

Cheema's wife arrested
LAHORE (Agencies): Former Punjab governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema's wife, Rabia Sultan, was arrested by the police on Thursday as she appeared for her husband's hearing at an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader was presented in the court today after his judicial remand had expired. Cheema's wife was in the ATC to meet her husband.

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NAB summons Imran
ISLAMABAD (INP): The NAB has summoned PTI chairman once again on June 22 for an inquiry into the Toshakhana case. The anti-graft watchdog has summoned PTI chief again after the latter failed to appear the bureau on June 21. The anti-graft watchdog has summoned him in connection with an ongoing inquiry regarding misuse of authority, criminal breach of trust, and illegal gain in selling gifted state assets.

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PARIS: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif exchanging view with Managing Director, International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva.

Pakistan rejects peace talks with TTP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday rejected holding peace talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan due to its involvement in killing civilians and security personnel in the country.

"Pakistan will not negotiate with individuals who are responsible for the killing of Pakistani civilians and law enforcement officials," the Foreign Office spokesperson said at a weekly press briefing, referring to an earlier statement of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was responding to queries regarding the statement of the spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban government, Zabihullah Mujahid who offered mediation between the Pakistan government and TTP. On the life loss of Pakistanis in the capsized boat off the coast of Greece, she said 12 Pakistani nationals were among the 104 survivors, who were in good physical condition.

The spokesperson said the Greek authorities had recovered 84 bodies, however, the number and identification of Pakistani nationals among the deceased and missing was unconfirmed at the moment. Relevant authorities have started collecting DNA samples from the families of those suspected to be on board. She said Pakistan's ambassador Aamar Aftab and his team at the mission in Greece were working round the clock for recovery and identification of Pakistani nationals.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has spoken to his Greek counterpart to discuss arrangements for the recovery of the missing, identification of the bodies, and providing relief to the survivors, she added. The FO spokesperson said FM Bilawal Bhutto would undertake an official visit to Japan on July 2-3 July at the invitation of the Japanese Foreign

Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.

In Tokyo, the foreign minister will hold substantive talks with his counterpart and discuss bilateral trade and investment, cooperation in science and technology, education, information technology, culture, and human resource development. The two sides will also discuss important regional and global developments and cooperation and dialogue in multilateral forums.

The spokesperson announced that Pakistan and Kazakhstan would hold the second round of Bilateral Political Consultations on June 26 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Syed Ahsan Raza Shah will lead the Pakistan delegation while the Kazakh side will be led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Kanat Tumyst.

The two sides will review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations in political, trade, economic, connectivity, science and technology, and cultural and people-to-people relations. The FO spokesperson said thousands of people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were spending a homeless life and were unable to return to their homeland. "India must bring an end to the climate of fear and persecution in IIOJK and bring peace in the lives of the Kashmiri people," she said.

The spokesperson said Pakistan would continue to extend political, diplomatic, and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions. The inaugural session of the Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was held on February 28, 2020, in Islamabad.

Funeral prayers of two martyred troops offered: ISPR

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Funeral prayers of Sepoy Gul Rauf Shaheed (age 29 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat) and Sepoy Abid Ullah Shaheed (age 23 years, resident of District Karak) who embraced shahadat on 20 June 2023 when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan, were offered at Bannu and later at their hometowns.

The Shaheeds were laid to rest with full military honours, says an ISPR press release. Senior serving & retired officers/soldiers, relatives and large number of people attended the funerals. Pakistan Army remains committed to ensuring the defence of the motherland at all costs, it said.

KP Governor, CM call on President

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President, Dr Arif Alvi was called on by the KP Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan here at Governor House on Thursday.

During the meeting, overall law and order situation, administrative and financial affairs came under discussion. Development affairs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially of the merged districts came under discussion during the meeting.

Difficulties and problems confronted to tribal people after the merger and measures taken for its resolutions under the laws and constitution also came under discussion. During the meeting, matters related to financial and administrative problems of public sectors universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were also discussed.

Humayun Akhtar, Sarwar quit PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former federal minister Humayun Akhtar Khan has announced to quit PTI over May 9 protests. As per details, Humayun Akhtar said that he cannot stay in Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the current situation.

He said that the nation cannot forget the sacrifices of the armed forces. The May 9 incidents have hurt his family and the entire nation as they have always respected the armed forces of Pakistan. In a similar political happening today, former aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan on Thursday announced quitting the PTI over May 9 protests.

In a video statement, Ghulam condemned the May 9 violence, saying people involved in the attack on GHQ, Jinnah House and military memorials should be brought to justice. "I condemn individuals engaged in confrontation with state institution," Sarwar said and added that he had opposed the policy of confrontation within the party at every forum as well.

It is never too late to say no to injustice: PM

Prime Minister calls on int'l community to ensure fair, judicious distribution of resources; Premier, IMF MD discuss ongoing programme; meets John Kerry; Macron; urges support to developing states under New Global Financing Pact

PARIS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday called on the international community to come up with a plan for fair, equitable and judicious distribution of resources to ensure sustainable peace and harmony in the world.

Speaking here at the summit for a "New Global Financing Pact", he said North had made progress and they would look forward to implementing its experiences in Pakistan, for providing jobs and livelihoods and for promoting industry and agriculture by learning from its model of success. "It must be remembered that if South is in trouble the world can't move ahead. We are like one body and if one limb of the body is in trouble it is painful for the rest of the body as well."

The prime minister said last year, Pakistan faced devastating floods due to climate change and in those floods 33 million people were affected, millions of acres of standing crops were washed away, 1700 people including children died and half a million animals were drowned. Two million houses were either completely demolished or partially damaged, he said, adding the people of Pakistan bravely faced the devastating impacts of the floods.

He said his government had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars from its own scarce resources to give financial assistance to the flood affectees all over the country. "We are very grateful to friendly countries across the globe for the valuable and timely contribution," he added.

He said the international financial institutions agreed to give loans for help of millions of people, but it would have burdened Pakistan, further exacerbating the already precarious financial situation.

Shehbaz Sharif said he took the United Nations Secretary General to the flood affected areas where city after city was sunk. Thousands of women gave birth to children in the camps set up for the flood affectees, he recalled, adding in far flung areas, the government had to provide food, medicine, water and education at temporary camps.

He said the people of Pakistan faced crises and problems in the past courageously and they would also overcome the adverse effects of the floods. He urged the world to come forward to generously provide opportunity and assistance through a mechanism which satisfied the most vulnerable having bare minimum. "It will create harmony in terms of economic justice and fairness. It is never too late to say no to injustice." He appreciated French President Emmanuel Macron for organizing the summit to discuss the very important subject related to financing issues of humanity.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Managing Director International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva also met on the sidelines of New Global Financial Pact Summit here and exchanged views on the ongoing programme and cooperation between Pakistan and the IMF.

