Council Europe (KC-EU) organized a protest demonstration to mark the "Black Day" on Monday in front of Indian Embassy in Brussels, the capital city of Belgium.

It is important to mention that Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observe the Indian Independence Day as "Black Day" on Aug 15 every year. It is three years ago, when Indian Modi regime revoked special status of Jammu and Kashmir and Indian Illegal occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) is witness of severe violations of human rights since August 2019.

The protest gathering in Brussels was arranged by Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU). Representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Kashmir Peace Forum, PPP and



PTI were also present on the occasion. A large number of people from all walks of life including Kashmiris, Pakistanis and representatives of different organizations based in Belgium and other EU countries attended the demonstration. Participants of the protest gathering raised slogan against Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and brutalities committed by the occupation forces in IIOJK. They protested against anti-Kashmiris behavior of Indian authorities.

They called upon the Indian regime to immediately end military lockdown and release the Kashmiri political figures and activists with out any delay. It also asked the Prime Minister of India to fulfil the promise of his great predecessor Jawaharlal NEHRU to give a voice to the people of Jammu & Kashmir and to allow them to determine their own political future.

On the occasion, chairman Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) Mr Ali Raza Syed said, we gathered here against

Indian atrocities on Kashmiris. Ali Raza Syed determined that the peaceful struggle for liberation of Kashmir would be continued.

Other speakers said, though rights under Indian rule was not real destination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir but the BJP-led Indian government attempted to repeal special status and to erase identity of people of Jammu and Kashmir by revoking Articles 370 and 35-A.

They called for immediate international attention on the existing situation in Indian illegal occupied Kashmir. They specially urged that UN Security Council to take its responsibility on the issue of Kashmir by taking serious action against Indian atrocities in occupied land. They called that right to self determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir should be assured as soonest.

Israeli police kill Palestinian in east Jerusalem raid

JERUSALEM: Israeli police shot and killed a Palestinian man on Monday, claiming he had attempted to stab officers during a raid in east Jerusalem.

The officers were conducting a search for illegal weapons in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Kafri Aqab, police said. When officers approached the home, the man, armed with a knife, tried to stab them, police alleged. They fired on the suspect and he was later pronounced dead, police said.

Ibrahim al-Shaham, the man's father, told journalists that troops pounded on the door of their house at 3:30 a.m. and then used explosives to blow up the door to the home. Al-Shaham said police fired three bullets, one hitting his son, Mohammed, 21, in the head. Al-Shaham said his son was left bleeding on the floor of the house as police searched the apartment.

He denied that his son attempted to stab the officers, and said that the police found no weapons in the home.

Human rights groups have accused Israeli security forces of frequently using excessive force against Palestinians, without being investigated or held accountable.

Black Day

Shutdown gives deserted look to IIOJK on India's Independence Day

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmir valley wore a deserted look on India's 76th Independence Day, on Monday.

The day was marked by a complete shutdown in IIOJK call for which had been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by almost all Hurriyat leaders and organizations.

The entire IIOJK, particularly Srinagar gave a look of a military garrison and a big concentration camp as the occupation authorities deployed troops and police personnel in every nook and corner of the territory to prevent people from staging



anti-India demonstrations.

The shops and other business establishments were closed in most parts of the valley while checkpoints and barricades had been erected at the main squares and points from North

to South Kashmir. The occupation authorities ordered all government employees and educational institutions to attend the Indian Independence Day functions and hoist the Indian flags at offices and

schools.

Meanwhile, posters appeared in different areas of the territory, saying that India had invaded Jammu and Kashmir and forcibly occupied it against the will of the Kashmiri people. The posters also read slogans like "Indian Independence Day is a Black Day" and "We want freedom."

On the other hand, The Peoples Democratic Party President, Mehbooba Mufti on Monday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Indian government and its local chapter and said people in occupied Jammu and Kashmir are forced to join the ongoing charade of

patriotism on India's 75th Independence Day.

The PDP Chief took to Twitter and posted a photo of the first Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru stating that everything the Indian flag stood for lies in perils now.

Jawahar Lal Nehru standing tall between two flags, the Indian flag and IIOJK's flag adopted constitutionally in 1952 and bulldozed in 2019 to fulfill BJP's divisive agenda. "Now, every foundational value that the Indian flag stands for too lies in perils now," she wrote referring to BJP's unilateral abrogation of Article 370 on August 05, 2019.

Election

Kenya's deputy president Ruto declared winner

NAIROBI: Kenya's electoral commission chairman has declared Deputy President William Ruto the winner of the close presidential election over five-time contender Raila Odinga, a triumph for the man who shook up politics by appealing to struggling Kenyans on economic terms and not on traditional ethnic ones.

But chaos emerged just before the declaration when the electoral commission's vice chair and three other commissioners told journalists they could not support the "opaque nature" of the final phase. "We cannot take ownership of the result that is going to be announced," vice chair Juliana Cherera said. At the declaration venue, police surged to impose calm amid shouting.

