اللّٰدعليه وسلم نے فرمایا که اللّٰداس پررحم

ے،اس نے مجھے فلال سورۃ کی فلال فلاں آیتیں یاد دلادیں۔

Barkat Rice Mills

Foreign funding is not an ordinary case: Atta Tarar

SAPM Attaullah Tarar says foreign funding case is not an ordinary case as it proved that Jews and Indian people had funded Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) against Pakistan. Prohibited funding is not an issue as this case is being proceeded in the courts and the PTI will be strictly punished for its violation of Election Commission rules. Our major concern is that why Jews and Indian citizens funded a political party in Pakistan.



Long march always is an option: Asad Umar

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Umar says the long march should be given, and then the matter will be discuss

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Bilateral ties

China commends PM's remarks on **CPEC**

BEIJING: The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his words uttered on multiple occasions on Pak-China bilateral relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC). "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke highly of China-Pakistan relations and CPEC on multiple occasions. He is very committed to the practical cooperation between our two countries. China appreciates that," Spokesperson Wang Wenbin in a response to a question asked by APP during his regular briefing. PM Shehbaz Sharif, in an exclusive interview with the Chinese daily Global Times, touched upon a wide range of topics such as Pak-China relations, regional and world situations, CPEC and the upcoming 20th National Congress of Communist Party of China

Wang Wenbin said CPEC was an economic initiative that was conducive to promoting regional connectivity, peace, stability and development. "China is ready to work with Pakistan to follow through on a common understanding between our two leaders," he added. He said on the basis of ensuring sound and steady construction and operation of the existing projects, the two countries would focus on cooperation of such areas like industries, agriculture, science and technology, and information technology so as to build CPEC into a demonstration project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping, he added, China had achieved remarkable development achievement.

Honour

DUBAI: COAS General Oamar Javed Bajwa is receiving UAE's highest civil award from an official while UAE



Sommitted to UN charter

CPEC laying base for economic progress: PM

Felicitates COAS on conferment of Order of Union by UAE President

China-Pakistan Economic Corri- continued to make rapid and dor (CPEC) was laying foundation for sustained indigenous economic modernization and its growth to connect markets within and across the region was a logical next step. In an exclusive interview with the Global Times he spoke on a broad range of topics including China-Pakistan relations, regional and international situation, CPEC and upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Shehbaz talked about attaching great importance to the joint construction of the Belt and Road

flagship project, and refuted the dation for the development of Julien Harneis, highlighted that ISLAMABAD/BEIJING: Prime CPEC was a threat. Since its tion, he added. Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that launch in 2013, the CPEC has "As a prime minister."

> PM visits family of late Lt. Gen Sarfaraz martyred in chopper crash for condolence

tangible progress. Over the past 10 years, the construction of the CPEC has helped Pakistan es and principles of the Charreduce the bottlenecks caused by past power shortages and weak infrastructure, laying the foun-

some countries' statement the sustained economic moderniza- Pakistan had been contributing

priority to the timely completion of the ongoing CPEC project as the cornerstone of our future bilateral economic cooperation agenda," he remarked. Shehbaz Sharif said he visited a number of CPEC projects, including the Port of Gwadar, and directed the completion of projects as scheduled so that the people of the both countries can reap the benefits.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's firm commitment to the purposwith UN Resident Coordinator

actively to the work of the UN, rive—especially in the areas of peace keeping, humanitarian action, climate change, and international cooperation for sustainable development.

Various areas of UN's work and cooperation with Pakistan were discussed during the meeting including the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, flood relief, food security, and ecosystem restoration. The prime minister appreciated the significant role played by the UN in supporting Pakistan's progress towards the ter of the United Nations. The attainment of UN Agenda 2030 prime minister, in a meeting and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Solution Order of Union Medal

COAS receives UAE's highest civil award

Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Order of the Union Medal on Army Chief General Qamar for promotion of bilateral ties between the two countries. The medal was conferred upon the Army Chief when he called on the UAE's President. Matters of mutual interest, bilateral defense and security cooperation and regional security situation also came under discussion during the meeting.

The two leaders agreed that Pakistan and UAE share a great history of cordial relations and deep rooted spirit of brotherhood which is transforming into an enduring part- tries," it added. Agencies

DUBAI: President of UAE nership. Sharing the honorary moments on Twitter, offi-Al Nahyan has conferred cial DG ISPR page penned, "#COAS called on H.H Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahy-Javed Baiwa in recognition of an, President of UAE, Matters his significant contributions of mutual interest, bilateral defence & security cooperation and regional security situation discussed."

The leaders agreed that Pakistan and UAE share a great history of cordial relations and deep rooted spirit of brotherhood which is transforming into an enduring partnership. COAS was conferred upon Order of the Union Medal by President of UAE for making significant contributions in furthering bilateral ties between both the coun-

PTI imposes worst curbs on media: Marriyum

Lauds Radio Pakistan's role in developing moderate attitudes in society

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Imran Khan, who himself Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. had been declared "fascist" by the international media news statement, said Imran Khan had no right to speak about media freedom as it was he who had imposed the worst restrictions on the media while being in power.

"Imran Khan should rather be ashamed instead of lecturing others on media freedom as journalists were abducted and their ribs were broken during his rule," she added. The relentless assault on the press freedom, closure of the Parliament's build-

ing and arm twisting of the media through the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), she said, were the hallmarks of Imran Khan's Wednesday alleged that the government. More than media faced the worst fascism 10,000 journalists became during the four-year rule of jobless during the tenure of

The minister alleged that Imran Khan had ruined the watchdog. The minister, in a media industry economically and created a division among the media houses. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Radio Pakistan had played an important role in development of moderate attitudes in the society. Speaking in an event organized by Radio Pakistan on the occasion of the establishment of Pakistan and Radio Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee, she stressed for an extended role of radio to counter extremism

Prohibited funding

Imran Khan refuses to respond FIA

PTI chief asks FIA to withdraw notice or face legal action

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday asked the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to take back the notice sent to him in the prohibited funding case in two days or else he would take legal action against them.b "Neither am I liable to answer to you nor is it liable on me to provide information to you. If notice is not taken back in two days then I will take legal action against you," said the PTI chairman from PTI. "ECP (Election in a written response sent to FIA Commercial Bank Circle Islamabad's Deputy Director Amna Baig.

the PTI chief via his legal stan. The PTI chairman also cious intent, adding that it is see details and documents sions," said Khan, adding countries separately.



Commission of Pakistan) did not give a decision but issued a report. ECP cannot order FIA or any other organisa-The response was sent by tion based on this report," said the PTI chief. He added counsel Anwar Mansoor that the FIA does not have Khan, who has also served as the authority to act under the the attorney-general of Paki- Political Parties Order 2002.

"The notice issued is also claimed that FIA, by send- contrary to the FIA Act. ing the notice showed mali- Supreme Court has declared the ECP as an administrative not within FIA's purview to institution in several deci-

that the ECP is neither a court nor a tribunal. Last week, FIA sought records from Khan regarding the total funds provided to the party by national and international companies and business firms. Following the ECP's judgment that ruled PTI received funding from prohibited sources, the FIA launched a country-wide inquiry into the matter.

In a letter to the PTI chairman, the FIA asked Khan to provide the record of the membership fee from the establishment of the PTI till now. The investigation agency also sought annual statements of PTI's bank accounts since 1996, the record of its registered and unregistered organizations and trusts from the party's chief. Khan is also asked to provide the record of PTI's national and international donors. The FIA also directed the PTI chairman to provide details of funds received from various companies in different

Recovers 98 paisa

Dollar breaks losing streak against rupee

跨 Bureau report

KARACHI: The Pakistani Rupee (PKR) on Wednesday broke its winning streak in interbank against the US dollar. The dollar, which was in consistent decline since past week, fought back and gained 98 paisa against the rupee and closed at Rs214.88. It is pertinent to mention here that the US dollar traded at a record high rate of Rs239.94 in interbank on July 28, 2022. According to forex dealers, the dollar rose up by Rs0.09 against the rupee and traded at Rs213.99 in interbank while the banks are selling it at Rs214.50. In open market, the US dollar is being sold between Rs213 to Rs211. It is pertinent to mention here that PML-N Vice-President Marvam Nawaz has claimed that the party's supremo Nawaz Sharif strongly opposed the

Taking to Twitter, Maryam Nawaz said that party supremo Nawaz Sharif had strongly opposed the decision to raise the petrol price.

hike in petrol price.

Social media

'PTI, India behind anti-Pak army campaign': Khawaja Asif

Says some 18 Indian accounts were used in the drive

Senior Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) and India worked on a "joint project" of "negative" social media campaign targeting the tragic incident of an army helicopter crash amid flood relief operations in Balochistan earlier this month, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif alleged on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said 18 Indian accounts were found to be involved in the social media campaign. "Their channels say, 'the work Imran Khan is doing for us, even if we had spent billions of dollars we would not have been able to create the kind of network to safeguard and advance India's interests in Pakistan as how the PTI and its leader is doing," the defence minister said.

Asif claimed that while the nation was mourning the Lasbela helicopter tragedy, the PTI's social media accounts, with the help of Indian and other offshore social media accounts, were running a "smear campaign" against the country and the army. Referring to reports run in the media a day ago, Asif said an investigation into the campaign had found that 529 Pakistani accounts, 18 Indian accounts and 33 accounts from other countries were involved. "This investiga-



Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday. Photo: PID

tion is reaching its conclusion," he said, adding that action would be taken on the results in accordance with the law and the Constitution.

The PML-N leader said the matter had shamed the entire nation before the martyrs' families that "there are such people found among us who can fall so low for their political motives." Asif said the data was "confirmed and verified" and more revelations would be forthcoming. The defence minister termed the PTI's alleged campaign, party leader Shahbaz Gill's comments regarding the army and subsequent claims of him being tortured in police custody as "diversion" tactics to remove attention from the verdict in the foreign funding case. Asif said Imran had subsequently distanced himself from Gill's comments when he saw that the move had ended up hurting the PTI instead of accruing any dividend or political benefit.

The defence minister added that earlier PTI Chairman Imran Khan was not speaking about his party leader Shahbaz Gill's statement — that allegedly incited hate against the army. "He (Khan) witnessed that [Gill's statements] did not give his party any political advantage nor did it benefit him in any other way," Asif said, implying that after these events, the PTI chairman distanced himself from Gill's comments.

Gill was earlier today sent in police custody for 48 hours by a local court in Islamabad. "They are going to such lengths because of the loss of their power [...] PTI leaders have crossed all boundaries in their statements," the defence minister said. Taking a jibe at the PTI leaders for claiming that Gill's mental state is disturbed, Asif said that since power was taken away from the PTI, "they have lost their senses". "Our government does not believe in revenge."

The Spokesman

Economy in focus

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Miftah Ismail addressed Leaders in Islamabad- Business Summit 2022 on Wednesday.





Govt to hike petroleum levy *to Rs50*

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached an agreement over Letter of Intent (LOI). According to sources familiar with the development, Pakistan has assured the international lender that government will gradually increase levy on petroleum products to Rs50.

Sources further said that the federal government wil impose a levy of Rs10 on petrol and Rs5 on diesel from September 1. They added that the government will gradually increase the petroleum levy and take it up to Rs50 by 2023.

In the LoI, according to sources, Pakistan has assured the Fund that the government will increase the price of petroleum products by imposing a levy of up to Rs50. Sources told Geo News that the federal government will impose a levy of Rs10 on petrol and Rs5 on diesel from September 1, while it will increase it to Rs30 on petrol and Rs15 on diesel from September 16. They added that the government will gradually increase the petroleum levy and take it up to Rs50 by 2023.

The coalition government has assured IMF that it will not remove a ban on imported items while the value of the dollar will be market-based. The government had received LOI from the IMF on Friday, which was reportedly signed on Monday. On August 02, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) confirmed that Pakistan has achieved all the set targets for the revival of Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme International Monetary Fund's (IMF) resident representative in Islamabad, Esther Perez Ruiz said Pakistan has achieved all the financial targets set by the fund and the last action was accomplished on July 31 by extending levy on petrol.

Self-reliance

Government focusing on enhancing exports: Miftah

Says Iran can meet Pakistan's gas and energy needs

Market Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said the government is focusing on enhancing exports and farm productivity in order to help the country stand on its own feet. Addressing Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit here on Wednesday, he assured to extend facilitation to the companies in exporting their products to the international market. He stressed that every company should export at least ten percent of their products to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country.

As regards the agriculture sector, the Finance Minister said a task force has been established to address the problems faced by this productive sector of the economy. He said the country this year has so far imported 1.1 million ton of wheat. He said the money spent on import of wheat could be saved by supporting the farmers and introducing latest technology in the sector

ture will also benefit the poor segments of

The Finance Minister said we will also have to create a balance in our incomes and

means to address the issues of budget and trade deficits. Miftah Ismail also emphasized for promoting education in the country to register successes in different fields.

Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail said on Wednesday that Pakistan is in dire need of gas and energy that can be easily fulfilled by Iran. In an exclusive interview with an Iranian news agency on the eve of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting on Wednesday in Islamabad, he said that China is the biggest world market and needs energy, and Iran which is one of the world's biggest exporters of energy can fulfill China's energy needs through Pakistan.

We think that Iran should become part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. We welcome Iranian investment in Gwadar on any other energy projects under the CPEC," he said.

"All countries do trade with neighbors d there is nothing new about that," he said He said bolstering exports and agricularly and added Pakistan will take every measure to remove any hurdle in trade with Iran. He said that Pakistan had opened border markets and that the major part of its Balochistan state's trade is with Iran and

expenditures, and have to live within our Afghanistan. The minister went on to say that there is a lot of unofficial trading going on between Iran and Pakistan, adding that Iranian products could be seen in Pakistani shops, especially in Karachi, and there is no harm if this trade can be formalized, as the countries normally do the first trade with neighbors.

"I look forward to the day when there is more trade between Iran and Pakistan," the minister said.

"Iran produces lots of things which Pakistan buys or could buy and vice-versa," noted the Pakistani official, adding: "The one major agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Joint Economic Commission would be to enhance the bilateral trade between the two friendly countries." The minister went on to say that the main hurdle in bilateral trade is the currency and the lack of banking relations. "We cannot open LCs in US dollar in trade with Iran and this is a major difficulty."

"Now there is a mechanism that the central banks' governors have figured out and in the JEC meeting this mechanism would be formalized to ease the trade."

Pak-China to safeguard CPEC from enemies

Chinese delegation visits NACTA HQs

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director General, Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of Peoples' Republic of China, Gao Fei along with a delegation on Wednesday visited National Counter Terrorism Authority's (NACTA) Headquarters.

al Coordinator, NACTA briefed the delegation on authority's contribution resolve to work together to thwart to counter terrorism and extremism, said a press release.

Rai emphasized the significance of cooperation in sharing expertise in counter terrorism domain.

of Pakistan in strengthening coop-



Muhammad Tahir Rai, Nation- eration to combat terrorism and extremism. Both sides expressed their designs of common enemies of Pakistan and China who want to disrupt China Pakistan Economic Corridor. It was also agreed that the NACTA and Chinese NCTLGO shall work Gao Fei appreciated the efforts together to unearth and defeat hostile agencies and terrorists.

Prohibited funding

FIA to extend probe to expats

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Wednesday decided to expand the scope of prohibited funding received by the Pakistan Tehreek e-Insaf (PTI) to foreign countries. FIA will now investigate the case in America, Britain and any other country where PTI received funding from.

Investigation agencies of different countries will also be contacted and taken on board. FIA will collect the information regarding the companies and personalities of these countries that deposited funds in PTI accounts and for this help will be taken from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Crime Agency and other agencies.

Currently, the investigation into the prohibited funding case is still in the stage of collecting records and accounts. In the second phase, the obtained infor mation will be compiled to file charges. FIA initiated investigation into the case on August 5 after the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) announced its decision on August 2. In the first phase, five investigation teams have been formed.

These teams will work in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Islamabad and Quetta, According to FIA officials, various records related to the case will be summoned from the Federal Board of Revenue and Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. FIA headquarters will supervise the entire investi-

SCO states should *enhance trade coop: Qamar*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Sved Naveed Qamar has stressed on the need to enhance cooperation among the member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in various fields, including regional trade, economy, investment, and science and technology. Trough the inter-regional relations, the SCO had gained significant development, however, their full potentials had not yet been exploited, he said addressing a two-day SCO Economic Forum in Tashkent, according to a message received here on Wednesday.

The minister said regional trade, economy, investment, science and technology, cultural-humanitarian and other opportunities could significantly strengthen the foundation of cooperation among the SCO member states. "I am delighted to say that Pakistan, ever since its accession as full member, has desired to play a pro-active role towards promotion of cooperation in political, security, economic, cultural, and legal areas," he added. Pakistan, he said, shares with the SCO and its members, deep rooted historical and cultural links, and strong economic and strategic complementarities.

"We are fully committed to promoting the Shanghai Spirit which lays emphasis on equality, trust, coexistence, respect for cultural diversity, and a desire for shared development," Naveed Qamar added.

Plan devised

Huge Qatari investment in Pakistan on cards

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A plan has been prepared for bringing Qatari investments to Islamabad airport and Roosevelt hotel in United States during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Qatar. According to sources within the Civil Aviation Authority, the plan for bringing investment to Islamabad airport has been prepared and Qatar may get managerial control to run the airport.

"The financial, legal and commercial sections of the CAA have vetted the plan," they said.

Moreover, sources further shared that shares and managerial control of the Roosevelt hotel in US is also likely to go into the hands of Qatari authorities. "The concerned officials will brief prime minis- ment of Qatar and Pakistan.

ter today on the investment plans," they said, adding the prime minister will offer Qatar during his upcoming visit to invest in them. The sources said that the CAA and PIA officials have reviewed all legal hitches before drawing up the plan. "The purpose of attracting the investment is aimed at improving foreign reserves of the coun-

On August 07, PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with Emir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani as the two leaders exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. According to a press release issued by the Prime Minister's office, Qatar and Pakistan enjoy close and cordial relations. Qatar is home to over 200,000 Pakistani diaspora that is playing a pivotal role in the develop-

OGRA mandated to fix POL prices: Abbasi

Demands former NAB Chief to reveal his assets to public

Mark Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Wednesday said OGRA has its own system of fixing fuel prices. Defending the recent hike in fuel prices, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) fixes fuel prices as per last letter of credit and price at the international market. Fuel prices cannot be changed on anyone's narrative, Abbasi said and added that fixing fuel prices is a purely administrative issue not political.

On Tuesday, former president and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari voiced

concern over increasing fuel prices stan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLdespite the downward trend at the international market.

Earlier, the federal government announced a hike of Rs6.72 per litre in the price of petrol for the remaining days of August 2022. According to a notification issued by the Finance Division, petrol will now be priced at Rs233.91 after the latest hike, followed by high speed diesel at Rs244..44, kerosene oil at Rs199.40 and light diesel at Rs191.75.

The price of diesel saw a decrease of Rs0.51 while the per litre rate of light loans taken by government of Pakidiesel jacked up by Rs0.43 per litre. The price of kerosene oil decreased up to Rs1.67 per litre, the notification

N) leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Wednesday said that former National Accountability Court (NAB) Chairman Javed Iqbal should reveal his assets to the public. Talking to media outside NAB court, Abbasi said people should know the reality of those who claim accountability.

He said that PML-N supremo Mian Nawaz Sharif went to UK for his treatment. The decision of his treatment depends on Nawaz Sharif and his doctors. While talking about the stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan, he should give an account of the loans taken in his government and we will be sharing the - Former Prime Minister and Paki- details of accusations imposed on us.

Energy & connectivity

Pak-Iran potential of cooperation should be utilized: Bilawal

Urges world to benefit from investment opportunities in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday underlined the need to fully utilize the existing potential between Pakistan and Iran in energy, air links, and connectivity. The foreign minister received Minister for Roads and Urban Development of Iran Rostam Ghasemi.

Welcoming the delegation, the foreign minister highlighted fraternal ties between the two countries, rooted in shared history and cultural and linguistic affinities.

He reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

He expressed the hope that the opening of new border crossing points and the establishment of border markets would improve livelihood and facilitate movement of people and goods. The foreign minister expressed gratitude for Iran's steadfast support on the Kashmir cause, particularly by the Supreme Leader.

Rostam Ghasemi, while thanking the foreign minister for receiving the delegation, remarked that the 21st session of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) offered new avenues in expanding bilateral ties. He concurred with the foreign minister on the need for fully exploring all opportunities and expressed readiness to work together for the mutual benefit of the two countries.



The Iranian minister is visiting Pakistan for 21st Session of the Joint Economic Commission being held in Islamabad on 16-19 August. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the international investors to take advantage of the investment opportunities in Pakistan. He was talking to Swedish Ambassador Henrik Persson, who called on him in Islamabad on Wednesday. The Foreign Minister emphasized on further strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Sweden. He said it is good that Swedish companies are taking advantage of investment in Pakistan. He said he will be happy if other countries of the world come to invest

Raising Awareness

UNODC concludes sessions on 'Prisoner, HR for women and juvenile inmates'

The aim of this initiative is to advocate the rights of prisoners to legal aid

跨 Spokesman Report

KAARCHI: UNODC has concluded Awareness Raising Sessions on 'Prisoner and Human Rights for Women and ing sessions in close consultation and Juvenile Inmates' in the Special Prison for Women and Juvenile, Sukkur, Department. Sindh on Wednesday. The participants included 25 women and 8 juveniles Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs). The Raising Sessions in Karachi and Hyderaim of this initiative is to advocate abad for inmates of Special Prisons for the rights of prisoners to legal aid as an essential mechanism for have a fair trial enshrined in the basic principles of human rights.

Headquarters Vienna, with the support of the Chinese Government, initiated these unprecedented awareness raiscooperation with the Sindh Prisons

Prior to the session held in Sukkur, UNODC had conducted 3 Awareness Women and Juveniles. Overall a total number of 161 women and juvenile UTPs have attended the sessions in Sindh, out of which 109 were women UNODC Country Office in Paki- and 52 juveniles. The first two sessions

stan (UNODC COPAK) and UNODC were held in Karachi on 7 and 8 June 2022 for women and juveniles, and the third session was held in Hyderabad for women on 14 June. All the sessions were geared towards advocating the rights of prisoners to legal aid; ensuring their understanding of equal access to justice that includes the provision of support to those without the means to actively enforce and protect their rights.

> In the words of keynote speaker, Mehmood Ahmed, Lawyer Sindh High Court and Senior Legal Aid Expert, "Legal Aid is the major alternative to incarceration available at large in Pakistan to provide timely relief to

the marginalized under trial prisoners". The inmates greatly appreciated the institution of this programme. They expressed the need for these sessions to continue, as it gives them an opportunity to have direct access to lawyers to interact with them and to fully understand the provision of free legal aid.

These sessions were attended by Superintendents of the respective jails, jail staff, lawyers from Sindh High Court (Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur), law graduates, and Sindh Legal Aid staff. The panelists comprised of UNODC Programme Officer (Prisons) and Sindh Prisons Staff.

Waste management moot

Disposal of medical waste creates serious public health risk

There is no separate handling on modern lines of around 1,100 tonnes of garbage generated from hospitals in Karachi daily

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: There is no separate handling on modern lines of around 1,100 tonnes of garbage generated from hospitals in Karachi daily as haphazard disposal of medical waste creates a serious public health risk.

This was stated by the Dean of Architecture and Management Sciences of the NED University of Engineering & Technology, Prof Dr Noman Ahmed, in his keynote address at the National Waste Management Conference organised by the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) here at a local

ipal workers and scaven- tal waste daily without any



KARACHI: Nasir Hussain Shah Minister Local Government Sindh addressing at National Conference on Waste Management- Challenge's and Opportunities. Event organized by National Form for Environment and

Dr Ahmed said the munic- es as they handled the hospi- garbage is handled in Karachi.

gers in the city were prone safety precautions much like to deadly infectious diseas- the casual way the municipal He lamented that there was

no check at all to stop scavengers from extracting useful and recyclable material from the hospital trash as this practice should come to an end to safeguard public health.

He said the hospital waste was quite often mixed with the regular municipal trash generated in the city instead of its disposal in a safe manner.

The senior faculty-member who remained involved in different studies on waste management practices emphasized that hospital waste should be properly segregated before its disposal on a scientific basis.

He said the government should provide maximum resources and support for developing an efficient system of hospital waste disposal as Karachi daily.

unsafe practices in this regard had gravely compromised public health during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dr Ahmed said that barring a few big private hospitals in Karachi, other health care facilities didn't have any specialized system to handle their waste as their management wanted to perform this essential task with minimal spending.

Zubair Ahmed Channa, Managing-Director of Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), told the audience that a very haphazard system had been present before the SSWMB had come into existence in 2014 for the disposal of 11,000 tonnes of municipal waste generated in

Pakistani artists win Gold Awards in India

 $Zindagi\ originals\ Dhoop\ Ki\ Deewar\ and\ \mathcal{Q}atil\ Haseenao\ Ke\ Naam\ bag$ Gold at Promax India Awards 2022

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: gi has played a significant role in redefining content with shows and talent from across the border. As both the countries gear up to celebrate 75 years of Independence, Zindagi's popular shows Dhoop Ki Deewar and Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam another gold for Dhoop Ki have won big at the Promax India Awards, 2022.

Celebrating the outstandacross the region, Zindagi takes home the Promax ing desi noir show, Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam, and cross-border story Dhoop Ki Deewar. Celebrated Pakistani music artist. highlight that there is no real Zeeshan Parwez has been awarded the gold for Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam for the Sarah Sher Ali, where they rating. Liberating because I 'Best program title sequence', both lose their fathers in a while noted Visual artist cross-border clash. Adding freedom in terms of concept



Deewar for the 'Best key art'. A favorite among the digital audiences on both sides of ing achievement and win the border, Ahad Raza Mir and Sajal Aly starrer, Dhoop Ki Deewar also wins the 'Best Gold, for the path-break-social media campaign for a program.