Recalling their recent telephone conversation on May 27, Shehbaz Sharif apprised Georgieva of Pakistan's economic outlook. The prime minister outlined the steps taken by the government for economic growth and stability. He underscored that all prior actions for the 9th

review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) had been completed and the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to fulfilling its obligations as agreed with the IMF.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the funds allocated under the IMF's EFF would be released as soon as possible. This would help strengthen Pakistan's ongoing efforts towards economic stabilisation, and bring relief to its people. The IMF managing director shared her institution's perspective on the ongoing review process. The meeting provided a useful opportunity to take stock of the progress in that context.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi and Pakistan's Ambassador to France, Asimfukhar Ahmad attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also said the realisation of the pledges for resources' mobilisation under the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP 27 was of the utmost importance.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Special US Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, on the sidelines of New Global Financing Pact Summit here, said being a common problem, the environmental issues required a joint strategy and efforts. Both the leaders expressed good wishes for each other.

(Continued on Back Page)

PHC directs Qureshi, Umar, Qaiser to appear before IHC

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has disposed-off three writ petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Ali Muhammad Khan, Asad Qaiser and Noor-ul-Haq Qadri regarding submission of records of cases as well as exclusion from No-Fly List respectively, on Thursday.

PHC's divisional bench comprised of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice SM Attique has disposed-off petition of former Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Noor-ul-Haq after assurance by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) regarding Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri shouldn't be enlisted in Exit Control List. The counsel Qazi Jawad Ihsanullah Advocate informed that Noor-ul-Haq Qadri has enlisted in No-fly list while the petitioner is going for pilgrim and on 23rd June last Hajj plight is scheduled for Saudi Arabia. During hearing Assistant Director FIA Abdur Rehman Afridi appeared before PHC.

However, AD FIA informed that petitioner can perform Hajj and can go aboard because Noor-ul-Haq didn't enlisted in Exit Control List while PHC has disposed-off the writ petition.

Moreover, the same bench has disposed-off former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser following submission record of cases registered against

him while Additional Advocate General informed that only one First Information Report (FIR) has registered against former speaker. The counsel Shah Faisal Ottomankhel and Sher Afzal Advocates argued that former Speaker is willing to appear before competent forums in cases against him but the petitioner didn't know about number of FIRs registered in 9th & 10th May vandalism.

Another, PHC's divisional bench comprised of Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Shakeel Ahmad disposed-off writ petition following inform by Additional Advocate General Nisar Ahmad that Ali Muhammad Khan is under trail in case registered Anti-corruption while no other cases are registered against him. Meanwhile, Justice Waqar Ahmad has granted transit bail to PTI's vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi and general secretary Asad Umar till today (Friday) and ordered to appear before Islamabad High Court.

The counsel Shah Faisal Ottomankhel and Sher Afzal Marwat Advocate argued that concerned Session Judge has rejected bail petitions of PTI leaders in case registered Islamabad while added that the petitioners are appearing IHC but there are fear police will arrest them in their way court. Justice Waqar Ahmad granted one day transit bail to PTI's

leaders and stopped police their arrest while ordered Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Asad Umar to appear before Islamabad High Court.

Vice chairman said that last meeting with Imran Khan was good and no discussion was made regarding minus one (minus Imran Khan). He claimed that PTI is national party and he will stand till last with Imran Khan. PTI vice chairman thanked Chief Justice PHC for enlisting their petitions as well as Insaf Law Forum for arguing the case before court while addressing media personnel after appearance before court.

LHC disposes of Pervaiz Elahi's pleas

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday disposed of the pleas of former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi for protective bail in two different cases after the pleas were withdrawn over the non-appearance of Pervaiz Elahi's senior lawyer.

The LHC had reconducted the hearing on the pleas of Pervaiz Elahi for protective bail in two cases. LHC judge Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq heard the pleas. "If the senior lawyer does not appear, both the pleas will be dismissed as inadmissible," the LHC judge.



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Shalimar Express Train to run via Faisalabad

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Railways will operate 27-Up/28-Down Shalimar Express Train via Faisalabad to Karachi instead of Sahiwal to facilitate passengers from July 01. PR sources said on Thursday the train will leave Lahore and Karachi at the same time 6:00 am for its destinations via Faisalabad.

On its way to Karachi, the train will reach Faisalabad at 8:10 a.m. and will leave after 5 minutes. The train will reach at Karachi at 12:55 in the night. Whereas, on its way to Lahore, Shalimar Express Train will reach Faisalabad at 09:45 pm while it will reach Lahore at 11:55 p.m. It is pertinent to mention that the train has been equipped with best facilities. The train will comprise AC Parlour, AC Business, AC Standard and comfortable economy class coaches to facilitate the citizens.

Two street criminals held

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation at Shahrah-e-Faisal arrested two alleged accused involved in street crimes and recovered a motorcycle, illegal arms along with ammunition, cash and mobile phones from them.

The Rangers spokesman on Thursday said the arrested were identified as Imtiaz Ali alias Ghulam Haider and Rehan Khan. They confessed to committing more than 50 robberies in Saddar, M.A. Jinnah Road, Guru Mandir and adjacent areas. The arrested revealed selling stolen mobile phones in interior parts of the province. Accused Rehan besides the street crimes was also involved in running other illegal businesses while the other suspect Ghulam Haider was wanted to police for his involvement in a murder case. Raids were being conducted to arrest their other accomplices. Arrested accused along with recovered arms, ammunition, a motorcycle and others were handed over to the police for further legal proceedings.

Minister orders monitoring transport fares

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Transport, Livestock and Dairy Development, Mines & Minerals Ibrahim Hassan Murad has ordered for strict monitoring of transport fares on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

After assuming responsibilities as transport minister, Ibrahim Murad expressed his determination that overcharging from passengers going to hometowns on the Eid would be stopped in any case. He said that caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi ordered to provide all possible facilities to the passengers. Ibrahim Murad directed the Punjab transport secretary to form a special squad to prevent overcharging. "Setting up counters for passengers at bus stands should also be reviewed", he said. Provincial transport minister warned that immediate action would be taken on the complaints of passengers.

Murad orders preparation of PC-1 of Safe City project

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Safe City Project would not only be the installation of sensitive close circuit cameras, but it would also be a complete IT package empowered with artificial intelligence. This he said while presiding over a meeting of the Safe City Authority at CM House here Thursday. The meeting was attended by Minister IT Taimur Talpur, Special Assistant to CM Tanzila, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary LG Najam Shah, DG Sindh Safe City Authority Aijaz Shaikh, MPA Nida khuro, MPA Mahmood Alam Jamote and other concerned officers.