The sudden split in the commission came minutes after Odinga's chief agent said they could not verify the results and made allegations of "electoral offenses" without giving details or evidence. Odinga didn't come to the venue for the declaration.

Now Kenyans wait to see whether Odinga will again go to court to contest the results of Tuesday's peaceful election in a country crucial to regional stability. This is likely the final try for the 77-year-old longtime opposition figure backed this time by former rival and outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta, who fell out with his deputy, Ruto, years ago.

For Corruption

Myanmar junta court jails Suu Kyi for six years

YANGON: A Myanmar junta court jailed ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi for six years for corruption on Monday, according to a source close to the case.

Suu Kyi, 77, has been detained since the generals staged a coup and toppled her government on February 1 last year, ending the Southeast Asian country's brief period of democracy.

She has since been hit with a series of charges, including violating the official secrets act, corruption and electoral fraud, and she faces decades in jail if convicted on all counts.

Suu Kyi was sentenced to "six years imprisonment under four anti-corruption charges," said the source, who requested anonymity because they are not authorised to speak to the media. She appeared in good health and did not make any statement following her latest sentencing, the source added.

The Nobel laureate has already been sentenced to 11 years in jail for corruption, incitement against the military, breaching Covid-19 rules and breaking a telecommunications law.

Ignoring Ukraine setbacks, Putin boasts of Russian weapons prowess

LONDON: President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that Moscow was ready to sell advanced weapons to allies globally and cooperate in developing military technology, nearly six months into the Ukraine war in which his army has performed worse than expected.

With the Russian leader's forces beaten back from Ukraine's two biggest cities and making slow headway, at heavy cost, in the east of the country, the war has so far not proved to be a convincing showcase for Russia's arms industry.

But the Kremlin leader, addressing an arms show outside Moscow, insisted Russian weaponry was years ahead of the competition.

Russia cherished its strong ties with Latin America, Asia and Africa, "and is ready to offer partners and allies the most modern types of weapons—from small arms to armoured vehicles and artillery, combat aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles", he said. "Almost all of them have been used more than once in real combat operations."

He said Russia could offer new models and systems—"we are talking about high-precision weapons and robotics, about combat systems based on new physical principles.

"Many of them are years, or maybe decades ahead of their foreign counterparts, and in terms of tactical and technical characteristics they are significantly superior to them." Western military analysts have suggested that what they cast as the poor performance of Russian troops and weaponry in Ukraine could make Moscow's arms exports less attractive to potential buyers, such as India, which have heavily relied on its technology in the past.

Russian shells slam into eastern Ukraine; 3 dead, 20 hurt

KYIV: At least three Ukrainian civilians have been killed and 20 others wounded in the latest artillery barrages from the Russian military, Ukrainian officials said Monday.

The eastern region of Donetsk, one of the two provinces making up the country's industrial heartland of Donbas that has been the focus of a Russian offensive, has faced the most intense shelling.

Regional officials said at least three people died and another 13 were wounded by Russian shelling that hit numerous towns and villages in the Donetsk region during the last 24 hours. The barrage has damaged dozens of residential buildings and civilian infrastructure.

In the country's second-largest city of Kharkiv, seven civilians were wounded in the latest Russian shelling that hit residential buildings and an area near a bus stop early Monday. Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Synyehubov said the wounded included a 80-year-old woman.

The Russian forces also struck several other regions of Ukraine with rockets and artillery, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Monday that Russian warplanes have struck Ukrainian army positions in the southern Kherson region and in the Donetsk region. He added that the Russian air force also hit a facility in the Kharkiv region, killing at least 100 and wounding 50 "mercenaries" from Poland and Germany. His claims couldn't be independently verified.

For Denuclearization

Seoul offers Pyongyang economic benefits

SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Monday offered "audacious" economic assistance to North Korea if it abandons its nuclear weapons program while avoiding harsh criticism of the North days after it threatened "deadly" retaliation over the COVID-19 outbreak it blames on the South.

In a speech celebrating the end of Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula, Yoon also called for better ties with Japan, calling the two countries partners in navigating challenges to freedom and saying their shared values will help them overcome historical grievances linked to Japan's brutal colonial rule before the end of World War II.

Yoon's televised speech on the

liberation holiday came days after North Korea claimed a widely disputed victory over COVID-19 but also blamed Seoul for the outbreak. The North insists leaflets and other objects flown across the border by activists spread the virus, an unscientific claim Seoul describes as "ridiculous."

North Korea has a history of dialing up pressure on the South when it doesn't get what it wants from the United States, and there are concerns that North Korea's threat portends a provocation, which could possibly be a nuclear or major missile test or even border skirmishes. Some experts say the North may stir up tensions around joint military exercises the United States and South Korea start next week.