Set against the backdrop of the Indo-Pak conflict, Dhoop Ki Deewar aims to winner of a war. It tells the story of Vishal Malhotra and Rahada Tajwer wins yet to its bouquet of offerings, and execution, and exhila-

Wrong priorities have destroyed

Zindagi's popular original, rating because the team was Qatil Haseenao Ke Naam is a gripping crime drama series, Directed by Meenu Gaur. The drama centers on several aggrieved women who punish men for their deceit, opportunism, and violence.

Talking about the win, Qatil Haseenaon Ke Naam Musician Zeeshan Parwez said, "It was a pleasure crafting a title sequence for Meenu Gaur's Desi Noir web series and I thank all the jury members for this award. Congratulations to everyone at Zee Zindagi and all team members involved with this production."

Talking about the win, Dhoop Ki Deewar Visual artist Rahada Tajwer said, "Working on this project was both liberating and exhila-

extremely supportive and appreciative throughout the process. Apart from the artworks being recognized globally and then winning an award, which was of course extremely overwhelming-in a good way, what also stood out was Zee Zindagi's team's humility. I have told friends, family, and colleagues repeatedly how I was treated as an equal without ever having to feel out of place, how each idea was greeted with such joy, and how I developed relationships from across the border and that means the most to me. The award is the cherry on top and I am so grateful that I got to work on this project, my heart is really full. When the team won the award and I got phone calls and messages from the team was was given complete creative the kind of moment that I'm

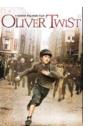
going to replay in my head

anytime I need cheering up."

Book Review

Oliver twist is amazing novel written by Charles Dickens

👺 Emaan Suhail



Oliver twist is an amazing novel written by Charles Dickens. The story of the novel is based upon life of a poor boy named, Oliver twist (an orphan). In the

beginning of the story Oliver was sent to the 'workhouse' where he suffered and struggle a lot. The novel of the story is based on different characters. Every character of the novel is so lively that makes you feel, you are not reading the book in fact you are experiencing it. The character appears after Oliver is 'Mr. Beadle', a greedy and cruel person an owner of the workhouse, where Oliver worked for him. After escaping from workhouse he met to other characters of the story and experienced the ups and downs

Charles dickens covers every aspect of human life struggle and deeds of a person to show it as a result in "reward" and "punishment". Charles point out especially the issues of poor children in the novel who was treated by the devils. Last but not the least it is a great novel that depicts every aspect of sorrow, hope, courage and struggle. This novel is worth to read as it describes the issues, child laws, poverty and industrialization in the 19th century.

Flooded railsways wreaked havoc in South

WANA: Rains have wreaked havoc in various areas of South Waziristan. More than 50 houses, shops and gardens have collapsed due to torrential rains in Spin, Tanai and Sheen-

filled with water, including the well of Mohammad Wali Wazir, principal of Vision Model School Spain.



PESHAWAR: Honorary Consul of Tunisia for KP Ammad Rasheed presenting the souvenir to Chairman-Governor Inspection Team- Ahmed Hassan in Peshawar.

Modi-led BJP Govt of India is forcefully, illegally defying all int'l laws

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Senior Kashmiri Leader and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a statement here in Islamabad has said that the Modi-led BJP Govt of India is forcefully, illegally defying all international laws and resolutions changing the identity, demography, and socio-economic fabric of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Govt of India ever since the illegal action $\,$ on Aug 5, is hell-bent on making the lives of Kashmiris miserable, from target killing, destruction of property, Business and snatch-



Senior Kashmiri leader added that India uses terrorism as a state policy to intimidate Kashmiris, using its military might to subdue Kashmiris' freedom sentiments and refrain Kashmiris from freedom

LEAP to bring accessibility, efficiency and transparency: SECP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) began its end-to-end digitization endeavor with the aims of enhancing accessibility, expanding organizational efficiency, improving ease of doing business, and increasing transparency, through the project titled LEAP - Leading Efficiency through Automation Prowess. SECP, along with the consulting firm for LEAP - Ernst & Young,

engaged through Karandaaz Pakistan, has already achieved several LEAP milestones, including the launch of Secured Transaction Registry. Implementation of Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) while launch of a new Corporate Registry is in progress, with expected launch in 12 months' time.

SECP, in collaboration with EY, organized a two-day thematic design workshop aimed at bringing the commission's top management up to speed on the future roadmap of SECP's end to end digitalization.

Direction of economy be determined

Dr. Shahid says policy contradictions should be removed

Staff Reporter



Industry (ICCI) Shahid Rasheed Butt on Wednesday said a clear direction

ISLAMABAD:

Former Presi-

dent of Islama-

bad Chamber of

Commerce and

should be given to the economy.

Policy contradictions should be removed so that the confidence of domestic and foreign investors can be completely restored, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that agricultural development should be given diately.

attention so as not to spend a huge sum of seventeen billion dollars annually.

In a statement issued here today, he said that the current rate of tax is a hindrance to the country's development and by industrial sector can be promoted by reducing the tax imposed

Industrialisation will increase employment, production, and revenue which will accelerate national development.

He said that there should be a complete ban on unnecessary imports, the policy of benefitting elites by taking loans should be stopped and agricultural income should be taxed imme-

Best HSE performance

Fatima Fertilizer receives international gold-standard acclaim

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer recently received an international acclaim by the International Fertilizer Association (IFA) through the Green Leaf Award that recognizes outstanding performance in safety, health and environment (SHE) in fertilizer production among the association's members and is an integral part of its protect & sustain product stewardship initiative.

The honor was claimed by Fatima Fertilizer by marking the first runner-up position in the nitrogenous fertilizers category of IFA's prestigious 2022 Green Leaf Award for showcasing excellence in the overall management of safety, health and environment (SHE) in the fertilizer manufacturing operations. The exalted IFA Green Leaf Award is considered a global gold-standard by fertilizers manufacturers around the world and awarded by the IFA being the only global fertilizer association having 400 members in 70 countries around the world.

An independent panel of experts diligently evaluate all performance indicators in accordance with the awards' evaluation criteria before the most deserving winners are selected. These global recognitions encourage and enable companies to strive for the highest standards of safety and well-being in the workplace and also help to protect the environment. The award is hosted after every two years and receives overwhelming interest by all member organisations, including a record number of 25 eligible applications for 2022.

While speaking about this achievement, Mr. Fawad Ahmad Mukhtar, CEO Fatima Fertilizer said, "We are proud of this achievement and will remain committed to our continued efforts towards becoming a global leader in practicing HSE management systems to ensure the safety and well-being of our employees."

the economy: Mian Zahid

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the develthat became independent after Pakistan has become a cause of surprise for the whole world.

On the other hand, the majority of people living in Pakistan are facing poverty and hunger which is the direct result of the wrong priorities of the rulers.

The situation in Pakistan is the most alarming in the the situation in other coun-



opment of some countries region except for Afghanistan, while the situation in Iran, which has been under international sanctions for neither the economy develdecades, is better than in

Pakistan. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the reason for Pakistan's worrying situation is the priorities of most of our rulers, while

tries in the region, including try so that the rulers could China, Bangladesh and India, is due to the good priorities of

Pakistan has received more loans and aid from other countries in the region, but investment in human development has not been prioritized, due to which the economy has not been able to develop, he added.

The business leader said that due to these policies, oped nor poverty decreased, but the problems of corruption and militancy have

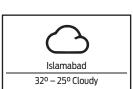
During the policy-making process, the pleasure of the electorate was always prioritized over the economic interests of the counextend their stay in power, he observed. Mian Zahid Hussain said

that every government raised the slogans of reforms, but meaningful reforms were always considered against their interests, so they had to take loans from IMF repeatedly, while the reforms suggested by the international organization have never been fully implemented.

He added that many were pinning high hopes on the incumbent government, but so far there has been no progress in the privatization of failed government institutions, theft of electricity and gas, elimination of line losses, restoration of agriculture and increase in exports.

Waziristan B Adam Khan Wazir

In addition, several wells were



Namaz Timings

Maghrib .. 7:22 pm 9:05 pm EMEDGENCY

EWIERGE	161
Rescue (Police)	1!
Bomb Disposal	1!
Fire Services Rawalpino	di/
Islamabad	1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police	926604
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police

Statio	ns
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUI	RY
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Dailway Eychango	0270831_5

HOSPITALS

WASA Rawalpindi .

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

PARC lauds role of privatepublic sector for taking interest in research

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Rice Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) meeting was held at Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Headquarters in Islamabad. Dr. Muhammad Yousuf, National Coordinator (Rice) presented the working paper for the sixty-two rice hybrids/vari eties. The representatives of national and multinational seed companies including Seed Association of Pakistan, Crop Life Pakistan, Pakistan Hi-tech Hybrid Seed Association and federal and provincial research institutes attended the meeting.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC while addressing to the participants highlighted the role of private and public sector in research and development of rice in the country. He emphasized the importance of quality seed for enhancing the productivity and profitability of farmers and asked the seed companies for making efforts to provide high quality of rice to farmers in Pakistan.

Through reforms

Govt aims to uplift livestock, dairy sector: Cheema

The recommendations will be presented to the PM in next few days after consensus of all stakeholders

Staff Reporter

ter for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir Cheema chaired 'Third Meeting of Taskforce on Livestock', constituted by the Prime Minister, to discuss and prepare recommendations related to the livestock sector. The recommendations will be presented to the Prime Minister in the next few days after consensus of all stakeholders. Secretary National Food Security and Research, Provincial Livestock Secretaries, academia and stakeholders attended the meeting.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minis-

During the meeting, proposals related to improvement in the livestock sectors were Tariq Bashir Cheema said that so that appropriate actions can



immediately doable recommendations should be prioritized so that they can be implemented on priority.

In the meeting, the participants presented and discussed proposals on dairy, meat, poultry, animal nutrition and breed improvement. Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema directed the participants of the Task Force to take a holistic approach while taking the discussed. Federal Minister stock of the current situation

be taken to improve the livestock sector.

Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that census of livestock should be a priority so that policy decisions are data-driven and monitoring can be done effectively. Through uniform policy across all provinces, quality and standards should be improved for better health and safety of

During the meeting proposals related to capacity building purpose.

at Federal and Provincial level were also discussed. Furthermore, there was a consensus among the participants that coordination between federal and provincial government on trade, export and disease management will uplift the livestock and dairy sector.

The participants were apprised that approximately 70 to percent of the farmers in the livestock have on average less than 4 animals. Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema directed the participants of the taskforce to find a mechanism to facilitate farmers in commercial farming while helping them to replace inefficient animals. He said that financial institutions should be take onboard to provide financial assistance for the said

Collaboration

ISLAMABAD: Chairman The Diabetes' Centre, Dr Asjad Hameed, BOD Dr Nuzhat Hameed along with Senior Staff in a group photo with Chancellor Riphah International University Hassan Muhammad khan and Lt Gen (Retd) Ashraf Saleem at Riphah International University, Gulberg Greens.



Radio Pakistan organizes colorful Diamond Jubilee Awards 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Radio Pakistan organized a colorful Diamond Jubilee Awards 2022 ceremony in Islamabad to honor and recognize the services of its legendarv artists.

It was after a gap of long time that the national broadcaster organized the awards

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb who was chief guest on the occasion, described Radio Pakistan and PTV as the country's asset saying they have contributed immensely to promotion of tolerance and tranquility in the society.

The Information Minister said the artists of Radio Pakistan through their voices played a significant role in inculcating good personality traits and creating a congenial environment. She noted that every household has memories of Radio Pakistan.



Marriyum Aurangzeb said the reason behind holding the Diamond Jubilee Awards 2022 ceremony was to honor the services of these artists. She said this awards ceremony shall be made a regular feature, saying only those societies thrive who accord respect to their artists.

The Information Minister was appreciative of the fact that Radio Pakistan and

PTV remained resilient and kept their presence in the face of difficult financial situation. Giving credit to their strong and solid foundation, she said we express the commitment that these institutions will stay intact. She said Radio Pakistan and PTV are not stations but they are like a

The Information Minister also asked the new artists to benefit from the old archives of Radio Pakistan and PTV for the purpose of learning and training. She said an app is being created which will enable our people

to see the content of PTV. In his remarks on the occasion, Director General Radio Pakistan Sohail Ali Khan said Radio Pakistan over the last seventy five years has truly represented the ideology of Pakistan and greatly contributed to promotion of national solidarity. He said during war times also, the national broadcaster stood shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces to foil the sordid designs of the enemy.