The DG Sindh Safe City Authority (SSCA) briefed the chief minister that the NRTC had done a good job for the development of the city project. Under the project, 10,000 cameras would be installed in the red zone area in the first phase with a modern Command and Control center, he added. The CM was told that the CCTV system would have the latest cameras. The network would have a dual power system which means solar and electricity. The Chief Minister said that the safe city system installed in other cities of the country has various maintenance and operational problems. "I want you (SSCA) to resolve

all those issues at the designing stage," he said and added that the concerned firms supplying equipment for the system should be involved through a contract to maintain and operate the system.

Murad Ali Shah said that the vision of developing a safe city system was to enhance the security of lives and property of the citizens of the province by employing smart technology and equipping Police with modern surveillance and law enforcement capability. He added that the technology-based initiative would enhance security and boost economic development by attracting local and foreign investment. "I want the purpose to be achieved for all intents and purposes," he said.

He also directed SSCA to propose the formation of committees for the finalization of the Financial Regulations of SSCA and Service Regulations of SSCA. He also directed them to present their working papers in the next meeting.

Shah directed the Authority to propose a procurement committee and then notify it after its approval.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the chief minister directed the SSCA to prepare PC-1 of the project and submit it to the P&D dept for approval so that with the start of the next financial year work on the project could be started.

Rahmat Salam stress on adaption of modern tech in E&SE

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Advisor for Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) Rahmat Salam Khattak stressed upon adaption of modern technique for learning to educate youth in accordance with global demands, on Thursday.

This he said during discussion in various session in Pakistan Learning Council at Islamabad.

He added that government has focusing on elementary education to ensure strong educational background in the youth generation.



Federal Minister for planning and development Ahsan Iqbal participated in the conference as a Chief Guest while appreciated projects initiated for Elementary and Secondary Education at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He claimed that in coming years Pakistan will stand in the line of developed nation in education sector.

CM inspects LDA one-window operation

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday paid a visit to the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) office in Johar Town to personally assess the operations of the one-window cell and ensure efficient citizen facilitation.

During his visit, he took the opportunity to engage with visitors and attentively listened to their concerns and complaints. Seeking valuable feedback from the citizens regarding the services provided by the LDA's one-window cell, the CM promptly issued instructions to the Lahore Commissioner/ Director-General of LDA to address the issues faced by the citizens.

Emphasizing the need for improvement, he directed the authorities to enhance the quality of services at the one-window cell and ensure the timely resolution

of the applicants' requests. The chief minister stressed the importance of efficient problem-solving and emphasized that the concerns of the applicants should be addressed promptly and effectively.

Lahore Commissioner/ DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa gave a briefing to the CM regarding the functioning and operations of the one-window cell.

CM seeks report about child's death: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has sought a report from Commissioner DG Khan about a child's death due to falling into an open manhole in Rajanpur.

He extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and ordered an investigation into the incident and directed that those responsible for negligence be identified and action be taken against them.

13 killed, 1229 injured in 1159 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least thirteen people were killed and 1229 injured in 1159 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 633 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 596 victims with

minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 605 drivers, 46 underage drivers, 151 pedestrians, and 486 passengers were among the victims of road

traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 272 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 283 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by 80 in Multan with 83 victims and at third Faisalabad with 78 RTCs and 73 victims.



RAWALPINDI: Senator Walid Iqbal, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights and members of the committee are being briefed during their visit at Central Jail Adiala, Rawalpindi.

Punjab cabinet rejects agri tax on small land owners

LAHORE (APP): The 18th provincial cabinet meeting, presided over by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, rejected proposal to impose agricultural income tax on owners of 5-acre land.

The cabinet decided to maintain the stamp duty rate at one percent and approved amendments to the First Schedule of the Stamp Act 1899. Amendments to the Sales Tax on Services Act, 2012 were also approved, abolishing all taxes and duties on IT business, education, and training in Punjab.

The cabinet approved the extension of contracts for employees of the hepatitis and infection control program, as well as the provincial TB control program. A significant decision was made to restore historical buildings and ancient gates across Punjab, including Lahore.

The restoration of the 12 ancient gates of Lahore to their original grandeur was entrusted to the Director-General of the Walled City of Lahore Authority, by the CM. DG WCLA provided a briefing on the

restoration of historical buildings and expressed gratitude to the chief minister and the cabinet for their support, which was appreciated by the cabinet.

The cabinet also approved the renewal of the agreement regarding new issues and the scope of the Punjab Health Facilities Management Company. Various matters related to the Universal Health Insurance Program in Punjab were also approved. The extension of contracts for 605 employees of the Directorate General of Literacy & Non-Formal Basic Education was approved. In terms of vehicle registration fees, a one percent reduction was approved for vehicles ranging from 1500cc to 2000cc in Punjab, aligning them with the fees in Islamabad.

Regarding mining, the cabinet approved the revision of royalty rates for limestone and argillaceous clay in large-scale mining operations. To reduce subsidies in the transport department, a non-fare revenue generation model was approved, facilitating commercial activities at metro bus and orange line train stations.

Permission was granted to operationalize the Maj Gen Sheikh Al Mur bin Maktoum bin Juma Al Maktoum Gynae Hospital in the Gulab Wala area of 18 Hazari tehsil of Jhang.

The cabinet approved the grant implementation for the hospital and included the scheme in the annual development program. Additionally, the establishment of a council for the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) was approved.

The decisions taken in the 5th meeting of the cabinet standing committee on finance & development, the 3rd meeting of the cabinet standing committee on legal affairs & legislation, and the 7th meeting of the cabinet standing committee on law and order were ratified by the cabinet.

During the meeting, it was reported that the Mines & Minerals Department had collected approximately Rs 14 billion in taxes, surpassing the target of Rs 12 billion for the current fiscal year. The meeting was attended by ministers, advisors, chief secretary, IGP, Chairman P&D, secretaries, and others.

CS seeks proposals to improve governance, service delivery

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman has directed all departments to prepare proposals, based on short- and long-term measures, to improve governance and service delivery.

He directed the deputy commissioners to pay special attention to the district headquarters (DHQ), and tehsil headquarters (THQ) hospitals, giving them a three-day deadline for ensuring better cleanliness and making fully functional all air-conditioners in these health facilities.

The chief secretary asked the officers to start an operation for

to solve people's problems, adding that poor performance and negligence would not be tolerated in any case.

He directed the deputy commissioners to pay special attention to the district headquarters (DHQ), and tehsil headquarters (THQ) hospitals, giving them a three-day deadline for ensuring better cleanliness and making fully functional all air-conditioners in these health facilities.

The chief secretary asked the officers to start an operation for

retrieving the state land from the illegal occupants and take stern action against the land grabbers as per law.