Yoon, a conservative who took office in May, said North Korea's denuclearization would be key for peace in the region and the world. If North Korea halts its nuclear weapons development and genuinely commits to a process of denuclearization, the South will respond with huge economic rewards that would be provided in phases, Yoon said.

Yoon's proposal wasn't meaningfully different from previous South Korean offers that have already been rejected by North Korea, which has been accelerating its efforts to expand its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program leader Kim Jong Un sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

"We will implement a large-

scale program to provide food, providing assistance for establishing infrastructure for the production, transmission and distribution of electrical power, and carry out projects to modernize ports and airports to facilitate trade," Yoon said.

"We will also help improve North Korea's agricultural production, provide assistance to modernize its hospitals and medical infrastructure, and carry out initiatives to allow for international investment and financial support," he added, insisting that such programs would "significantly" improve North Korean lives.

Inter-Korean ties have deteriorated amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang,



which derailed in early 2019 over disagreements in exchanging a release of crippling US-led sanctions against the North and the North's disarmament steps.

North Korea has ramped up its

testing activity in 2022, launching more than 30 ballistic missiles so far, including its first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017.

Experts say Kim is intent on

exploiting a favorable environment to push forward his weapons program, with the UN Security Council divided and effectively paralyzed over Russia's war on Ukraine.

North Korea's unusually fast pace in weapons demonstrations also underscore brinkmanship aimed at forcing Washington to accept the idea of North Korea as a nuclear power and negotiating badly economic benefits and security concessions from a position of strength, experts say.

The US and South Korean governments have also said the North is gearing up to conduct its first nuclear test since September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a nuclear warhead designed for its ICBMs.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
43,621.82	42,857.57
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,659.04	42,857.57
Index Value	Change
12,586,065,126	+764.25
Percentage	Time
+1.78%	15 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,509.15	+8.26
Percentage	Time
+0.11%	15 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,849.76	+88.71
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	15 Aug, 11:50 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,871.78	+324.80
Percentage	Time
+1.14%	15 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	153.33	154.58
Bahrain Dinar	574.57	579.07
Canadian Dollar	168.53	169.88
China Yuan	31.93	32.18
Danish Krone	29.69	30.04
Euro	212	217
Hong Kong Dollar	27.47	27.82
Indian Rupee	2.7	2.78
Japanese Yen	1.5	1.56
Kuwaiti Dinar	703.03	708.03
Malaysian Ringgit	48.44	48.89
New Zealand \$	138.97	140.17
Norwegians Krone	22.5	22.8
Omani Riyal	559.18	563.68
Qatari Riyal	59.14	59.64
Saudi Riyal	55	55.9
Singapore Dollar	156.98	158.28
Swedish Korona	21.1	21.4
Swiss Franc	228.68	230.43
Thai Bhat	6.65	6.75
U.A.E Dirham	56.5	57.5
UK Pound Sterling	250	256
US Dollar	208	212

FPCCI sees Pak-Turkiye trade potential at \$5b

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh rubbishes claims that private-sector not consulted on recently signed Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods Agreement

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that the true bilateral trade potential of Pakistan and Turkiye is \$5 billion at the moment; and, the signing of Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods Agreement has paved the way for the realization of the potential.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has categorically rubbished the claims doing the rounds in some news articles that private-sector of Pakistan was not consulted on the recently signed and well-anticipated Pakistan and Turkiye, i.e. Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods Agreement. He emphasized that we should be careful in giving press statements pertaining to the very crucial, historical, brotherly and economically significant Pakistan-Turkiye relations.

FPCCI Chief has also expressed his satisfaction over the fact that Pakistan-Turkiye Trade in Goods Agreement, has been signed



between the two governments; in the presence of the commerce ministers of the two counties in a high-profile ceremony. Being

the apex body, FPCCI represented the entire business community of the country on the auspicious occasion.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has apprised that in FY22, the bilateral trade volume between the two brotherly countries has crossed the psychological barrier of \$1 billion after a long hiatus of ten long years and has climbed up to \$1.1 billion per year. Therefore, he is optimistic, the bilateral trade volume is expected to get a major boost in the years to come and has the potential to touch the \$5 billion mark in a matter of a few years. He further added that Pakistani exporters should target value-added textiles; sports goods; surgical equipment; rice, fruits & vegetables and construction materials.

Amjad Rafi, Chairman of FPCCI's Pakistan-Turkiye Joint Business Council (PTJBC), has explained that a very rigorous and regular consultative process was going on in the federal ministry of commerce for a period of one and a half years; and, stakeholders from the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan was duly and thoroughly consulted.

Political struggle disturbing economic recovery

Atif Ikram Sheikh says public will not benefit from appreciation of rupee

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday said political tensions across the country will hamper the economic recovery.

The troubling political struggle may lead to another economic decline which will be unfortunate, he said.

The destiny of the country can be changed if the politicians give up petty interests and concentrate on a one-point agenda to restore the economy, he added.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the economy is going through



tough times and the politicians have no option but to show a responsible attitude.