Health Corner

Friends, Job, Education Protect Aging **Brain**

ISLAMABAD: Why do some people with amyloid plaques in their brains associated with Alzheimer's disease show no signs of the disease, while others with the same amount of plaque have clear memory and thinking problems? Researchers looked at genetic and life course factors that may help create a "cognitive reserve" that provides a buffer against the disease in a study published in the August 3, 2022, online issue of Neurology®, the medical journal of the American Academy

They found that factors such as taking part in clubs, religious groups, sports or artistic activities, along with educational attainment by age 26, occupation and reading ability, may affect the brain's cognitive reserve. The study suggests that continuing to learn over a lifetime may help protect the brain, which is true even for people who have lower scores on cognitive tests in childhood. Previous studies have shown that people with low scores in childhood are more likely to have a steeper cognitive decline in old age than people with high

These results are exciting because they indicate that cognitive ability is subject to factors throughout our lifetime and taking part in an intellectually, socially and physically active lifestyle may help ward off cognitive decline and dementia," said study author Dorina Cadar, PhD, Brighton and Sussex Medical School in the United Kingdom. "It's heartening to find that building up one's cognitive reserve may offset the negative influence of low childhood cognition for people who might not have benefited from an enriching childhood and offer stronger mental resilience until later in life."

The study involved 1,184 people who were born in 1946 in the United Kingdom. They took cognitive tests when they were eight years old and again when they were 69 years old. A cognitive reserve index combined people's education level at age 26, participation in enriching leisure activities at age 43 and occupation up to age 53. Their reading ability at age 53 was also tested as a measure of overall lifelong learning separate from education and occupation.

The cognitive test participants took at age 69 has a maximum total score of 100. The average score for this group was 92, with the lowest score being 53 and the highest score being 100.

The researchers found that higher childhood cognitive skills, a higher cognitive reserve index and higher reading ability were all associated with higher scores on the cognitive test at age 69. Researchers found that for every unit increase in childhood test scores, the old-age cognitive test score increased by 0.10 points on average. For every unit increase in the cognitive reserve index, cognitive scores increased by 0.07 points on average, and for every unit increase in reading ability, cognitive scores increased by 0.22 points

Public Talk

CPEC: A Catalyst for economic development of Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: "The challenge today for every developing country is to become an economically-ideal state. We have yet to learn to be an economic nation. This is not the age of political and conventional wars rather it is the era of economic competition and trade wars where technology is defining the parameters of modern economy in the changing world spectrum. It is therefore, need of the hour to show unity in areas and ventures of national interest only then can we survive the storm".

This was stated by Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives during the Public Talk titled "CPEC: A Catalyst for the Economic Development of Pakistan" organized by the China Pakistan Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad on Wednesday.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal stated that to develop a country a 10 to 20 years of framework is required in order to ensure internal stability. He explained that the public sector is run by three chapters, Project, Program and Policies. Vision 2025 clearly articulated that it is time for Pakistan to move away from geo-politics to geo-economics. In vision 2025, one main pillar was that Pakistan should construct a hand-built corridor to leverage its geo-strategic environment for economic gains. Through such modern economic frameworks and initiatives Pakistan could integrate this whole region into a one big regional market. He recalled that, while government was charting an initial roadmap for CPEC, the two bottlenecks faced at that time were energy-power crisis and the road and rail infrastructure fragility. These two major bottlenecks were to a larger extent cleared away and a shift to industrialization had begun.

He noted that in the last four years, the progress on CPEC projects particularly Special Economic Zones, Gwadar port and some infrastructure projects have faced serious setbacks. Along with this, Pakistan's fiscal problems and procedural obstructions have also made China more cautious regarding investments thus leading to loss of momentum from the Chinese side. However, the current government is putting full efforts to bring CPEC back on track

Health Contribution Bill, a win-win opportunity for govt, people

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association at a local hotel in Islamabad organized a seminar to discuss the importance of the Health Contribution Bill to prevent excessive consumption of sugary drinks and how the boll is a win-win-opportunity for both the government and the people. Event was hosted by Secretary General of Asylum, Sanahullah Ghaman.

The ceremony was presided over by former Surgeon General Lt Gen (Rtd) Kamal Akbar. The guests included Munawar Hussain, Consultant of Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Dr. Khawaja Masood from Ministry of Health, WHO, Heart File, Civil Society, Health Professionals and many people from the media. Member of the National Assembly of Muslim League (N) Samina Motoob was the chief guest of the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, PANAH Secretary General Sanahullah Ghaman said that Pakistan National Heart Association has been educating people about heart and related diseases for the past 40 years and the causes that lead to these diseases. Panah is also working with the govern-

a healthy life to our countrymen and especially children because a healthy nation is the guarantee of a country's strength. Today's program is also a link in that chain. Today we will discuss the importance of the Health Contribution Bill to convince the government to pass it, which will reduce the consumption of sugary drinks, which are very harmful to the heart. This is becoming the cause of diseases. It is not a necessity of life and we buy diseases by paying money. Today we will talk about their possibilities by which we can avoid diseases by reducing their use. Khawaja Masood from the Ministry of

Health said that sugary drinks are drinks that contain added sugar. According to the World Health Organization, consumption of added sugars should be less than 10% of total calories. Excessive consumption of these sugary drinks poses great risks to the health of children and adolescents in particular. One of the major reasons for the increase in obesity, diabetes, heart disease and other diseases is sugary drinks, and because of the high consumption of these sweet drinks, today Pakistan ranks third in diabetes in the world and the rate at which it is increasing. Pakistan ranks first in the world. ment to make laws to prevent them so as to give Due to the high consumption of these drinks,



not only these diseases are increasing rapidly, but the health burden of the government is also increasing. Pakistan's annual expenditure on preventing obesity alone is estimated at more than 2640 million US dollars.

Munoor Hussain, Consultant of Health Advocacy Incubator, said that the world has taken some effective measures to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and protect our

people from their harm, we should also benefit from these measures. Among the measures taken by the world for this are awareness of the harms of these drinks as well as increase in taxes on them, ban on their marketing, front of pack labeling and warning signs and school food policy. The countries that implemented them not only reduced the burden of disease in their country but also increased the revenue of

a 50% tax on its sugary drinks, consumption dropped by 65%. Similarly, Qatar, Chile, Maldives and many other countries have taken appropriate policy actions to reduce diseases in their countries and not only reduced the health burden but also increased the revenue. Talking in detail about the Health Contribution Bill, he explained how it will help reduce the consumption of sugary drinks, reduce diseases and increase the government's revenue by 55 billion rupees every year. It is a win-win situation. He said that our

the government. When Saudi Arabia imposed

government is requested to work on this bill on a priority basis to reduce the consumption of sweet drinks so that we can give our country a healthy nation and a healthy future. Former Surgeon General Kamal Akbar on the government. He emphasized that the government should work on this bill on a priority basis because it is very beneficial for the country and the nation. The rest of the speakers also understood the importance of the bill and emphasized on its implementation. The special guest said that this bill is of great importance. I will raise my voice on this in the assembly and we will stand together in this good work.

Editorial/Opinion

Thursday, August 18, 2022

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Virtual Economy

acebook recently rebranded itself into Meta, showing its commitment to making the metaverse a big part of its business strategy. But the likes of Microsoft, Alphabet, Roblox and NVIDIA have also invested heavily into VR. The metaverse economy offers the potential of a wide range of revenue streams, with some estimates predicting it could become an \$800 billion-dollar market in just two years and that it could contribute \$3 trillion dollars to the global economy in the next decade.

It's not all fun and games in the metaverse. The vast world of virtual reality can also offer companies opportunities to find solutions online to apply to the real world. And these solutions are what consulting firm PwC is hoping to create through its newest tech lab in the Middle East in Doha. The idea of the metaverse with PwC is to understand that we look at it as an evolution and not a revolution. So, kind of with the metaverse that's the approach we're taking. We're very agile with it.

By harnessing robotics, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and more, PwCs tech experts are increasingly finding innovative ways to transcend the physical world without losing the human connection. It means little can't be done today in the metaverse, for example business meetings, large-scale collaborations, key presentations, and media interviews. Clients have moved way beyond looking at just coming in and providing advice or providing Powerpoint decks, and all of those sorts of things. They want to see things put into action, and emerging tech is really important around that.

Huge amounts of money are being poured into the metaverse, an alternative world where you can work, play and meet people without ever leaving your home. But, will the rise of this vast virtual space blur the lines of reality and redefine the way we consume and communicate forever? The Metaverse - right now, it's all anyone can talk about, whether it's online or offline. It may seem like a recent buzzword, but the idea has actually been around since 1992, first appearing in a sci-fi novel.

It's hard to define exactly what the metaverse means, as the technology behind it is evolving to include many aspects of virtual reality. Put simply, it's an all-encompassing digital world that exists in parallel to the real world. The company Somnium Space was one of the earliest open source metaverse platforms on the market. When you are in virtual reality like I am right now, I'm fully connected to the environment. I am here mentally and let's say physical mentally, right? Because my brain, my eyes, everything I see, I believe that I'm inside the space. Somnium Space may have been one of the pioneer metaverse platforms, but it's seen many rivals joining the race

As the popularity of virtual reality grows, so do the concerns over its impact on human interaction, social isolation and mental health. Children are spending more time online. of clear rules could also make it a dangerous place. So how can VR platforms address these issues? Tami Bhaumik is the Vice President of Civility and Partnerships at Roblox, a global platform with more than 40 million daily users. Roblox is committed to regulating its VR platforms and providing young users and their caregivers with the skills they need to play in a safe way.

Will the US start a war against China?

Ding Gang

interview with former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, published in The Wall Street Journal, went viral recently. Kissinger sees today's world as verging on a dangerous disequilibrium. "We are at the edge of war with Russia and China on issues which we partly created, without any concept of how this is going to end or what it's supposed to lead to," he said. Kissinger is an expert on the balance of power. He believes that world stability depends on a balance of power, and a balance between capabilities and objectives. But now, he thinks the US has broken this due balance, and the world is on the verge of a war.

This is first thanks to the reality that the US is trapped in strategic anxiety and fierce political infighting. Washington has lost its rationality when making moves. Europe was previously stable, but a conflict broke out because of US-dominated NATO's eastward expansion. Now, the US is stirring up trouble on the Taiwan question, taking away the peace, stability and integration Asian countries

which suits the US. So that it can keep its hegemony on the lack of

balance globally in the long run. Dr. Henry Kissinger has a fear. He warned a few days ago that America is "at the edge of war with Russia and China." Singapore also shares this fear. Singapore's next prime minister Lawrence Wong warns that the US and China may "sleepwalk into conflict." Many more countries have similar feelings. The reason is that the genetic information of war is embedded in the genes of Western capital power. The US has been spiraling upward in its all-encompassing containment of China, and there seems no high point at which it will stop and take a break.

In fact, what Washington wants is not a fight to the death, but how to profit from a war, or rather how to profit from someone else's war. Only if the interests of US capital are satisfied. it will not go to war with its adversaries. Ultimately, what Washington wants is the global market, to maximize its profits. Washington is not unaware that China does not have a plan to go to war with the US, and even the most anti-China people do not think that China will initiate a want. Washington's target is to war against the US. But Wash-

because it has moved the US cheese. JPMorgan chief Jamie Dimon recently said that the US government should take a stand by trying to match China's efforts to build soft power in the developing world. He told JPMorgan's clients, "If we don't do trade with Western allies, China is going to cherry pick every nation... They'll give them 5G equipment for cheap. They'll negotiate deals, lend money. They are trying to do it in Latin America. Our back-

The fears of Dimon, who

could be called a representative of American capital interests, are the real reasons behind why the US has launched a series of containment actions against China. If we put together the changes in US policy toward China from the Trump era until now, almost every time when there was an increase in anti-China sanctions, there was a "far-sightedness" to squeeze China out of the global market and manufacturing chain. In the latest move, Pelosi and several US lawmakers went to Taiwan to stand up for "Taiwan independence." One of the main aims is to create tensions and further pulling Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company into

yard."

Those so-called reasons of ideology, human rights, etc., are all to serve US capital control of global services and show us the capital competition for markets is brutal and ruthless.

According to 2019 data, the US share of the global economy has nearly halved since 1960. America's nominal GDP in US dollars is \$21.4 trillion in 2019, or about 24 percent of the share of global economy. Although China accounted for over 18 percent of the global economy in 2021, the number is rising rapidly. One of the most important things is not just that Chinese manufacturing is going global, but that Chinese capital is also starting to go global. Chinese capital, by being "Chinese," does not change those fundamental properties of capital that Marx analyzed, so the management of capital has always been a difficult issue in national governance. The Chinese government has no plans to encourage Chinese capital to seize others' territory or resources through war. In contrast to the historical path of Western capital's global expansion, there is a logic of "common development" behind Chinese capital going abroad.

You might find the reasons

create an unbalanced situation ington sees China as an enemy the US chip siege against China. from China's political system. However, this does not matter to US capital. If we follow the logic of capital development as they see it, what matters is that Chinese manufacturing will eventually push them out of the global industrial chain, leaving them with no money to make and no work to do. So, the first thing they want to do is to maximize their share of the Chinese market, including acquiring quality Chinese companies. And once that market is not so easily accessible, or Chinese companies are not as open as they would like them to be, the expansion of US capital power in China is constrained. Then, the next thing to do is inevitably to implement a global stranglehold on Chinese capital and Chinese manufacturing.