He said that the use of modern technology is inevitable to enhance the efficiency of the departments, adding that the e-filing and office automation system (E-FOAS) has brought innovation in the working. The CS also issued instructions regarding the improvement of parks, repair of faulty water filtration plants and covering of open manholes in the districts.

National Management Course team visits LDA offices

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of participants in the 118th National Management Course visited the office of Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Thursday.

Commissioner Lahore, DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the working of different departments

of the Lahore Development Authority during meeting. The delegation members were apprised about the ongoing development projects in Lahore. Town Planning Wing and Metropolitan Planning Wing officers were also briefed.

Commissioner Lahore and DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa told

the delegation that important measures were being taken to control environmental pollution in the city, including signal-free corridors, promotion of rooftop gardening, solarization and plantation drives. Focus is on adopting the new initiatives on the lines of the corporate sector to enhance the overall performance.

نوٹس (مشتری ہوشیار باش)

بذریعہ نوٹس بڑا مشہور کیا جاتا ہے کہ جائیداد سے نمبر 1- D/147 واقع رحمان بابا کالونی ٹیٹا ورکس جو کہ کنٹونمنٹ بورڈ کے زیرِ نگرانی ہے، تنظیم شاہ فیروز کے ماحول پر موجود ہے۔ یہ کہ فیروز: تنظیم شاہ فیروز نے کسی حضرت محمد ولد غفریہ خان کو اپنا اختیار عام مقرر کر کے جائیداد مذکورہ بالا میں سے مکان نمبر B-13 (قسمت) محمد ولد غفریہ خان اللہ پر بذریعہ رجسٹرڈ شدہ دستاویز نمبر 4885 نمبر 1 نمبر 1 جلد نمبر 267 مورخہ 23/08/2021 کو فروخت کر دی ہے۔ اب محمد ولد غفریہ خان اللہ نے مذکورہ جائیداد میں سے مکان نمبر B-13 (قسمت) کو اپنے نام پر منتقل کرنے کیلئے ایک عدد درخواست بمدر رجسٹری دفتر میں ڈال دی ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص بینک یا ادارے کو مذکورہ بالا مکان کی منتقلی پر کوئی اعتراض ہو تو اشتہار مذکور کی شاعت کے پندرہ (15) دن کے اندر اعتراضات اعتراض بمدر رجسٹری پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں منتقلی کی کارروائی مندرجہ بالا درخواست گزار کے نام پر عمل میں لائی جائیگی اور کوئی اعتراض قبول نہ ہوگا۔ المستشرق: کنٹونمنٹ ایکٹر کنٹونٹو آفیسر پشاور

پشاور ہائی کورٹ، پشاور خالی آسامیاں

زیرِ دستکاری کو پشاور ہائی کورٹ، پشاور میں درج ذیل خالی آسامیوں پر بحری کیلئے موجود ہے۔ مستقل رہائشی افراد سے درخواستیں مل رہی ہیں۔ درخواست دینے کی آخری تاریخ 15 جولائی 2023 ہے۔

نمبر	آسامی	تفصیلی	میل	میل	میل
1	اسٹینڈ (پلیٹن-16)	کسی بھی تعلیم شدہ شخصیت سے رجسٹرڈ کری	30-25 سال	05	اندر آسامی

شرائط و ضوابط: (1) - امیدوار پشاور ہائی کورٹ کی ویب سائٹ پر موجود لنک <http://job.peshawarhighcourt.gov.pk> پر آن لائن درخواست دیئے۔ درخواستیں صرف تین دن کے اندر قبول کی جائیں گی۔ (2) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (3) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (4) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (5) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (6) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (7) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (8) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔ (9) - امیدواروں کو اپنے اصل دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوں گے۔

NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

This is to inform the Members of Lucky Cement Limited (the "Company") that the Board of Directors of the Company has decided to withdraw and not to proceed with the agenda items as communicated through the notice of Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM) of the Company published in the newspapers on June 03, 2023. The Board has also decided to cancel the EOGM scheduled to be held on June 26, 2023.

By order of the Board
Faisal Mahmood
Company Secretary

Karachi: 23 June 2023

ایڈووکیٹ ڈسٹرکٹ پولیس آفیسر، لودھراں

ٹینڈر نوٹس برائے تعمیرات دوکانات

محکمہ پولیس لودھراں کو تھانہ صدر لودھراں میں 22 عدد دوکانات (5+5+5+7) کی تعمیر کروانا درکار ہے۔ جس کیلئے محکمہ مذکورہ سے رجسٹرڈ فرمز 1 تنگیداران سے مورخہ 24-06-2023 تک نوٹیشن طلب ہیں۔ کام کی تفصیل دفتر کی اوقات میں دوپہنت براؤچ DPO آفس لودھراں سے حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ جس کیلئے تنگیداران کو دعوت کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ کام کے تنگیدار کا 2% ڈال ڈیپازٹ نام DPO آفس لودھراں میں کروائیں گے۔ جس کی آخری تاریخ 24-06-2023 ہے۔ نوٹیشن میں کرانے سے پہلے مندرجہ ذیل کاغذات کامل ہونا ضروری ہے۔

1- فرم PEC کا رجسٹریشن / رجسٹرڈ ایجنس کی معیادہ ہوئی ہو۔ 2- ٹینڈر کی وصولی سے پہلے ٹینڈر فیس جو کہ 10000/- روپے ہے جو کہ ذریعہ رجسٹری کے دفتر میں جمع ہوئی جو کہ ناقابل واپسی ہے۔ 3- فرمز کو 24-06-2023 تک ذریعہ رجسٹری کے دفتر سے ٹینڈر فارم موصول کرنا ضروری ہے، جس کی opening مورخہ 27-06-2023 بجت 12 بجے کی جائیگی۔ 4- کامیاب فرم تنگیدار کا 05% فیڈرڈ بطور ایڈیٹل سے فارغش سیکورٹی کے طور پر پیش کرنا ہوگا جو کہ کسی بھی شیڈول تک سے چارے کر وہال ڈیپازٹ ڈالڈاں سے فارغش ذریعہ رجسٹری بنایا جائے۔ جو کہ کامل ہونے کے بعد واپس کی جائے گی۔ 5- 2% تنگیدار کی ڈیپازٹ فرم کی کاپی جائے ملے 10% سیکورٹی میں ضمی کی جائیگی جو کہ کامل ہونے کے بعد واپس کی جائے گی۔ 6- آگم ٹیکس GST/PSST کو منسبت کی مرید قانون کے مطابق پیش کیا جائیگا۔ 7- فرم کو مرید شرٹ کے مطابق اسامیہ بھیہر اسامیہ کا رجسٹر دینا ہوگا کہ فرم کی کاروباری عمل سے ایک سال ہے۔

(حسام بن اقبال) PSP، ڈسٹرکٹ پولیس آفیسر، لودھراں



KARACHI: Sacrificial animals brought for sale ahead of Eid-ul-Azha at Super Highway Cattle Market.