In a statement issued here today, the business leader said that if the political tensions continue, loans worth billions

of dollars cannot revive the economy.

Political strains will also deprive the public of the appreciation in the value of the rupee, while a responsible attitude will change the situation for good as no one can stop nuclear power from becoming an economic power.

The UBG leader said that Saudi Arabia has renewed the three billion dollars kept in Pakistan, which will give relief to the government.

He said that because of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, oil prices had

increased to one hundred and twenty dollars per barrel, which increased the financial difficulties of all oil-importing countries including Pakistan, but now the oil prices have fallen below one hundred dollars.

Due to which the fall in oil prices, prices of gas and other commodities are also decreasing but the masses are not getting its benefit.

The decline in oil prices is because of Russia's production not being affected despite the sanctions, the use of stored oil by Western countries and the threat of a global recession.

Empowering Women

QNET launches FinGreen Financial Literacy Programme

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: QNET, global e-commerce-based direct selling company is proud to kick off FinGreen, its signature financial literacy programme aiming to develop healthy financial habits through education and training in the most vulnerable communities, especially among young adults to empower women and youth in emerging economies. QNET is rolling out the pilot for FinGreen in two countries, Turkey and Nigeria, initially, with plans for expansion into Middle East market in its next phase.

Developing financial knowledge, skills, and habits are important steppingstones in young people's path to independence and inclusion. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), financial literacy is essential for economic stability and growth, especially among youth in developing economies.

Conceived in 2021, FinGreen aligns with the United Nations SDGs [2] and the Addis Ababa Agenda [3] to provide adequate skills and proper developmental training for all, particularly for youth,

women, and those aspiring to be entrepreneurs. The programme will play a pivotal role in supporting marginalised communities in emerging economies to reduce poverty through capacity building and equipping participants with basic financial knowledge for better decision-making in their daily life.

Financial literacy is one of the main drivers of the developmental goals in modern society. Under the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), financial literacy and education are interlinked with multiple objectives, such as Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG10). It also plays a vital role in supporting overall economic growth and encouraging governments, corporations, and communities to achieve broader development goals, such as establishing solid social security and providing equal opportunity for all, regardless of demographic.

FinGreen held its first online training session in Turkey in May in which 45 women from different walks of life – especially those from economically challenged backgrounds – joined in to learn about budget management, basic investment

skills, and how to manage personal finance responsibly.

The FinGreen programme in Turkey will continue to focus on educating women and young adults on essential financial knowledge through online training workshops and short-form videos.

In Nigeria, FinGreen will kickstart in partnership with Financial Literacy For All (FLFA), a nonprofit organisation providing on-the-ground financial training workshops for students and young adults in underserved communities. This initiative will impart critical financial management skills and promote responsible behaviour in Nigerian youth communities – abilities essential to leading stable, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Additionally, FinGreen addresses common financial barriers faced by young entrepreneurs and women looking to participate in the global e-commerce boom. FinGreen aims to educate these communities about financial risk awareness in an increasingly knowledge-based and digital world. This is especially pertinent now as global online transactions increased by 10% last year as the pandemic accelerated demand for digital purchases.



RAWALPINDI: RCCI President Nadeem Rauf hoisted flag along with Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Asim Mahmood Malik, Former Presidents, Executive Committee Members and Saif Anwar Japha, Additional Commissioner graced the event as Chief Guest at Chamber House and also planted tree to mark the Independence Celebrations.



ISLAMABAD: Karandaa Pakistan team celebrating the spirit of Independence Day.

Poor agriculture resulting in economic depression

Wheat production didn't increase in eight years: 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 the poor state of the country's most important sector is resulting in the economic downturn.

Despite the world's best canal system and fertile land, agricultural imports are increasing at an alarming rate which is a drain on the exchequer, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that during the last financial year, food items worth ten billion dollars, tea worth one billion dollars, cotton worth two billion dollars and palm oil worth four billion dollars were imported, which is worth Rs9400 billion.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan would not only become fully self-sufficient in agriculture but would also become a notable exporter of agricultural products if investments are made along with favourable policies.

The summary of all previous agricultural policies of Pakistan is that one sector was given attention and the other was neglected, paving the way for its decline.

The business leader said that almost one-third of the country's population is related to agriculture, its share in GDP is more than 22% and 70% of exports are also linked to this sector, but it was never the focus of policymakers.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the condition of the agricultural sector improved some-



what in the sixties, after which it began to decline and the agricultural sector has not been able to perform satisfactorily for the past years due to mafia, non-promotion of corporate farming, lack of planning and research, and lack of capital.

Lack of water, steep rise in the prices of inputs and deterioration of land conditions have also contributed to the problem.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that thirty-four years ago, an expert

prepared a report for solving the problems of agriculture and ensuring its development, which till now no one bothered to take seriously and follow the recommendations contained in it.

During this time, some attention was given to new types of seeds, which increased the production of many crops, but this was nothing compared to other countries in the region.