> History tells us that the option of war is an inherent part of US capital export and expansion, and that Washington is often easily manipulated by the impulse of capital power. In fact, whenever Washington wants to strengthen its ability to govern, it borrows from the military-industrial complex, which is the most dangerous aspect of this great contest of capital power.

The writer is a senior editor with People's Daily, China. Courtesy Global Times

PRING Flag And Cross.com



Lest we forget: Khurram Parvez

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

e are too familiar with hacking of Kashmiri websites, now we are experiencing the same with one of the most familiar and the most visited websites of Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society, (JKCCS) of which Khurram Parvez is the coordinator. This JKCSS website was hacked many times in the past. It happened again today, August 15, 2022, at 12.15 p.m. (New York time). JKCCS homepage contains the unintelligible and incomprehensible message. At times, it is impossible even to download the excellent reports prepared by Khurram Parvez and his team. Therefore, I consider it a privilege to write a brief account about the reports, prepared by JKCCS before they evaporate from its website. I want in particular to discuss a 799-pages report entitled, "The Structure of Violence (TSOV)" jointly prepared by 'The International Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-Administered Kashmir'[IPTK] and 'The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons' [APDP].

TSOV report encapsulates in chilling detail the tragedy of Kashmir. It documents the gross violations of human rights that India and its occupation forces now believed to number 900,000, have committed in Kashmir since 1990. I would like to emphasize that every single fact contained in these painstaking accounts, every single incident documented, every violation recorded is fully authenticated. You merely will have to read the entries to experience the clear ring of truth, which in Kashmir is often brutal and chilling. These reports are the best testimonies, testimonies which remain unassailable and beyond challenge, of the atrocities perpetrated against innocent Kashmiri civilians in the name of state security. These are the documents that damn those who profess to practice democracy and who never tire of lecturing the rest of the world on higher moral values.

these pages, unadorned, unvarnished, and unexpurgated. Please read this report for what it says because it tells the story of Kashmir with brutal frankness, unsparing realism and absolute clarity. Khurram Parvez, Chairperson of Philippines-based 'Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances" himself has delivered the hard copies of the TSOV report to the office of 'UN High Commissioner on Human Rights' Office of the 'UN Secretary General', many international NGO's and various dignitaries. Although Khurram Parvez was recognized as one of the 100 most influential people of the world by US-based Time Magazine in 2022 but he can no longer present this report to anybody anymore because he was arrested by the National Investigative Agency (NIA) of India on November 21, 2021, under terror law, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). Under UAPA a person can be incarcerated up to 180 days without a charge sheet being filed. It does not allow right to dissent.

The Amnesty International (AI) has said that UAPA has been used to "target journalists and human rights defenders who criticize government policies." AI also wrote on November 23, 2021. "The arrest of Kashmiri activist Khurram Parvez is yet another example of how anti-terror laws are being misused to criminalize human rights work & stifle dissent in India. Instead of targeting HRDs, authorities should focus on bringing accountability for human rights violations."

The arrest of Khurram Parvez is, 'a really troubling development' wrote New York-based Human Rights Watch; and Geneva-based The World Organisation Against Torture' called for the immediate release of Khurram Parvez, Marv Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defender tweeted: 'Khurram Parvez is not a terrorist. He is a Human Rights Defender.'

Khurram Parvez spoke at an International Kashmir Conference in 2015, organized by 'World Kashmir Awareness Forum'. Among others who spoke during the conference included Ramsay

The reality of the Indian state is mirrored in Clark, former United States Attorney General. Khurram Parvez focused on the context in which human rights abuses in the state of Jammu and Kashmir were perceived. You cannot understand human rights if you don't understand the context. Human rights abuses are taking place all around the world, in many places, including in India,' Khurram stated.

Highlighting the publication of various reports, Khurram said 'Our argument is that if we don't do it we will never be able to prove that human rights abuses are taking place. We have been able to engage with the Jammu and Kashmir judiciary. With information coming from both police and government sources, he emphasized that in the cases under review, including Kunan Posh-



pura in 1991 and the massacre of Sikhs on the eve of President Clinton's visit to India in March 2000, there were 972 alleged perpetrators. In all these cases we have gone to the courts and tried

our best to find justice within the Indian system. Furthermore, Mr. Parvez emphasized that the cases they had reviewed were not the only cases. There are thousands of others. Filing a First Information Report (FIR) is a big task in itself, it can take 1-2 years to get the police to register a complaint, so you can imagine how difficult it is for people to fight for justice. Then there is a phase of investigation and sometimes the charge sheets have not been honored. This is especially true in circumstances where the army feels itself above the law'. Repression and cover-up has become institutionalized, Khurram said. In terms of delivering justice, he emphasized that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) 'has become one of the factors of impunity. It has to go.'

reasons relating to disappearances was the monetary incentive for killing a 'militant' in Kashmir. 'If you want to make money you have to kill a militant.' According to government figures, since there are only 150 militants left in Jammu and Kashmir, invariably those killed were claimed to be unidentified foreign militants. But he said, 'how do you know the nationality of people if they are unidentified?'

Turning to discuss the role of the international community, Mr. Parvez related how previously it had used human rights abuses to push India towards dialogue. But, he said, the Indian government views dialogue as an 'end in itself' and the rights of the people cannot wait for the resolution of the dispute. We are being held hostage for even our basic needs. Even when dialogue is taking place, human rights are being abused. We accept that the Indian government needs some time for resolution but that does not mean the rights of the people should be suspended. We believe there has to be a process, now in Kashmir, for improving human rights abuses on the pattern of special procedures. If it was done for Sri Lanka

and Rwanda why not for Kashmir?' 'Human rights are a world problem,' Mr. Parvez added. They are not an internal matter. We have seen the transformation of the movement from violence to nonviolence in Kashmir.' But, he warned, there was a trend among young people again resorting to violence. 'It is very sad for us, that young people should want to use violence. But the argument they use is that our voice does not reach anywhere.' While India continues to 'legitimize' its presence, Mr. Parvez pleaded for the international community, whose assistance to date had been 'dismal' and all the organizations working for Kashmir to bring pressure to lobby for a United Nations 'probe' on the situation in Kashmir. Without such intervention, he said, 'we cannot proceed forward. We are now at a stage where it is a complete dead end. We have and can be reached at: WhatsApp: 1-202-607-

done everything; we have met everyone in the

Mr. Parvez also explained that one of the main government, but nothing has changed.

Now, back to 'The Structure of Violence' (TSOV) report. It is a detailed report on torture by Indian military and paramilitary forces in Jammu & Kashmir. The report begins by saying that "Prepared over two years, this report is a part of the continuing work to understand and analyze the role of the Indian State in Jammu and Kashmir, an occupied territory internationally recognized as a disputed territory between India and Pakistan, that has resulted in widespread and systematic violence including the disappearance of 8000+ persons, 70,000+ deaths, 6000+ unknown, unmarked and mass graves, and countless cases of torture and sexual violence." It continues, "Human rights groups, activists, journalists, filmmakers, lawyers and civil society groups have written, filmed, documented, litigated, brought attention to, and reproduced material that has repeatedly highlighted the violence and politics of the Indian State and the everyday militarized reality of Jammu and Kashmir.

May I quote just few more excerpts from TSOV report as symbolic of the nightmare of the people of Kashmir. May I also add that hundreds of such and even more horrifying incidents of inhumanity are recorded in these pages. TSOV report, while illustrating the patterns of violence through individual case studies, is directly concerned with identifying the structure, forms, and tactics of violence of the Indian State in Jammu and Kashmir. How did/does the Indian State perpetrate this violence? What precisely is the structure, physical and institutional, through which weapons, ammunition, soldiers, officers, camps, and battalions inflict violence on the people of Jammu and Kashmir? Where is the control? The driving motivation of this exercise is, as has always been Responsibility. Who do we hold responsible for the individual and collected acts of violence?

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Taiwan, China hold opposing military drills amid tensions

China to send troops to Russia for 'Vostok' exercise

BEIJING/HUALIEN: Taiwan is staging military exercises to show its ability to resist Chinese pressure to accept Beijing's political control over the self-governing island, following new rounds of threatening drills from China.

The exercises Wednesday off the southeastern county of Hualien follow days of Chinese missile firings and incursions into Taiwan's sea and airspace by ships and planes from the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of China's ruling Communist Party.

"We strongly condemn Communist China's continuous military provocations around Taiwan's sea and air that undermine regional peace," Taiwan Defense Ministry spokesperson Sun Li-fang told reporters at Hualien Air

"Communist China's military operations just provide us with the opportunity for combat-readiness training," Sun said.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Joanne Ou said China was using recent visits by U.S. Congress members including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as a pretext for escalat-



ing its attempts to intimidate Taiwan nizing its sovereignty. into accepting what it calls its terms for "peaceful reunification."

"China launched military provocations on these grounds. This is absurd and a barbaric act, which also undermines regional stability and interferes with shipping and commercial activities in the Indo-Pacific region," Ou

China sees the island as a breakaway province to be annexed by force if necessary, and considers visits to Taiwan by foreign officials as recog-

Alongside its military threats, China imposed visa bans and other sanctions Tuesday on Taiwanese political figures. China exercises no effective legal authority over Taiwan and it's unclear what effect the sanctions would have.

China has refused all contact with Taiwan's government since shortly after the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party. Tsai was overwhelmingly reelected in 2020.

The DPP also controls the legislature, while the vast majority of Taiwanese favor maintaining the status quo of de facto independence along with strong economic and social connections between the sides.

China accuses Washington of encouraging the island's independence through the sale of weapons and engagement between U.S. politicians and the island's government. The U.S. says it does not support independence and has no formal diplomatic ties with the island, but it is legally bound to ensure Taiwan can defend itself against threats from China, including a blockade.

Aside from putting its military on alert, Taiwan has largely played down the threat from the Chinese exercises and life has continued as normal among a population of 23 million that has lived under the shadow of bellicose rhetoric and saber rattling from China for more than seven decades.

Chinese troops will travel to Russia to take part in joint military exercises led by the host and including India, Belarus, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other countries, China's defence ministry said on Wednesday.

Seoul won't seek own nuclear deterrent: S Korean President

SEOUL: South Korea's president said Wednesday his government has no plans to pursue its own nuclear deterrent and called instead for more diplomacy in the face of growing North Korean nuclear weapons capabilities, even as the North test-fired two suspected cruise missiles.

The launches were detected from North Korea's western coast hours before South Korean President Yoon threat. The North describes such drills Suk Yeol used a news conference to as invasion rehearsals and has often urge Pyongyang to return to diplomacy aimed at exchanging denuclearization steps for economic benefits.

reveal the launches until after Yoon's yang, saying Seoul doesn't desire politiremarks, provided no immediate flight details about the North's weapons, including how they moved or how far

Yoon addressed reporters and that they United States and South Korea kick off outbreak it blames on the South. their biggest combined training in years next week to counter the North Korean food and healthcare and modernizing steps.



responded to them with missile tests or other provocations.

Yoon during the news conference South Korea's military, which didn't maintained a reserved tone on Pyongcal change in North Korea that's brought by force and that the rivals should aim at building sustainable peace.

Yoon's comments followed his Yoon's office said his national security proposal on Monday for an "audacious" director, Kim Sung-han, discussed the economic assistance package to North launch with other senior officials before Korea if it abandons its nuclear weapons program. He has avoided harsh criticism reviewed the South's military readi- of the North after it threatened "deadly" ness. Tensions could further rise as the retaliation last week over a COVID-19

Yoon's proposal for large-scale aid in

power and port infrastructure resembled previous South Korean offers that were rejected by North Korea, which is speeding its development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, seen by leader Kim Jong Un as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Still, Yoon expressed hope for "meaningful dialogue" with North Korea over his plan and stressed that Seoul is willing to provide corresponding economic rewards at each step of a phased denuclearization process if the North commits to a genuine "roadmap" toward fully abandoning its weapons program.

We are not telling them to 'denuclearize entirely first and then we will provide," Yoon said. "What we are saying is that we will provide the things we can in correspondence to their steps if they only show a firm determination (toward denuclearization)."

Inter-Korean ties have worsened amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the U.S. that derailed in early 2019 because of disagreements over a relaxation of crippling U.S.-led sanctions on the North in exchange for disarmament

Brazil's presidential campaign kicks off amid violence fears

JUIZ DE FORA: Brazil's concerns, according to his campaign officially began launched his seventh bid for Tuesday with former Pres- the presidency at a Volkswaident Luiz Inácio Lula da gen plant in Sao Bernardo do Silva leading all polls against Campo, a manufacturing city incumbent Jair Bolsonaro outside Sao Paulo where he amid growing concern of rose to fame as a union leadpolitical violence and threats er in the 1970s.

election campaign. Instead, the leftist er of political risk consul-

Da Silva, whose two-term spot in the city of Juiz de presidency ran from 2003 Fora where he was stabbed to 2010, has already taken by a mentally ill man on to wearing a bulletproof vest the campaign trail in 2018. for public appearances. He He arrived on a motorcywas scheduled to speak at cle surrounded by security an engine factory Tuesday guards and wearing a bulletmorning, but federal police proof vest, unlike in 2018 officers asked him to cancel when he plunged unprotect-

Creomar de Souza, foundtancy Dharma Politics, told The Associated Press that da Silva's visit to an auto plant is typical of Brazilian symbolism, evoking nostalgia of his first presidential run in 1989 and hinting at his lega-Bolsonaro revisited the cy. De Souza added that he expects candidates to attack one another more than pres-

> ent plans for voters. "I want this election to end as soon as possible with Lula winning it, so there's less risk of violence and more talk about the future," Vanderlei Cláudio, a metalworker, said

Bolsonaro's return to the site of his stabbing is an attempt to invoke the same outsider profile that enabled the seven-term lawmaker to cruise to victory in 2018, said Maurício Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro.