CS chair meeting of Provincial Task Force for Anti-Polio

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry Thursday chaired a high-level meeting of the Provincial Task Force for Anti-Polio here.

Anti-polio shots should be given to every child for a safe future, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry told the meeting. He said full measures should be taken to eradicate poliomyelitis.

Fake fingerprinting should be discouraged, he said, adding, the quality of the Anti-Polio campaigns should be improved by identifying the deficiencies and deficiencies.

Denial of polio vaccine

should not be used to settle other demands, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry said. Recommendations to make various services provided by the government including utility services subject to polio vaccination certificates will be sent to the federal government, said Chief Secretary.

Parents must give their children anti-polio vaccines, he told the meeting, adding "Scholars, prominent personalities and all sections of the society should play their role in eradicating polio."

Earlier, Provincial Emergency Operation Center Coordinator Asif

Rahim while briefing the meeting said that the ongoing Anti-Polio campaign including the performance of previous campaigns was reviewed. A five-day special Anti-Polio campaign is underway from June 19 in selected districts, he told the meeting during the meeting.

In seven complete districts including Nowshera, Peshawar, Mohmand, Hangu, Khyber, Kohat and Charsadda more than 2212000 children will be given polio shots, he informed. He disclosed that the campaign is being partially implemented in the districts of Buner, Lower Chitral, Lower Dir, Har-

ipur, Mansehra, Malakand, Mardan and Swabi.

A total of 1,7000 children will be vaccinated against polio in Afghan refugee camps and specific Union Councils located on the Pak-Afghan border. He said 8441 teams of trained polio workers have been formed for this Anti-Polio campaign while Polio teams include 7721 mobile teams, 542 fixed and 478 transit teams.

He said, 2,083 area In-charges have been appointed for effective supervision of the teams and about 14,926 police personnel have been deployed for effective security of the teams.



PESHAWAR: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister KP, Muhammad Azam Khan and members of provincial cabinet.

IAP team apprises IGP KP about industrialists' issues

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of businessmen led by Industrialists Association Peshawar (IAP) president Malik Imran Ishaq held a meeting with Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat and apprised the provincial police chief about industrialists' issues.

The IAP delegation comprised on Group leader Ghazanfar Bilour, Vice President Ghulam Mohiyud-Din, Secretary General, and Executive Members IAP Riaz Arshad, Adeel Rauf, Malik Niaz and Ahmed Mustafa and members, said a press release here on Thursday.

IAP president Malik Imran Ishaq and IGP KP Akhtar Hayat discussed in detail matters relating to protection and provision of a peaceful atmosphere to the business community and industrialists.

During the meeting, IGP KP gave much importance to taking measures for security and protection in Industrial Estate Hayatabad Peshawar, assuring he will personally build and carry liaison with the business community.

The provincial police chief said Industrial estate is to be considered as a specialized area where presence, vigilance and patrolling of police shall be ensured with modern policing tools.

The IGP directed police officials to revisit the final proposal of a dedicated police station for the Industrial estate for approval of finance and resources from the government. IAP to also augment the case and engage with the government, the release said.

According to the press release, IGP convinced and asked the Chief Secretary to resolve issues in construction of a security wall

along western border of the industrial estate and to engage with and build synergy between LEAs and KPEZDMC for timely execution of the project.

The IGP directed his staff to immediately increase police force in the industrial estate police post and for deputation on barriers.

Earlier, IAP president Malik Imran Ishaq speaking on the occasion lauded former CCPO Muhammad Ejaz Khan and former SP Cantt Muhammad Azhar Khan for their tireless efforts toward resolution of industrialists' issues and building of close liaison with the business community.

Ishaq said former CCPO had played a pivotal role in framing proposals with close coordination of IAP for establishment of a police state in the industrial estate Hayatabad Peshawar.

Essentially, the IAP president said as a result of former CCPO timely

actions, the serious security issues like rocket attacks on Industrial Estate Hayatabad Peshawar, ransom and snatching etc were eliminated.

Ghazanfar Bilour also lauded former CCPO Ejaz Khan and former SP Cantt Muhammad Azhar Khan efforts toward resolution of business community issues.

He said former CCPO had visited the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and played an important role in resolving traders' issues as a result of that the business community provided instant relief.

IAP president Malik Imran Ishaq also praised heap on IGP for taking keen interest in industrialists' issues and issuing of instructions on the spot for their amicable resolution, especially it is highly worthy that IGP assured to personally build up liaison with the business community.



PESHAWAR: Workers of PPP cutting cake on 70th birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

SMC participants visits CPO, briefed on policing

PESHAWAR (APP): A 16-member participant of 33rd Senior Management Course (SMC) Islamabad visited Central Police Office (CPO) Peshawar on Thursday wherein they were given detailed briefing on Policing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Additional Inspector General of Police (Operation) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Ali Babakhel briefed the participants in detail about policing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They were informed about the organizational structure, functioning and activities, management practices, major achievements and challenges for

the organization and its future plans.

The participants were also told about the police performance against criminals, militants, working conditions and confronting challenges.

The members of the delegation were also briefed on the institutional reforms i.e revamping of Counter Terrorism Department, particularly its extension and structure expansion in the tribal districts.

Similarly, they were also briefed about better service delivery to the public and enhanced capacity of the force.

They were also informed about the militancy in the

province and the steps taken by police to halt the menace of terrorism and the way forward of the KP police.

In light of the detailed briefing the members of the delegation asked various questions from the Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan which were answered to their entire guidance.

The members equally appreciated the performance of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police especially against terrorists on the face of voluminous challenges and limited resources and thanked the IGP and his team for the comprehensive briefing.

AC discards foreign cigarettes

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration here on Thursday carried out an operation against the sale of foreign cigarettes and discarded hundreds of packets in the Nishtar Abad and Gulbahar areas of the city.

The action was taken on the directive of DC Shah Fahad by Assistant Commissioner Sayyeda Zainab Naqvi, Project Coordinator of Tobacco, Ajmal Shah, and officials of the civil Defense. During the action in Nishtar Abad and Gulbahar, hundreds of packets of illegal cigarettes were confiscated and later discarded.

AC Zainab Naqvi warned the shopkeepers not to sell cigarettes to people below the age of 18.

She said the sale of foreign cigarettes was banned.

She also warned the shopkeepers that the sale of cigarettes within 50 meters radius of educational institutions was also not allowed. She directed the shopkeepers to strictly follow the prescribed rules, otherwise, stern legal action would be initiated against the violators.