Currently, the level of underground water in Punjab is decreasing by one to three feet per year, which is a big threat to the future of the country, but nothing is being done in this regard.

In the last eight years, the population of the country has increased tremendously, but the production of wheat has not increased, while the production of cotton is continuously falling.

Pakistan's food security challenge needs a systematic approach

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The International Symposium on "Climate Smart Sustainable Rice and Wheat Production System" was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Punjab in cooperation with COMSTECH, UPSIGN, SAWIE, SACAN & Dawood Agro.

The keynote talks of eminent scientists emphasized design policies, indigenous farming solutions, and better management of the most important resources of soil and water to address the climate change crisis.

Chairman PHEC, Prof Shahid Munir inaugurated the symposium saying that food security is strategically important for Pakistan to feed its growing population, and the research and industry linkages could play a vital role in developing new technologies and promoting farmers to enhance their yield under the changing climatic conditions.

Prof. Munir said that the per capita annual water availability in Pakistan has dropped to 1,017 cubic meters from 5300 in 1947 and may lead to absolute water scarcity by 2025. He said this will result in severe water shortages for the next generation of farmers. Future water requirements and challenges impose a serious threat to Pakistan due to its agrarian economy where wheat and rice are primary food crops, he informed. There is an urgent need to develop innovative solutions for efficient and sustainable use of water, improving nutrient use efficiency, reducing the crop losses from pests & diseases both pre & post harvesting, and thus requires utmost

priority in our national planning, he suggested. We have seen unprecedented weather events happening this year, post-Covid-19, the extreme heat early in March, and the early monsoon affected our food production, he noted. Prof. Munir mentioned that Pakistan will be importing 4 million tons of wheat this year to meet its food demand, which is quite an alarming situation for our nation. Program Manager COMSTECH, Ms. Khazima gave an overview of COMSTECH's support for promoting science and innovation in the Muslim world to tackle the food security challenge. Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof. Saleem Haider, welcomed the delegates who joined in-person and online audiences from Canada, the UK, the USA, India, Pakistan, and other countries. Co-founder UPSIGN, Dr. Khalid Mahmood said that we are delighted to work with Punjab University and the industry to discuss the important subject of the Rice and Wheat system to address food security under the climate change crisis. He said we need to better build collaboration, cooperation, and communication among all the stakeholders. Dr. Mahmood Farooq from Sultan Qaboos University said that Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries severely affected by climate change causing unprecedented droughts, floods, the influx of pests, diseases and locust attacks in 2020, and the severe heatwave in 2022 affecting wheat crop. The heavy rains and hailstorms have adversely impacted the wheat crop with reducing yields by 25% to 30% in 2020.

ACCA welcomes ISSB standards

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: ACCA says that the draft standards from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) are urgently needed to provide a consistent global base line for companies reporting on sustainability-related financial information.

While welcoming the two exposure drafts (EDs) ACCA notes that it is imperative that reporting drives the necessary systematic change in sustainability reporting and that operational changes take place in companies and that investors use the information provided to allocate capital more efficiently and responsibly.

Commenting on the ISSB's exposure draft (ED) IFRS S1, General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information ACCA is calling for a clear definition of the meaning of sustainability-related financial information. The global accountancy body is also calling for standard setters to give greater guidance on how entities will determine materiality when reporting on sustainability issues.

While agreeing with the requirements, ACCA also warns that proposed disclosures about risks and opportunities emerging from companies' supply chains, including Scope 3 emissions, will present new disclosure challenges for many companies as will working out how to provide forward looking information.

Sharon Machado, head of Sustainable Business, ACCA says: "The ED does not define what is 'sustainability-related'. As a result, the breadth and scope of the risks and opportunities that need to be considered and disclosed is left to the judgement of the preparing companies, to the detriment of consistent application, comparability, as well as cost and effort in reporting."

"We would urge the ISSB to provide a clearer indication, both in the standard and through illustrative examples, as to what sustainability might cover. ACCA suggests the ISSB could look to the six integrated reporting capitals to serve as useful framing for a broad and holistic understanding of 'sustainability'."

ACCA is also calling on the ISSB to resist making disclosure requirement too voluminous. For reporting to serve the needs of users and bring about more effective and sustainable allocation of capital, it is imperative that information is presented in a clear and concise way.

Babar Azam looks forward to first bilateral series against Netherlands

Three-match series is part of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League

Spokesman Report

ROTTERDAM: Babar Azam-led Pakistan ODI squad is all set to feature in the first-ever bilateral series against Netherlands commencing from today in Rotterdam.

Fourth-ranked Pakistan will face the host side again on 18 and 21 August. The three-match series is part of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League where the visiting side occupies fifth spot with 90 points. Babar's side will be aiming to win all three matches to grab second position in the points table.