"For Bolsonaro, this is the image of himself as a rebel, anti-system candidate, and the attack on his life is central to that narrative," said Santoro. "For him and his supporters, the man who stabbed him was not a 'lone wolf', but part of a conspiracy of the political elite against

India flouts UN resolutions, allows its citizens to vote in IIOJK polls

SRINAGAR: In utter violation of the United Nations resolutions, the Modi led Indian government has allowed its citizens, temporarily residing in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, to vote in so-called assembly elections.

This was announced by the Indian Chief Electoral Officer for IIOJK chapter Hridesh Kumar Singh in a statement on Wednesday. He said, "Non-Locals residing in Jammu Kashmir can also vote in Assembly elections".

Chief Electoral Officer Hridesh Kumar Singh said that the final voter lists in IIOJK be released on November 25, 2022.

Hridesh Kumar Singh said those who are temporarily residing in Jammu Kashmir can vote by getting their names included in the voters' lists. "Non-Locals residing in Jammu Kashmir for work purpose, labour or studying in Jammu Kashmir can also vote. They can also register as voters online," he added.

Voters who will be of 18 years of age on 1 October 2022 or who have attained the age of 18 years before that can get their names included in the voter lists during this period.

The Election Commissioner stated that there was no bar for voting for non-locals or Indian citizens. "It does not matter how long one has been staying in Jammu Kashmir.

... Those living here on rent can also vote," the election Commissioner said.

Around 20 to 25 lakh new voters, mostly from India, will be included in the voters' list. It is worth mentioning here that after the report of the Delimitation Commission was implemented in IIOJK, the number of assembly seats has

gone upto 90. With the increase in the number of assembly seats, there has been a massive change in the electoral rolls and now the Indian citizens, present in IIOJK under any category, have been made eligible to get their names registered in voter lists.

Iran-Pakistan trade to develop via barter: Minister

TEHRAN: The Iranian minister of roads and urban development said that the barter exchange is among the important issues to be discussed in his negotiations in Pakistan.

Rostan Ghasemi made the remarks while speaking to IRNA in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Wednesday. Ghasemi arrived



The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to enhance cooperation with the eastern neighbor in the areas of energy, banking, and barter trade, the minister noted. He went on to say that holding joint commission meetings is an important way to widen cooperation among countries and follow up mutual agreements. About the two-day Iran-Islamabad joint economic commission, the minister said that the two sides are to sign different agreements on the second day. He further referred to the development of border markets as an effective way to improve and secure people's livelihood in the border cities. It was over five years ago that the two held their latest joint economic commission meeting in Tehran and now Islamabad is hosting the fresh round of the event.

Iraqi PM calls meeting of senior politicians to end crisis

BAGHDAD: Iraq's caretaker prime minister called a meeting of senior political leaders and party representatives Wednesday, seeking a way out of a months long crisis amid a power struggle between rival blocs. But the party of influential cleric Muqtada al-Sadr did not attend the gathering. The absence of al-Sadr's bloc effectively undermined Caretaker Prime

Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi's effort to resolve the 10-month crisis. Al-Sadr and his political rivals, have been at odds since after last year's parliamentary elections. Al-Sadr won the largest share of seats in the October vote but failed to form a majority government.

His bloc later resigned from parliament and his supporters last month stormed the parliament building in Baghdad. Al-Sadr has demanded that parliament be dissolved and early elections held.

After the meeting, a statement from al-Kadhimi's office said the discussions focused on possible solutions to the political crisis, prioritizing the maintaining of peace among Iraqis. Al-Sadr last Wednesday gave the judiciary a week to dissolve the legislature, to which it responded saying it has no authority to dissolve parliament.

On Saturday, he called on his followers to be ready to hold massive

protests all over Iraq but then indefinitely postponed them after groups called for similar rallies the same day, saying he wants to preserve peace and that "Iraqi blood is invaluable" to him.

EU to host Serbia-Kosovo talks in Brussels

BELGRADE: Wartime rivals Serbia and Kosovo are holding high-level crisis talks on Thursday which the European Union mediators hope will de-escalate growing tensions in the Balkans where Russia has been trying to further increase its influence amid the war in Ukraine.

Hopes that the rare face-to-face meeting between Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti, to be held in Brussels, could produce a major breakthrough are slim.

But Western officials overseeing the decades-old deadlock between the two neighbors hope that at least it could eliminate increasing warmongering rhetoric by both sides.

"All open issues will be addressed and should be addressed through the EU-facilitated dialogue," European Commission spokesperson for foreign affairs Nabila Massrali told reporters. "Both parties must end their hostilities at this point" and "act responsibly."

The latest tensions between Serbia and its former province of Kosovo ared late last month when Kurti's government declared that Serbian identity documents and vehicle license plates would no longer be valid on Kosovo territory. Under apparent pressure from the West, Kurti postponed the start of the implementation of the measure for a month to Sept. 1.

Ethiopian rebels propose humanitarian truce amid drought

NAIROBI: An Ethiopian rebel group has proposed a humanitarian truce to facilitate assistance to hungry people in the country's Oromia region as it warns of famine.

The Oromo Liberation Army has been engaged in a deadly conflict with the Ethiopian government, which has labeled it a terror group. The OLA statement on Wednesday came as the Horn of Africa faces severe drought due to multiple seasons of failed rains as well as conflict in some areas. The OLA offered "to cooperate with a declaration of humanitarian truce to allow humanitarian agencies to deliver assistance to affected areas," the statement by spokesman Odaa Tarbii said. The group added it will open a humanitarian corridor if the truce fails, "or until such is negotiated as the government of Ethiopia drags its feet."

A spokesman for Ethiopia's federal government, Legesse Tulu, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Oromia, the largest of Ethiopia's federal states, is one of the most severely affected drought areas in the country. The United Nations humanitarian agency this month said more than 20 million people in Ethiopia are estimated to be in need of assistance this year, nearly three-quarters of them women and children.

"Ethiopia is facing its worst drought in the past 40 years, and the impact is being felt in more areas in the south and east of the country," the agency said, noting worsening levels of malnutrition and the deaths of more than 3 million livestock.

Ukrainians flee grim life in Russian-occupied Kherson

KYIV: It was early one morning when life under Russian occupation became too much for Volodymyr Zhdanov: Rocket fire aimed at Ukrainian forces struck near his home in the city of Kherson, terrifying one of his two children.

His 8-year-old daughter "ran in panic to the basement. It was 2 o'clock in the morning and (she) was really scared," said Zhdanov, who later fled the city on the Black Sea and has been living in Kyiv, the capital, for the past three weeks.

Kherson, located north of the Crimean Peninsula that was annexed by Moscow in 2014, was the first city to fall after Russia's invasion on Feb. 24. The port remains at the heart of the conflict and Ukraine's efforts to preserve its vital access to the sea. For Russia, Kherson is a key point along the land corridor from its border to the peninsula.

Zhdanov and others who made the hazardous journey to escape from the region describe increasingly grim conditions there, part of \boldsymbol{a} heavy-handed effort by Russia to establish permanent control

The streets in the city, which had a prewar population of about 300,000, are mostly deserted. Rumors swirl about acts of armed resistance and the sudden disappearance of officials who refuse to cooperate with the Russian authorities.

Occupation forces patrol in markets to warn those trying to use the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia, in transactions. Pro-Moscow officials have been installed in local and regional governments, as well as on the police force. Workers at various municipal services face pressure to cooperate with Russian managers. Most schools have closed.

the event due to security ed into the thronging crowd. Bangladesh PM tells UN that Myanmar must take Rohingya back

DHAKA: Bangladesh's leader told a visiting U.N. official on Wednesday that hundreds of thousands of ethnic minority Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh must return home to Myanmar, where they had fled waves

of violent persecution. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the comment to U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. Bachelet arrived on Sunday and Bazar district near the border with Myanmar.

"The Rohingya are nationals of Myanmar and they have to be taken back," Hasina was quoted as saying by her press secretary,

Ihsanul Karim.

Muslim Rohingya face widespread discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where most are denied citizenship and many other rights. More than 700,000 fled to Bangladesh starting in late August 2017 when the Myanmar military launched a "clearance operation" against them following attacks by a rebel Myanmar has worsened following a military takeover last year.

Currently, Bangladesh is hostvisited Rohingva camps in Cox's ing more than 1 million Rohing-

The refugees will mark the fifth anniversary of their latest influx in Bangladesh amid botched attempts to send them home. Earlier this month, Bang-



group. The safety situation in ladesh sought cooperation from China in repatriating Rohingya to Myanmar during a visit by Foreign Minister Wang Yi. China had brokered a November 2017 agreement with Myanmar aimed at sending them back.

Hasina and several Cabinet ministers earlier expressed frustration over what they called Myanmar's inaction in taking

them back under the agree- tions exist and that any returns ment. The U.N. and Bangladesh authorities have tried at least twice to began repatriations, but the refugees refused to go, citing safety concerns in Myanmar. When Bachelet visited the camps on Wednesday, refugees urged the U.N. to help improve safety inside Myanmar so they can return. The U.N. said in a statement that the refugees described "their grievances, their pains" to Bachelet. "When our rights are respect-

again, and we can have land, and we can feel that we are part of the country," it quoted refugees as telling her. Bachelet emphasized the importance of ensuring that safe and sustainable condi-

be conducted in a voluntary and dignified way, it said.

"The U.N. is doing the best we can to support them. We'll continue doing that," she said. "But we also need to deal with the profound roots of the problem. We need to deal with that and ensure that they can go back to Myanmar -- when there are conditions for safety and voluntary return."

In March, the United States said the oppression of Rohingya ed, we can have our livelihoods in Myanmar amounts to genocide after authorities confirmed accounts of mass atrocities against civilians by Myanmar's military in a widespread and systematic campaign against the ethnic minority.



Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
43,676.56	43,436.48	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
43,736.43	43,389.48	
Index Value	Change	
8,099,477,923	+ 240.08	
Percentage	Time	
+ 0.55%	17 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7,515.75	-20.31	
Percentage	Time	
-0.27%	17 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
33,834.04	-317.97	
Percentage	Time	

	GIVI I-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average				
Index Value	Change			
29,222.77	+353.86			
Percentage	Time			
+1.23%	17 Aug, 3:15 pm			

-0.93%

17 Aug, 11:48 am

GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	149.97	151.22
Bahrain Dinar	568.98	573.48
Canadian Dollar	166.18	167.53
China Yuan	31.51	31.76
Danish Krone	29.26	29.61
Euro	212	216
Hong Kong Dollar	27.29	27.64
Indian Rupee	2.69	2.77
Japanese Yen	1.52	1.58
Kuwaiti Dinar	696.92	701.92
Malaysian Ringgit	47.97	48.42
NewZealand \$	135.54	136.74
Norwegians Krone	22.09	22.39
Omani Riyal	555.71	560.21
Qatari Riyal	58.77	59.27
Saudi Riyal	56.1	57
Singapore Dollar	155.12	156.42
Swedish Korona	20.75	21.05
Swiss Franc	225.03	226.78
Thai Bhat	6.65	6.75
U.A.E Dirham	57.3	58.2
UK Pound Sterling	253	259
US Dollar	212.15	215

Lucky Cement awarded environment excellence award 2022

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited (psx: LUCK) won the Environment Excellence Award at the 19th Annual Environment Excellence Awards 2022, organized by The National Forum of Environment and Health (NFEH). The award ceremony was held at a local hotel on 16 August,

Lucky Cement received the award in recognition to its commitment towards sustainable development and contribution towards protecting the overall environment for a greener Pakistan. Instituted seventeen years ago, The Annual Environment Excellence Awards are the benchmark for environmental standards

Speaking of the occasion, Mr. Amin Ganny, Chief Operating Officer, Lucky Cement Limited, said, "We at Lucky Cement believe in environment-friendly practices and are committed towards conserving the environment."

He further added that "Implementation of sustainability into our core business operations has always been one of our main objectives. We follow a comprehensive Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan. The management strongly believes in preserving the ecosystem through the management of gaseous emissions, particulate matter, noise levels, effluents (sewage) and solid waste."