Altaf Khan appointed as AAG



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has appointed Advocate Supreme Court Altaf Khan as Additional Advocate General (AAG), on Thursday.

In this regard a notification was issued by provincial government stated that Senior Lawyer Altaf Khan Advocate will represent the government at High Court.

However, Department of Law has issued appointment orders in this regard. Advocate Supreme Court Altaf Khan is practicing as expert in criminal cases.

Mayor vows to ensure transparency

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali Thursday said transparency in the capital metropolitan maps would be maintained at all costs to provide relief to the masses.

Talking to different delegations, the Mayor of Peshawar said it was the first time that the map owners appeared before the mayor and inquired about paying additional money for the purpose.

In the East Zone, 25 out of 29 commercial maps were approved, while 4

maps were rejected for not fulfilling the rules and regulations.

Besides these 63 residential maps approved in the West Zone, 55 residential maps were approved while five maps were rejected for not fulfilling the rules and regulations. Some maps were rejected for not fulfilling the rules and regulations.

After the maps of the owners were approved, last day a meeting of BCA of East Zone and West Zone was held under the

Chairmanship of Peshawar Mayor Haji Zubair Ali, in which Director General Capital Metropolitan Government Syed Waqas Ali Shah, Director of Administration HR Muhammad Owais Khan, Director of East Rehman Khattak, Director West Awan, Hidayatullah, Ikramullah, Chief Building Inspector East Zone Faiz Muhammad, Chief Building Inspectors West Zone, Adnan Ahmad, Amir Zaib and map owners participated.

Day-long Islamian Fest organized at Islamia College University



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A one-day competition organized in Islamia College University Peshawar by Capture Crew Society Islamia College University with the collaboration of Department of Youth Affairs, students from different universities including Peshawar University, Islamia University,

Agriculture university, Abaseen University, IMS Sciences University and others participated. These competitions included computer quizzes, speed programming, web designing, poster designing, painting, photography, videography and videogames.

Exhibition of handicrafts and paintings was also organized along with these

competitions. The participants of competition showcased their talents by using their exceptional skills through this competition.

The aim of these competitions was to provide a platform to showcase the talents of the youth and develop their creativity.

The prize distribution ceremony was held at Rose Capel Hall in which Vice

Chancellor Dr. Gul Majid Khan was the chief guest, besides Abaseen Yousafzai, youth affairs representatives and faculty members also participated. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Islamia College University Dr. Majid Khan expressed his happiness over the success of Islamic Fest.

He emphasized the importance of such events in promoting the all-round development of students, developing their skills and developing the spirit of healthy competition.

He also thanked the Department of youth Affairs, whose support made this possible. Certificates and cash prizes were distributed to the winners and runners-up of various competitions and shields were distributed to the guests and organizers.

Students to assist ECP in drive for voters' awareness

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Deputy Director Media Coordination Sohail Ahmad has said that students should assist Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the drive for voters' awareness. He was addressing three days youth training arranged by IFES and The Enlight Lab today in University of Peshawar.

He said that students and faculty members were briefed about the electoral process, importance of vote, composition of ECP, constitutional and legal frame work and steps being



taken for inclusive and credible Elections.

A demo regarding conduct of poll was also pre-

sented in order to educate students about process of polling.

Students took keen inter-

est in the session and asked many relevant questions which were addressed by the team of ECP.

Caretaker Minister inaugurates newly constructed building

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Minister Information Auqaf, Hajji, Religious and Minority Affairs Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel inaugurated the new building at a cost of about 77 million rupees for the purpose of providing the best services to the public regarding Auqaf, Hajji, religious and minority affairs. On this occasion, Secretary Auqaf Department Asadullah, Secretary Information and Public Relations Department Mukhtiar Ahmed and Administrator Auqaf Hamid Gigiani, representatives of Hindu, Sikh Christian, Muslim and Bahai communities also participated in the events.

Talking to the media representatives on this occa-

sion, the caretaker provincial minister Feroze Jamal shah Kakakhel said that the newly constructed building has been constructed within the resources of the department, which cost about 77 million rupees in total. He said that modern facilities have been provided in the newly constructed building to provide the best possible services. He said that with the construction of the new building, the delivery of services will be more better now. He further said that it is our priorities to provide best facilities to all the communities of the province. He said that interfaith harmony in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is unprecedented, he furthered that the new building has been

constructed within limited resources.

Chief Khatib Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Taib Qureshi, Baba Gorpai Singh and Atar Nazir and other religious community representatives participated in the inauguration ceremony.

On the other hand, while answering a journalist's question, the caretaker provincial minister for information and religious affairs said that today he has excused to meet Pakistan President Arif Alvi on his visit to Peshawar because the president came to Peshawar but did not bother to mention and condemned the incident of May 09. The president of Pakistan should have visit Radio Pakistan and should

have condemn the tragic incidents of May 09.

He said that if he had to meet the President of Pakistan, he would have filed a complaint in front of him regarding May 09 incidents, because the President of Pakistan is the symbol of unity which represents the whole of Pakistan.

The caretaker provincial minister information Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel reminded the President of Pakistan and remarked that the President of Pakistan is still expected to issue a statement condemning the events of May 9 from Islamabad. If the President of Pakistan would go to Radio Pakistan, it would be like a bandage on our wounds.

KP announces Eid holidays

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Thursday announced holidays for Eid ul Adha, falling on 29th June (Thursday).

According to a notification, the government offices with five working days will remain closed from 28th June to 30th June for three days. The offices with six working days will remain closed for four days from 28th June to 1st July on account of Eid ul Azha holidays.

PPP women-wing observe BB's birthday anniversary

PESHAWAR (APP): On the directives of the provincial president of the PPP Women-Wing, Senator Robina Khalid, the 70th birthday anniversary of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was observed with political zeal and enthusiasm in Peshawar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Chitral, Bannu and DI Khan.

In this connection, functions and seminars were organized in Dera Ismail Khan, Karak, where birthday cakes were cut.

On this occasion, the speakers paid homage to the services of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto for the country and her struggle for democracy.

Speaking at a ceremony, the provincial president PPP women's wing, KP, Senator Robina Khalid paid tributes to the political struggle and services rendered by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto for the country.

She said that Benazir Bhutto revived the tradition of tolerance and peaceful

co-existence in the turbulent era of domestic politics.

She further said that no one had raised a voice for the strengthening of democracy in a better manner than her either during the military dictatorships of Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf.

She said that like an iron lady, Benazir Bhutto represented the sentiments of the general public and compelled the military dictators to respect democracy.