A couple of milestones are on the cards for Pakistan's premier players. Number one ranked ODI player Babar Azam needs one more century to become the only Pakistan captain to score 10 tons in international cricket. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan requires 18 more runs to complete 1,000 ODI runs.

Imam-ul-Haq, who trails his skipper Babar on second spot in the ICC batting rankings, will be looking to continue his rich vein of form after amassing seven fifty-plus scores on the trot in ODIs.



He was declared player of the series for scores of 65, 72 and 62 in Pakistan's 3-0 win against the West Indies at home in the three-match ODI series in June 2022.

Pakistan will be without the services of world number three ODI bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, who is not available for the first two games due to knee injury.

The touring side had their first training session in Schiedam cricket ground, but due to rain they were compelled to

conduct the second training session in indoors facilities in Rotterdam.

Reflecting on team's preparation ahead of the series, Babar Azam said: "It's great to be here in Netherlands for the first time. The weather and the hospitality is very good here and we are being looked after really well."

"I do follow Netherlands cricket and I am impressed with their passion for the game. I am very hopeful that the series starting tomorrow will go a long way to

promote the game in this region. "We will not become complacent here and the players are ready to express themselves at the ground. In the absence of Shaheen Shah Afridi, this is an opportunity for youngsters to come forward and showcase their skills."

"We are looking forward to a good contest between bat and ball and I am hopeful the fans will turn up in numbers to witness the series."

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), Shah Nawaz Dahani (Sindh) and Zahid Mehmood (Sindh).

RGC-AAA Azadi Golf Tournament 2022 concludes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Golf Club, with sponsorship of AAA associates, organized RGC-AAA Azadi Golf Tournament 2022 to promote golf sports in twin cities to mark the 75th Independence Celebration of Pakistan.

The tournament took place from August 12th to 14th, 2022. The participants played in amateurs, senior amateurs, senior officers, veterans, ladies and junior categories for the winning prizes. The event was attended by a large number of civil & military dignitaries and golfers from across the country, particularly from the twin cities.

President RGC and X Corps Commander Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza presided over the event. Managing Director AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) also attended the event. Following a tough competition, the golfers with the highest scores were awarded prizes. Mrs. Tahira Naem was the Gross winner in the Female category, while Mrs. Atia Anjum was the Net winner. Brig.

Muhammad Aslam took top place in the Veterans Gross category, while Brig Mumtaz Ahmed Javed took first place in the Veterans Net category. Mumtaz Hussain won the Gross and Amjad Ali Khan won the Net in the Senior officers' category.



category.

RGC management appreciated AAA Associates for their continued support in arranging golf events at Rawalpindi Golf Club and distributed prizes among the winners along with Managing Director AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r).

Managing Director AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) also thanked all the partakers of the tournament and vowed to continue organizing more sports' activities for general populace. Addressing the event, Managing Director AAA Associates Lt. Col.

Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) said, "AAA Associates will constantly assist local organisations and communities in arranging sporting events. We will continue to fund sports-related activities that entail broad local community participation."

AAA Associates is committed to developing grassroots sporting activities in order to maximise everyone's potential. AAA Associates is noted for supporting several athletes and sportsmen, as well as promoting grassroots level sports activities for a healthier society, in addition to powering and funding high level sporting events.

Sindh U19 Whites' Saqlain takes six-for on opening day

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Sindh U19 Whites' Saqlain Nawaz took six wickets to bowl out Central Punjab U19 Whites for 140 on day one of the fourth round match of the National U19 Championship at the HPC Ground on Monday.

In a Pool B fixture, after being put into bat, Central Punjab U19 Whites were bowled out for 140 in the 44th over. Muneeb Wasif coming to bat at number eight top-scored with 29.

For Sindh U19 Whites, right-arm fast Saqlain bagged six wickets for 43 from 14 overs. He was supported by Haseeb-ur-Rehman who

took three wickets for 36. The off-spinner Haseeb ended up taking 16 wickets in the previous match and helped his side to a 10-wicket win over Balochistan U19 Whites.

In reply, Sindh U19 Whites were 94 for seven in 31 overs, when stumps were drawn. The right-arm fast Muneeb was the pick of the bowlers for Central Punjab U19 Whites, taking three wickets for 29.

Pool A fixture: At the Rashid Latif Cricket Academy, 13 wickets fell on the opening day as Balochistan U19 Blues after being put into bat by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Blues were dismissed for 95 in the 43rd over. Opening batter Basit Ali top-scored with 42

off 88 balls, hitting two fours and one six.

Left-arm spinner Mohammad Zubair bagged four wickets for 36, while Mohammad Shoaib grabbed two wickets.

At stumps, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U19 Blues were 58 for three in 10 overs. Mohammad Farooq returned undefeated on 43, facing 40 balls which included seven fours and one six. All three wickets went to right-arm fast Adnan Iqbal for 19 runs.

At the NBP Sports Complex, after being asked to bat, Northern U19 Blues were 54 for three in 18.2 overs when rain interrupted the play. Faraz Khan batting at number three scored 21 off

28 balls, hitting three fours.