Sustainable development forms a significant part of Lucky Cement's business strategies and is one of the key factors that have led the company towards progress and growth. Lucky Cement also holds the prestigious ISO 14001 certification for environmental management, ISO 9001 certificate for its quality management system, and OHSAS 18001 for its occupational health and

The National Forum for Environment & Health was established in 1999 and is a non-profit organization with the aim to facilitate and promote environmental, healthcare, and educational awareness amongst the masses. The NFEH is an accredited NGO with United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) and its activities have been appreciated &supported by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Governor of Punjab, Federal and Provincial Ministries of Environment.

FPCCI for enhancing Pak-Turkiya trade

 $"Workshop on the {\it Promotion} \ and \ Development \ of the \ Islamic \ Countries \ Common \ Market \ and \ Exchange$ Project", held at Ankara

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/ANKARA: "Workshop on the Promotion and Development of the Islamic Countries Common Market and Exchange Project", which was held with the contributions of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Economic and Commercial Cooperation Standing Committee (COMCEC), OIC Research and Training Center (SESRIC) and Ankara Commodity Exchange (ATB) in Ankara.

In the workshop where the steps taken within the scope of the project, which envisages the establishment of a database, information network and web page among small-scale enterprises, family farmers and cooperatives in OIC member countries, the promotion and development of the web portal (www.icpcem.com) were also discussed.

Mehmet Daniş, Deputy Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, shared information on trade between Islamic countries at the workshop.



more important point than production, per existing potential which is currently at Mr. Umar Masood Ur Rehman, Vice Pres- 132 billion dollar. In other words, it correident Federation Of Pakistan Chamber sponds to 11 percent of the world's agriculof Commerce & Industry drew the attentural exports while we cover a population and urged on Cooperation and solidarity tion of the audience to the fact that trade of 21 percent.

Pointing out that trade has come to a between Islamic countries is not enough as

Stating that the e-commerce sector is growing all over the world, Umar Masood Ur Rehman said, "We also need to develop our trade in accordance with the new rules with the platform will increase.

Non-stop increase in electricity rates | Turkish Business forum hitting masses, businesses

Atif Ikram Sheikh says power price hike likely to increase theft

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Wednesday said due to the continuous increase in the price of electricity, the problems of the people and the business community are increasing, while the export sector is losing its ability to compete in the international market.

The prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products are already at record levels and it is unnecessary to increase them further, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that instead of increasing the price of electricity, theft and line losses should be reduced, recovery should be improved and the transmission system should be developed.

By increasing the cost of electricity, the rate of increase in circular debt will



decrease, while theft is likely to increase, he said, adding that the electricity tariff in the UK has been increased by 30% due to which the theft has increased up to thirteen percent while the electricity tariff in Paki-

stan has increased by forty-two percent in few months.

The business leader said that steps should be taken to remove the problems of the business community so that they can work with peace of mind.

Actions that create chaos in the business environment and affect investment should be avoided, he added.

The private sector is trying to increase the income of the government through production and exports, providing employment and earning foreign exchange, therefore it should be provided enabling envi-

Facilities for the productive sector will increase the speed of the country's development but due to rising energy prices and supply disruptions, many factories have been shut down that needs to be made operational again.

calls on President AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has Azad Kashmir offers numerous investment opportunities to foreign investors especially in tourism, hydro and construction sectors.

The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Turkish Business Forum that called him here on Wednesday. Led by Huseyin Nasar, the delegation comprised of Gokmen Ayyildiz, Tugba Kocatas, Menekse Hifa, Zeeshan Altaf Lohya, Hisham Gulriz.

Referring to the region's environment business and government's friendly investment policies, Barrister Chaudhary said that government would provide said that massive potential in all possible assistance to foreign investors. Briefing the president about the purpose of their visit, the delegation expressed their interest in trade and investment in Azad Kashmir. Barrister Chaudhry assured the Turkish Business Forum that the AJK government would provide all possible support, assistance and facilities in this regard. The Turkish Business Forum also invited the President to visit Turkey, which he accepted.

BOP partners with Metropolitan Corporation Lahore

LAHORE: To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Independence Day, the Bank of Punjab is proud to sponsor the construction of one of the highest flag posts, in any metropolitan city of Pakistan, at Center Point, Lahore. The ground breaking ceremony was held on 14th August 2022.

The ground breaking ceremony was performed jointly by Captain (R) Muhammad Usman (Commissioner Lahore Division) and Mr. Zafar Masud (President & CEO-The Bank of Punjab) in the presence of a large number of public and officials from the Bank and district management.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Zafar Masud (President & CEO - The Bank of Puniab) said: "This year we are celebrating the diamond jubilee of our independence. This day reminds us of the infinite number of sacrifices given by the nation under the patriotic leadership of Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Today we also pray for the sustainable development of our dear country and pay tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of personnel of the Security Agencies and Armed Forces of Pakistan in testing times."



people are no strangers to hard times, 'We are not ones to shy away in the face of adversity. This country has been bestowed with the spirit of resilience, brave sacrifice, and perseverance. The same spirit has seen us safely through many trials, and continues to guide us to this day."

Zafar Masud, highlighting the achievements of The Bank of Punjab said that He also said that Pakistan and its BOP achieved remarkable success in to our society, and to our nation."

recent times, in all parts, due to our capable teams and leadership. We have achieved these successes in the midst of challenging conditions. He further said "As we raise the flag to mark the 75 years of our country's independence, let us also look courageously ahead to the tasks before us. Let us recognize the significance of doing our duty - to our families,

New UK trade scheme paves way for increase in Pak exports

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On Tuesal Trade Secretary, The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, launched the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), providing tariff reductions and simpler terms of trade to 65 countries, including Pakistan, which will be implemented

early next year. The scheme will help these countries grow and prosper, and in turn tackle poverty by harnessing the power of trade. The DCTS replaces the UK's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), a preferential trading system that provides tariff removals and reductions on various products.

will continue to benefit from the UK.



duty-free exports to the UK. In addition, the DCTS will remove tariffs on over 156 additional products. It will also simplify some seasonal tariffs, meaning additional and simpler access for Pakistan's exports to the UK.

Total trade (goods and services) between the UK and Pakistan each year currently stands £2.9bn. In total, 94% of goods exported from Pakistan will be eligi-Under the DCTS, Pakistan ble for duty-free access to

MCB's Profit Before Tax increased by 30%

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Board of Directors of MCB Bank Limited (MCB) in its meeting under the Chairmanship of Mian Mohammad Mansha, on August 17, 2022, reviewed the performance of the Bank and approved the interim financial statements for the half year ended June 30, 2022. The Board of Directors has declared a 2nd interim cash dividend of Rs. 4.0 per share i.e 40%, in addition to 50% already paid, bringing the total cash dividend for the half year ended June 30, 2022 to 90%.

With strong build up in core earnings, MCB's Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the half vear ended June 30, 2022 increased to Rs 32.5 billion with a historic high PBT of second quarter of Rs. 17.6 billion. Retrospective application of tax amendments along with higher tax rates for current period enacted through Finance Act, 2022 resulted into 87% effective tax rate for second quarter. Profit After Tax (PAT) registered a decline of 25% from Rs. 14.74 billion to Rs. 11.13 billion; translating into Earning Per Share (EPS) of Rs. 9.39

compared to an EPS of Rs. 12.44.

On the back of strong volumetric growth in current account and favorable yield curve movements, net interest income for H1'22 increased by 24% over corresponding period last year. YoY average current deposits of the Bank registered a growth of Rs. 86.30 billion (+17%) while the CASA deposits averaged at Rs. 1,366



billion; hence, the average CASA to total deposits ratio was measured at a level of 93% in H1'22.

Non-markup income registered a growth of 36% and aggregated to Rs. 12.90 billion against Rs. 9.50 billion in the corresponding period last year. The growth achieved is broad based and driven primarily by the prudent positioning of

foreign exchange assets/liabilities amidst comparatively favorable swap curves and diversification of revenue streams through continuous enrichment of service suite while upholding highest service standards; foreign exchange, dividend income and fee & commission income rose by 195%, 28% and 12% respectively.

MCB strives to inculcate operational efficiencies across its entire spectrum through optimization, automation and streamlining of business processes. This relentless focus has enabled the Bank to prudently manage its operating expense base despite sustained inflationary pressures due to currency devaluation and rising commodity prices, higher compliance related regulatory charges, expansion in branch outreach and regular performance and merit adjustments of the Human Capital.

For H1'22, the operating expenses of the Bank were recorded at Rs. 19.44 billion, growing by a modest 13% year on year, while the cost to income ratio significantly improved to 38% from 42% reported in corresponding period last year.

Engro Corporation 1H 2022 Results

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's premier conglomerate, Engro Corporation (PSX: ENGRO) announced its financial results for the first half of the year ending June 30, 2022. Engro Corporation's stan-

dalone revenue increased from PKR 8.6 bn in 1H 2021 to PKR 16.6 bn in 1H 2022, exhibiting a substantial growth of 92%. Higher revenue was primarily due to higher dividends received from Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited (EPCL) and Engro Fertilizers Limited (EFERT) which, in turn, were driven by strong underlying business performance. Resultantly, the Company achieved a 29% higher PAT of PKR 12.5 bn in 1H 2022 against PKR 9.7 bn in 1H 2021, translating into an EPS of PKR 21.66 per share (2021: PKR 16.81 per share).

On a consolidated basis, Engro Corporation's revenue in 1H 2022 from PKR 139.3 bn in 1H 2021. The Company posted a PAT of PKR 16.8 bn in 1H 2022, which is 42%

lower than PKR 29.1 bn in 1H 2021. The PAT attributable to the shareholders is PKR 7.4 bn, translating into an EPS of PKR 12.87 per share (1H 2021: PKR 29.60 per share). Despite organic revenue growth, imposition of super tax on current and prior year earnings weighed on the conglomerate's consolidated profitability.

Engro Corporation announced an interim cash dividend of PKR 11/- per share for the year. This is in addition to the PKR 12/per share dividend that has already been announced during the year, bringing the cumulative payout to PKR 23/- per share.

Fertilizers: The domestic urea market exhibited growth of ~12% in 1H 2022. EFERT sales remained steady during the year touching 1,098 KT versus 1,167 KT during same period last year. By enabling indigenous production of urea, EFERT contributgrew by 27% to PKR 177.5 bn ed ~USD 0.8 bn in import substitution for Pakistan, and sold urea at a discount

Pakistan to host 10 Test playing nations between 2023, 2027

ACC 50-over Asia Cup 2023 and ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will be also staged

Example 2 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Player workload management, meaningful and exciting bilateral cricket, and preparations for the ICC global events were the cornerstones of the Pakistan Cricket Board's strategy and philosophy while preparing the men's Future Tours Programme 2023-2027, which was confirmed and unveiled on Wednesday

The PCB has scheduled around 238 days of international cricket during the four-year period comprising 27 ICC World Test Championship fixtures (13 home and 14 away), 47 One-Day Internationals (26 home and 21 home) and 56 Twenty20 Internationals (27 home and 29 away).

These include matches in the ACC 50-over Asia Cup and the ICC Champions Trophy, which Pakistan will stage in 2023 and 2025, respectively. The number of matches may increase depending on where Pakistan finishes in the ICC and ACC events between 2023 and 2027, as well as in the 2025 and 2026 three-nation ODI series.

The Future Tours Programme is prepared collectively by the ICC Member Boards. As such, the PCB will continue to work with its fellow Members and may include more matches and/or series, depending on the player availability and window for international cricket in the calendar.

In the ICC World Test Championship 2023-2025, Pakistan will play Tests against Australia (away), Bangladesh (home), England (home), South Africa (away), Sri Lanka (away) and West Indies (home), while their matches in the 2025-2027 championship are against Bangladesh (away), England (away), New Zealand (home), South Africa (home), Sri Lanka (home) and West Indies (away).

The three-nation ODI series has returned to Pakistan's calendar for the first time since 2004-05. New Zealand and South Africa will join Pakistan in the tri-series in 2025, which will take place in the build-up to the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, while England and Sri Lanka will participate in the series in October/November 2026.

matches with one-eye on the ICC global events. While Pakistan will host the Asia Cup 2023 and triangular series in February 2025 in the lead up to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, respectively, it will play 11 T20Is against the Netherlands, Ireland and England in the build up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be jointly hosted by the United States and the

World Cup 2026, which will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, Pakistan will play Australia in three home T20Is.

Apart from Australia, three other sides-Afghanistan, Ireland and Zimbabwe-will also play white-ball matches in Pakistan between 2023 and 2027.

Pakistan's FTP 2023-2027 reflects that it will play hosts to 10 out of 12 ICC Full Member nations for the first time in more than two decades.

PCB Chief Executive Faisal Hasnain: "While finalising our Future Tours Programme 2023-2027 in a tight and

The PCB has scheduled white-ball densely-packed cricket calendar, we have given priority to context, quality and player workload. We have also tried to find an appropriate balance across all the three formats so that these continue to co-exist meaningfully.

"I am sure that our cricket fans will be delighted to know that top-ranked and attractive sides such as Bangladesh, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies will visit Pakistan to compete in matches for the ICC World Test Championship. Addi-Likewise, ahead of the ICC Men's T20 tionally, Afghanistan, Australia, Ireland and Zimbabwe will also tour Pakistan for the white-ball matches, which means 10 of the 12 ICC Full Members will play cricket in Pakistan during the four-year period. This is exciting!