In brief

WSSCK launches cleanliness drive F.P. Report

KOHAT: Water and Sanitation Services Company Kohat (WSSCK) on Thursday formally launched a special cleanliness campaign, supply clean drinking water, especially for the upcoming Eidul Azha. In this regard, Radio Pakistan FM 101.4 aired a special program, in which the WSSCK Manager Media and Communication Asma Ali and Chief Sanitary Inspector Muhammad Sohail participated, according to a press release here. Officials apprised people through a live on-air program of Radio Pakistan regarding cleanliness initiatives, responsibility and jurisdiction of the WSSCK. They also shared a special cleanliness program that has been chalked out for the upcoming Eid ul Azha by the company. During the live Pakistan Radio program, awareness was created about WSSCK helpline 1334. The officials said all complaint offices of WSSCK in Kohat will remain open during the three days of Eidul Azha. They vowed that effective measures would be taken to resolve the public complaint on a prompt basis.

DPO meets with minor child F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: District Police Officer (DPO) Lakki Marwat Muhammad Ashfaq Khan fulfilled a wish of a minor boy from a poor family to meet him in police uniform. A minor boy Muejeb-ur-Rehman from Kot Kashmir village had expressed the desire to meet the district police chief in police uniform", said an official on Thursday. He said that the district police officer directed his subordinate officials to arrange his meeting with the boy when his wish was brought into his notice. "Muejeb suffering from a joint pain disease was invited to the district police offices located at police lines in the District Headquarters Complex Tajazai where DPO Muhammad Ashfaq Khan offered his chair to him", he maintained. He said that the boy shared greetings with the DPO and he also met SP investigation Murad Khan and other police officers. On the occasion, he expressed his long desire to become a police officer to serve the people. "Protecting people's lives and properties as a policeman is a noble profession", he remarked, saying that he is happy to meet the commander of the police force and his subordinate officials and salute their professional commitment. Ashfaq said that Muejeb and young boys like him were the asset of the nation and his wish to become a police officer showed his deep love and respect for the entire police force. He called upon the boy to focus on his education and enhance his knowledge to succeed in life.

RPO inaugurates Check Post F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Ismail Khan Abdul Ghafoor Afridi inaugurated the newly constructed Daraban Police Check Post on Inter-Provincial Highway Dera Zhoib Road in Daraban limits. During the inaugural ceremony, District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Bazar Qaisrani, DSP Headquarter, DSP Darzanda and other police officers were also present on this occasion. DPO gave a complete briefing to RPO Dera about the police presence, security, building and security cameras at the check post.



KOHAT: KUST Investment Committee meeting held Prof Dr Sardar Khan, Vice Chancellor KUST, chaired the meeting. Different banks participated and submitted their rates to the investment committee. A total amount of Rs 319 million was invested with schedule bank on open competition basis. Vice Chancellor thanked all the committee members.

Unhygienic bottled water plant sealed

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Additional Assistant Commissioner Swat Muhammad Amir Khan raided on a local brand of Water filtration plant, where unhygienic water was being supplied to the masses on commercial basis.

According to the press release issued by the office of Deputy Commissioner Swat, during raid on the lab all the expired reagents and chemicals were recovered which were used in qualitative tests of water. The owner couldn't provide the mandatory NOCs required for establishment of filtration plant. It was also noticed that most of the water cans and bottles were refilled from tap water of washroom.

Assistant Commissioner immediately sealed the Aqua Swat plant and handed over the

accused to local police station for lodging First Information Report (FIR). Meanwhile, 2 other milk shop owners handed over to local police for overpricing of Milk and Butter. According to the administration, those involved in food adulteration and over pricing would be dealt with iron hand.

RPO Malakand formulates security plan for Eid: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Division, Nasir Mehmood Sati has formulated a security plan for the whole region including Swat on Eid-ul-Azha, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

Under the security plan approval has been granted to deploy 1,000 police personnel across the region while District Police Officers (DPOs) and other officers have been assigned special tasks. The

police officers across the region have been directed to provide all possible protection to tourists and provide them facilities in all districts. He also directed to establish tourists' facilitation centres at the entry points of all tourists' attractive districts.

A directive for the deployment of special troops of the tourist police squads have also been issued to facilitate and guide tourists at Kalam, Bahrain, Malam Jabba, Kumrat, Chitral and other tourist spots. For this purpose, the vacations of all officers have been cancelled.

The arrival of a large number of tourists is expected to tourists' attractive spots, for which all necessary measures have been taken in advance to provide them all possible facilities including security to them.

Promotion of toleration stressed

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFAZABAD: In order to promote tolerance, social harmony and create awareness about women rights, hazards of underage marriages of girls and violence against women as well as addressing other social issues, 'Awaz Do' Project under auspices of International Social Organisation 'BUNIYAD' has been launched in the district Hafizabad.

Deputy Director Social Welfare Hafizabad Madam Aamina Ashraf, Monitoring Officer Madam Muazama, District Coordinator Usman Ghani, former District Nazim Hafizabad Col.(R) Ali Ahmad Awan, Provincial Project Coordinator Mishaal Shafi addressed the inaugural ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, speakers said that District Coordination Committee at district level have been constituted and 74 village councils would be established at village level in the district for addressing problems of people through village council. Speakers also stressed the need to address problems confronting by transgender, disable and minorities.

Enhancement of rice export stressed: A seminar held under auspices of Anjuman-e-Aartian and Rice Dealers Association Gala Mandi Sharqi and Garbi Hafizabad to enhance rice export. President Rice Dealers Association Sheikh Faisal Islam presided over the seminar.

Addressing the seminar, Director Trade Development Authority Pakistan Khalid Rasul said that we desire to increase rice export from Hafizabad Region and we fix target to enhance rice export from two million Dollars to three million Dollars per annum whereas to achieve this target, cooperation of Rice Dealers with farmers is vital. He said that Rice of Hafizabad was favorite in the world due to its good taste and Sophistication.

Government should explore new markets in the world for increasing rice export and evolve SOPs for newly signed memorandum of understanding with Iran recently so that foreign exchange of Pakistan could increase at the earliest, he suggested.

Addressing on the occasion, Chaudhry Umer Tarar said that Kala Shah Kakoo Institute should introduce new rice warranty for getting maximum yield of rice. Sheikh Faisal Islam, Sheikh Adnan Aslam, Mohsan Ali, Chaudhry Muhammad Javed and other rice exporters and farmers addressed the seminar.

Roti price hiked by Rs 5 in Mardan

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: The provincial bakers' association has announced to increase the price of 120 grams of bread from rupees twenty to rupees twenty-five across the province, rejecting the rate fixed by the government.

The decision was made during the meeting called for the formation of the new provincial cabinet. The provincial cabinet of the Baker Association was formed at the Mardan Press Club on Thursday. For the new cabinet, Malik Iqbal Paidakhel was elected as provincial president, Gohar Ali as Chairman, Bashir Butt Senior Vice president, Ali Khan as Vice President, Muhammad Ejaz Khan as General Secretary, Sultan as Deputy General Secretary, Salman Khan as finance secretary and Imtiaz Khan as information secretary.