Pool B fixture: At the KCCA Ground, only 11 overs of play could take place between Balochistan U19 Whites and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U19 Whites. Before rain interruption, batting first, Balochistan U19 Whites have scored 18 for the loss of three wickets. All three wickets went to right-arm off-spinner Mohammad Tahir who bowled two overs without giving a single run.

Due to rain, the first day's play between Sindh U19 Blues and Central Punjab U19 Blues and Pool B fixture between Northern U19 Whites and Southern Punjab U19 Whites was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

SBP Independence Day sports events in full swing

LAHORE: Sports board Punjab's Independence Day sports events of chess, athletics, swimming, squash, traditional dargal and badminton were organised at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex, here on Monday.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi were the guests of honour at these sports events.

Director Admin Syed Omair Hasan, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Deputy Directors Tariq Wattoo, Chand Parveen, Assistant

Director Zahoor Ahmed, Administrator NPSC Gymnasium Hall Mustafa Shah, DSO Tanveer Shah and Rana Zaheer were also present on this occasion.

Punjab Sports Minister opened the chess event by playing an exhibition match with 17-time national champion Mahmood Lodhi.

Speaking at the occasion, he said said Sports Board Punjab is organising 11 sports events including chess, athletics, Sher-e-Punjab Dargal, swimming and hockey on Independence Day. He said hundreds of players from all over Pakistan are participat-

ing in chess event.

Meanwhile, Sports Board Punjab also organised Sher-e-Punjab Dargal at the Velodrome Nishtar Park Sports Complex as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Country's top 50 wrestlers participated in the Sher-e-Punjab Dargal.

Punjab Sports Minister Malik Taimoor Masood and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi were the guests of honour on this occasion.

On this occasion, the Provincial Sports Minister said that the Sports Department will soon

organise Rustam-e-Punjab, Rustam-e-Pakistan and Rustam-e-Hind dangals.

The swimming competition were held at Punjab International Swimming Complex. Punjab Sports Minister Malik Taimoor Masood and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi also watched the competitions.

In girls swimming competition, Aswa Siddiqui, Sareen Khan, Aleena Zahra, Dalaya, Ayesha Waqas, Abeera and Shazia Shahid won gold medals in their respective categories of Under-6, U-8 and U-12.

Halep beats Haddad Maia for third Canadian Open title

MONTREAL: Simona Halep ended Beatriz Haddad Maia's dream run in Toronto with a hard-fought 6-3 2-6 6-3 victory to claim her third Canadian Open title on Sunday.

Halep's serving woes from her semifinal win carried over at the outset of the final as she produced four double faults and was broken in the opening game before quickly falling 3-0 behind.

But the Romanian responded by changing her tactics, drawing the Brazilian into longer rallies to reel off six straight games and she sealed the opening set when she blasted a forehand winner, pumping her fist as the supportive crowd roared their approval.

Haddad Maia dominated the second set but got tight in the decider, badly missing a forehand wide to hand Halep a 4-1 lead she would not relinquish.

The two-time Grand Slam champion sealed her ninth WTA 1000 title when Haddad Maia's service return found the net on match point under sunny skies in the Canadian city. "At the start it was really tough," Halep told reporters.

"She's lefty, so it's coming different, the spin. She's very powerful. She's solid. And it's never easy to play against her." With the win, the former world number one will re-enter the top 10 next week at number six. "I've been many years there but now I feel like it's a big deal to be back in top 10. I'm really happy with this performance," she said.

"When I started the year I was not very confident and I set the goal to be, at the end of the year, top 10. And here I am. So it's very special moment. I will enjoy it. I will give myself credit. I'm just dreaming for more."

The loss ended an impressive run at the tournament for Haddad Maia, who topped local favourite Leylah Fernandez, world number one Iga Swiatek and Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic en route to the final. "I think I'm getting more competitive every week and we are working the right way," Haddad Maia said.

"The results are here because we are focused on the process." Haddad Maia will debut in the top 20 for the first time next week and her success caught the attention of Brazilian soccer hero Pele.

Int'l Triathlon Games

Pak triathlon team clinches 5 medals

LAHORE: Pakistan triathlon team won 5 medals in the International Triathlon Games held in Thailand.

The national team won three silver and two bronze medals in International Triathlon Games organised in Thailand in which teams from Pakistan, Thailand, Nepal, Taiwan and Philippines participated. Pakistan's 9-member team participated in running, shooting and swimming events of the International Triathlon Games.

In under-19 1500m running and 150m swimming events, Labib Ahmed and Attallah while in the U-13 category, M Afnan won silver medals. In the senior category, Arsalan and Mohsin won bronze medals.

Pakistan team was comprised Arsalan Waraich, Waqar Ahmed, Mirza Ahmed Ahsan, M Afnan, Muneebur Rahman, Labib Ahmed, Mohsin Razzaq and M Attallah. Tariq Ahmad Rashid was the head coach and manager of the national team.