"We are also mindful that our sides must be provided with the best preparation opportunities so that they perform strongly in ICC competitions. Accordingly, this has also been an integral part of our strategy around scheduling, as we have scheduled appropriate international matches in the lead up to the ICC events.

Brazil-Argentina World Cup qualifier cancelled RIO DE JANEIRO: Last year's aborted World Cup qualifi-

er between Brazil and Argentina will not be replayed, the two South American countries' football associations said on Tuesday.

The original fixture, in September last year, was halted when Brazilian health officials stormed onto the pitch after seven minutes in Sao Paulo, alleging Covid-19 quarantine breaches

But with nothing riding on the match as both countries have already qualified for the World Cup, which begins in Qatar on November 20, they had pleaded with world football's governing body FIFA to cancel the match definitively. "The Brazil-Argentina match will not be played," the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) and Argentine Football Association (AFA) said in a joint statement.

"AFA, CBF and FIFA have resolved the dispute at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)." Both countries argued that playing the match as scheduled on September 22 would adversely affect their World Cup preparations.

FIFA ruled in February that the game must be replayed and in May it rejected an appeal by both federations to have the match cancelled, while also hitting them with fines worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The two federations then took their case to CAS, which was due to rule this month. Both countries qualified for the World Cup with several matches to spare in the single South American qualifying group.

Even if the match were replayed, its result could not affect the outcome of qualifying, with Brazil topping the group and Argentina finishing second. Brazil have won the World Cup a record five times while reigning Copa America holders Argentina are twice champions.

Nooh Butt receives warm welcome at airport



ISLAMABAD: Commonwealth gold medal-winning weightlifter Nooh Dastagir Butt received a warm welcome from his fans and officials of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) upon his arrival at Islamabad International Airport from Konya, Turkiye on Wednesday.

Director General PSB Col (retd) Muhammad Asif Zaman also welcomed Nooh Butt at the airport. He said Nooh Butt was the pride of the nation.

Nooh claimed gold for Pakistan in the recently-held Commonwealth Games 2022 in men's 109+ kg at Birmingham.

The 24-year-old set a new Games record of 173kg in the snatch portion of the event after lifting 170kg in his first attempt. In Clean and Jerk, he lifted 232kg, totaling 405kg to claim gold

However, he was unable to put up an impressive show at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Konya, held soon after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games. In total, he lifted 378kg to

Roglic targets fourth Vuelta a Espana title

UTRECHT: Cycling's Vuelta a Espana embarks Friday with defending champion Primoz Roglic chasing an unprecedented fourth straight victory over a mountainous 3,280km route that begins, however, on the flatlands of the Netherlands.

After the Giro d'Italia started in Budapest and the Tour de France in Copenhagen, both to rousing support from roadside fans, the final grand tour of the season begins its 21-day odyssey with a 23km team time-trial around Utrecht. It is home terrain for Slovenian Roglic's Jumbo team. They are Dutch-based and include three Dutch riders in Sam Oomen, Robert Gesink and Mike Teunissen. "We have a nice and balanced team at the start that can optimally support Primoz in all areas," Jumbo director Merijn Zeeman said.

The flat Dutch terrain means stages two and three are likely to culminate in mass sprints, so Jumbo's best chance on home soil is the opening day team race. The 23 teams, which start with 184 riders, transfer to Spain on Monday, and start climbing at once with all six stages before the next rest day in medium or high mountains. The race winds through the rugged terrain of the Basque Country and Asturias, where plenty of travelling Dutch fans are expected. Stage five ends in Bilbao, near Frank Gehry's landmark Guggenheim museum, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Stage eight and nine in Asturias offer climbers the chance to gain serious time. After a second rest day, the race swoops south where the kind of sizzling temperatures that affected the Tour de France could play a roll. An individual time-trial on stage 10 should provide a minor shake up while the cliff-perched city of Ronda hosts the start of stage 13.

A mountaintop finish, more than 2,500m high in the Andalusian Sierra Nevada may provide some drama on stage 15. The race might only be settled on stage 20 with a series of climbs designed to produce a final showdown on the road towards

Jacobs storms to Euro 100m crown

MUNICH: Olympic champion Marcell Jacobs put an injury-ravaged season behind him to storm to gold in the 100m gold in the European Athletics Championships in Munich on Tuesday.

Jacobs, who was world indoor 60m champion in Belgrade in March, but withdrew before the semi-finals of the 100m at last month's world championships in Oregon, clocked a championship record-equalling time of 9.95 seconds. Defending champion Zharnel Hughes claimed silver in 9.99sec with another Briton, Jeremiah Azu, taking bronze in 100m silver in the last Euro-

"This was a difficult season with problems, with injury," in 2016, threw herself at said the 27-year-old Italian, the line to clock 10.99sec who has been beset by leg for a photo-finish victory injuries and who compet- over Switzerland's Mujinga ed with a heavily-strapped Kambundji. Britain's Daryll left calf in Munich. "My leg Neita took bronze with is special." is not good and I am not 11.00sec, while her teamsome problems. "But I am with injury halfway through Olympic and world indoor I've now got the European gold. I've got to get the world championship gold now."

In a heady night of track and field at a packed Olym-



crowd went wild as unheralded home favourite Gina Lueckenkemper pulled off a shock by winning the women's blue riband sprint. pean champs in Berlin in 2018 and 200m bronze happy about how the race mate, defending champion. conditions, retaining their titles in no little style.

First up was Norway's bettering the previous best pic Stadium, the raucous Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who of 8.47m set by Germany's

dominated the 5,000m to keep a repeat double bid on track. The 21-year-old, crowned world champion over the distance at last The 25-year-old, who won month's worlds in Eugene, timed 13min 21.13sec. "I believe in myself and I believe in the things I have

> iump champion Miltiad Greek soared out to 8.52m on his fourth attempt.

done before. It was amaz-

ing here today, it was a

great race to be a part of,"

said Ingebrigtsen. "It feels

Christian Reif in Barcelona in 2010. Then came the turn of the doyenne of the women's discus, Croatia's Sandra Perkovic.

The 32-year-old Croat left it late, going out to a winning 67.95 metres on her fifth attempt for gold. It was a record sixth successive European title, the two-time Olympic and world champion having first won the continental competition in Barcelona in 2010. "I just won my sixth European title here at this beautiful stadium in front of this amazing crowds, so I am so happy and proud tonight," said Perkovic. "I knew I was ready to do it and I think the fight was nice."

There was also drama in the decathlon as Germany's Niklas Kaul snatched gold from Swiss rival Simon great to be back and win, it Ehammer on the back of a monstrous 76.05m in the Greece's defending long javelin and a personal best of 4:10.04 in the strength-sap went technically, there were Dina Asher-Smith, pulled up is Tentoglou, the reigning ping final 1500m. After also registering 11.16sec over the moon with the gold the race and finished last. A champion who won world in the 100m, 7.10m in the medal. After Olympic gold, trio of proven performers silver in Eugene, then set long jump, 14.90m in the had earlier showed off their a championship record to shot put, 2.02m in the prowess in perfect, balmy retain his Euro title. The high jump, 47.87sec in the 400m, 14.45sec in the 110m hurdles and 41.80m in the discus, Kaul was left with

Changsha Marathon 2022 to be held in Nov

CHANGSHA: The Changsha Marathon 2022 is to be held on November 6, reintegrating runners back to the course after two years of online events, organizers told a press conference on Wednesday.

The course will take in several tourist attractions in Changsha, with registration open from August 18. The event consists of three categories: full marathon, half marathon, and a fun run. The number of runners will reach 8,000 for the full marathon, 12,000 for the half marathon and 4,000 for the fun run, according to officials.

The Changsha Marathon was first held in 2015. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event has been held online for the last two

Squash Tournament begins in Kohat

KOHAT: Malik Saad Shaheed Memorial Squash Tournament kicked off here at the Kohat sports Complex on Wednesday.

The tournament, organised under the spices of Malik Saad Sports Trust Kohat was officially inaugurated by President of Kohat Squash Association Muhammad Fagir Awan.

A total of 64 players in three different age groups are taking part in the three-day tournament. President of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Squash Association and Ex-World Champion Qamar Zaman will be the chief guest in the closing ceremony.

Not buying Man Utd, says Musk

WASHINGTON: Elon Musk tweeted on Tuesday that "I'm not buying any sports teams", calling a viral post about him purchasing Manchester United a joke.

The world's richest man has a habit of posting provocative statements on Twitter for fun and Musk was at it again when he told his more than 103 million followers: "Also, I'm buying Manchester United ur welcome." The billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO made the comment in reply to another of his tweets. about supporting both of the United States' two major political parties. The 51-year-old, who is embroiled in a lawsuit over his bid to buy Twitter, was subsequently asked on the platform if he was serious about owning Manchester United. "No, this is a long-running joke on Twitter. I'm not

buying any sports teams," Musk replied, after his original tweet garnered nearly 500,000 "likes" in a matter of hours. "Although, if it were any team, it would be



Man U. They were my fav team as a kid." Manchester United, one of the biggest clubs in world football but suffering a prolonged slump, are owned by the Glazer family. They have been targeted by angry fans. There was no immediate reaction from United or its owners to Musk's tweets. Shares of the team listed on the New York Stock Exchange are down year to date,

but ended Tuesday flat, with a market capitalization of \$2.1 billion. Despite calling it a joke, Musk's tweet could land him in trouble with US regulators.

The Glazers are the focus of fan fury after the team's dramatic fall from grace.

The Americans also own the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, an NFL franchise in Florida. United fans have protested against the team's senior management for poor performances in recent years, as well as their involvement in a plan to start a new "Super League" of Europe's richest teams. The Red Devils finished last season a lowly sixth in the English Premier League. United have made another poor start to the campaign under their new coach Erik ten Hag and are bottom of the table after two defeats in as many games. Fresh protests against the Glazers are planned ahead of United's next game, at home to fierce rivals Liverpool on August 22.

Serena trounced by Raducanu in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI: Serena Williams is dangerous and can come back that our careers have crossed. "All bowed out of the WTA/ATP Cincinnati Masters at the first hurdle on Tuesday, losing in straight sets to US Open champion Emma Raducanu as the end of her glittering career looms ever

Williams, who last week indicated that she is planning to retire after this month's US Open, was no match for British teenager Raducanu, who romped to a 6-4, 6-0 win. The 40-year-old Williams left the court swiftly after the defeat without speaking to television reporters and did not hold a press conference. Raducanu broke Williams at the start of both sets to claim victory in what was her first and likely last meeting with the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion. "I was nervous from the first point to the last," Raducanu said. "Serena ence of playing her and for the fact

from any situation. "I had to stay focused.

I'm so pleased I managed to keep my composure." Williams, winner of titles here in 2014 and 2015, was competing in only her fourth match of 2022 after starting her season at Wimbledon due to injury. Raducanu announced her intentions from the start with a break to love of Williams and never let up. The young Briton improved to 14 wins, 17 defeats since winning the Open last September from a qualifying start. Raducanu meanwhile said she was honoured to be part of the spectacle on Tuesday in what was one of Williams' final games as a professional. "We all need to honour Serena and her amazing

career," she said. "I'm so grateful for the experi-

al. It's a true honour to share the court with her." Raducanu never let Williams into the match. The young Londoner seeded 10th took a 4-1 lead in the opening set and completely swept the second, advancing on her first match point, an unreturnable serve. Raducanu committed a single unforced error in the opening set compared to a dozen for Williams. Williams' elder sister Venus took a 7-5, 6-1 loss earlier in the day, losing to 2016 champion Karolina Pliskova. In the men's draw of the ioint event, Nick Kyrgios began

she has achieved is inspiration-

Davidovich Fokina. The Australian marched through with 29 winners-including 10 aces-and three breaks of the Spaniard's serve to reach the

the last major US Open tune-up

with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Alejandro

second round. The 28th-ranked Kyrgios has won all 11 of his firstround matches this season and won his 22nd match since returning to the ATP in June after skipping the clay season. He now faces good friend Taylor Fritz after the American crushed Sebastian Baez 6-1, 6-1. "Physically, I didn't feel the best, but you have to keep pushing, keep trying," Kyrgios

"Alejandro's a hell of a player, he's got a lot of shots at his disposal. I had to serve well and dictate." the Montreal quarter-finalist added. "It was tricky conditions out there, the courts are a lot more lively than Montreal, it was harder to control the ball." It marked a happy return to Cincinnati for Kyrgios, who was fined a record \$113,000 during a spectacular meltdown at the tournament in 2019 "I've played some amazing



tennis here and had some crazy outbursts," he said.

"It's a flip of the coin as to which Kyrgios shows up here." Else-

where, Spanish third seed Carlos Italian 10th seed Jannik Sinner Alcaraz advanced in his tourna- celebrated his 21st birthday by ment debut, defeating American beating Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-7 Mackenzie McDonald 6-3, 6-2. (9/11), 6-4, 7-6 (8/6).