President Pakistan Modern Pentathlon Federation (PMPF) Riyaz Fatiana and Secretary Zahoor Ahmed here on Monday congratulated the Pakistan triathlon team on winning five medals in the International Triathlon Games. The PMPF President said that the national team performed well in the running, shooting and swimming events of the International Triathlon Games.

Fashan Azadi Peshawar Open Taekwondo Championship ends

PESHAWAR: In connection with the 75th anniversary of Independence Day, the second Peshawar Open Taekwondo Championship concluded at Hayatabad sports Complex, Peshawar.

Teams from Swat Blue, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mardan, Swabi, Buner and Dir participated. Asif Habib was the chief jury official, who also remained as coach of Pakistan Army team while the referees included Waqar Afridi, Bashir Habibi, Javed Yasin Shah and Mohammad Sulaiman Afridi. Overall, Peshawar Green won the first position by taking four gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

Swat Blue got three gold, two silver and one browns medal and took second position, Swat Green got two gold and two browns medals, remained third, Khyber Green and Khyber Blue got 27 points each with fourth position.

Charsadda got 17 points in fifth, Peshawar Blue is sixth with 15 points, Peshawar White is seventh with 14 points, Nowshera is eighth with 12 points. Swabi got 9th position with 5 points.

Deputy Speaker KP Assembly Mahmood Jan, President of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing Taekwondo Association Ms. Saba Shamim Jadoon and Malik Sher Qadir Khan Wazir distributed prizes to the successful players.

Murray returns to Britain's Davis Cup squad

GLASGOW: Three-times Grand Slam champion Andy Murray has been included in Britain's team for the group stage of the Davis Cup Finals in mid-September, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) said on Monday.

The British team will be made up of Murray, world number 11 Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans and Joe Salisbury, with a fifth player to be added to the squad later.

Britain will face the United States, Kazakhstan and the Netherlands in Group D of the tournament, with matches scheduled to take place at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow from Sept. 13-18. Murray, who led Britain to their first Davis Cup title for 79 years in 2015, last played in the competition in 2019 when he beat Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor.

The 35-year-old has lost his opening matches at the Canadian Masters and Citi Open in recent weeks and bowed out in the second round of Wimbledon last month, but finished runner-up at the ATP 250 event in Stuttgart in June.

Klopp backs Diaz to become regular goalscorer

LONDON: Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp has backed Luis Diaz to become a consistent threat in front of goal for the Premier League club, saying the team's set-up will help the Colombian emulate Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane's goalscoring exploits.

Diaz has quickly settled in since joining Liverpool from Porto in January, but has not yet been able to match his goalscoring output in Portugal.

The 25-year-old came close to netting in Liverpool's 2-2 draw against Fulham, flashing a shot across the face of goal, but was denied by the post.

"When asked if Diaz is a player who can score 10-15 goals in a season, Klopp told reporters; "Definitely, that is his quality. We need to see it but of course that is his potential."

"You see the situations he (Diaz) had (at Fulham), big chances, and he was unlucky," added Klopp, speaking ahead of Monday's home fixture against Crystal Palace. "He had these blocked moments already a couple of times but he's in a really good shape actually, he looks really good — and that's more important for me, that he's in these situations."

Cricket Australia target sport's inclusion at 2032 Olympics

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia have targeted the inclusion of the sport at the 2032 Brisbane Olympics as part of a strategic plan to expand participation and maintain the game's position at the heart of the country's sporting culture.

The ambitious "Where the Game Grows" plan released on Monday aims to double the number of children aged five to 12 playing the game to 210,000 over the next five years, with girls making up 60,000 of that tally.

Another of the targets is to get cricket back into the Olympics for the first time since 1900—if that goal has not already been achieved at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

Cricket has been short-listed for possible inclusion at the 2028 Olympics along with eight other sports and the



International Cricket Council (ICC) will make a presentation to organisers later this month. The host city can include any sport but needs the approval of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Women's Twenty20 cricket made its Commonwealth Games debut in Birmingham last month with Australia beating India

by nine runs in the final to claim the inaugural gold medal.

Brisbane has plans to rebuild the city's Gabba cricket ground as a 50,000-seater Olympic Stadium to host the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2032 Games.

The inclusion of cricket in the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics is part of the

"sustainable future" strand of the plan, which also aims to improve fan experience, expand the grassroots and continue Australia's success on the world stage.

Cricket Australia has set a target of at least three ICC tournament triumphs over the next five years for both the men's and women's national teams. "This strategy contains both a vision and a clear plan for how we can achieve bold, transformative change while also meeting our core responsibilities," said CA chief executive Nick Hockley.

"I would like to thank everyone across the game for their passion and commitment as we work to unite and inspire everyone to love and play cricket, and in so doing make cricket a sport for all that makes Australians proud."