Later, while addressing the press conference, the newly elected officials said that due to the lack of government policy for the rate of flour, the baker is facing serious difficulties. Tandoor is a small industry in the country, which employs thousands of people. Due to the high cost of

flour and gas, it has become necessary to increase the price of bread. The government should fix the rate of bread considering our concerns and difficulties. They rejected the government's rupees twenty rate of bread and announced to set the price of 120 grams of bread at rupees twenty-five from June 24 and said that the new provincial cabinet will play an important role in solving the problems of bakers across the province.

Meeting on prevention from dengue held: A meeting regarding dengue was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Mardan Sami-ur-Rehman, the latest situation of dengue virus in the district, and the measures taken regarding the prevention of dengue outbreak were reviewed by the health department and other relevant departments were present on the spot.

A detailed briefing was given on the situation, measures to prevent the disease and various other issues. The Additional Deputy Commissioner said that TMAs, Local Government and Water Sanitation Services Company to eliminate the dengue mosquito in order

to prevent the dengue epidemic from spreading in a timely manner continue mosquito spray and fumigation campaign to prevent breeding of dengue.

He directed the officers to pay attention to the public awareness campaign against dengue and conduct awareness campaigns in various places of the district including educational institutions so that people can avoid the effects of dengue in time. The Additional Deputy Commissioner further said that, Insha-Allah, strict security measures will be taken at the district level to prevent dengue virus because people's lives are very precious and no risk can be taken regarding dengue. Prevention of dengue has become a social issue for which every citizen should fulfill his responsibility.

Additional Deputy Commissioner said that the Health Department should also make the isolation wards functional for dengue patients in the hospitals so that any untoward incident can be dealt with in a timely manner and instructed to utilize all available resources for the prevention of dengue.

Boat accident irreparable human tragedy: Samina

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri has expressed regret over the incident in Greece and has demanded strict action from the government against the people involved in human trafficking. She said that, it is a very sad and irreparable human tragedy. The persons and agents responsible for the death of hundreds of people should be caught and punished.

She said that the government should hold people involved in human trafficking to account, those who play with human lives for the sake of a few rupees do not deserve any concession. And for this purpose, cruel people in the form of agents make these unemployed youths dream of a luxurious life in a foreign country and deprive them and their parents of their lifetime savings.

Senator said that they go through situations in which they often lose their lives. There have been many accidents before in which hundreds of precious lives have been lost but the agents continue to entice the unemployed youth to go to Europe illegally and the youth take risks for a better future and lose their lives as well as their life savings and that of their parents for a better future.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri prayed for endurance and patience for the families of those who died in the accident. She demanded that the dead bodies of those who died in the accident should be brought to Pakistan as soon as possible. He condemned the Greek Coast Guard and said that the Greek Coast Guard did not save the drowning people and

adopted an inhuman behavior which is less to be condemned.

She further said that the Pakistani government should closely monitor the illegal emigrants and agents and establish an effective system of checking at the borders so that no such major incident takes place in the future. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri said that this process started in the 70s when people started going abroad for employment, but along with going abroad legally, the process of going abroad illegally also started and because of this, children go out. She said that people fall into the hands of traffickers due to compulsion. Strictest action should be taken against human traffickers, human trafficking is a national problem and effective measures are very necessary to solve this problem.

TC Gadezai session with delay of year held

F.P. Report

BUNER: Tehsil council Gadezai Salarzai a year delayed session was held in chair of presiding officer Salman Khan Salarzai in the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) hall, on Thursday.

The Nazim Sher Alam Khan the TMO Anwar Shamim Khan the opposition leader Abas Shaheen and chairmen villages councils the minority the youth the peasant as members of the TC attended except women. The lines departments heads SDO PESCO Mueez Ahmad, SDEO Gadezai M.Tahir, MS THQ Pacha, SDO Said Rahim, forest officer Kusar Bacha, AC representative Irfan Khan were there to note the points and forward for necessary actions.

The opposition leader and others including Diar Khan Aman Khan Niaz Khan

Qasam Bacha Khan Bahadur Gul Said Ashtar Khan Israr Khan and almost all members represented their councils. They were united over an issue of excessive load shedding in the tehsil areas, no adequate arrangements for BISP beneficiaries at payment distribution points, unhygienic conditions in Bazaar Pacha Pir Baba Jowar and villages as well.

They pointed out irregularities in posting and appointment in various departments especially the education and health and held JUIF ex MPA responsible who misuses the powers of interim government especially the governor KPK. The speakers lamented and warned of joint agitation if excessive load shedding was not scheduled and relief to worried consumers not ensured soon.

The Nazim Sher Alam Khan in his concluding speech assured standing by

the members to address the issues as soon as possible adding he will make sure equally respect and treatment so as to jointly serve for public of this tehsil being true representatives as public were directly elected them for fighting their rights.

The TMO Anwar Shamim Khan in his policy statement explained the domain of the TC obligations and rights of the Nazim and members and due share of the devolved departments and its heads as well. He elaborated the TC will go through rules and regulations so as to make sure procedure as per laws in the larger public interests, he concluded with thanks to all of the participants especially the media persons for coverage and to highlighting TC session for public. The presiding officer Salman Khan Salarzai announced end of the session for an indefinite period.

WHO, UNICEF commits for eradication of polio

F.P. Report

MINGORA: Coordinator World Health Organization (WHO) Malakand Division Dr. Khawaja Irfan and Shadab Younas of UNICEF, have said that a case of polio has been reported in Pakistan this year, and we all need to work together to eradicate this infectious disease from our country so that no child in Pakistan has to suffer from this disability for life.

Speaking at a one-day media workshop at Swat, they said that currently, only two countries in the world, Pakistan and Afghanistan,

have reported cases of polio virus, and every time we need to vaccinate our children with polio drops to protect our country from this disease. They said that polio does not only affect children, but also adults of all ages.

The speakers said that Malakand Division is a tourist area and they have deployed polio teams on all internal roads so that the children of visiting tourists can also be given polio drops. On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Swat, Sohail Ahmed Khan, said that until we are free from polio, the world will not accept us, so it is essential for all of us to make our country polio-free.

JI demands bifurcation of Malakand Division

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-i-Islami chief Sirajul Haq has said that civilians shall not be tried in military courts in the presence of anti-terrorism courts and other civil courts. He said the elements involved in the May 9 and 10 riots and damaging state properties and military installation have to be punished for their wrong doings.

He was speaking at a crowded press conference at a local hotel in Timergara here the other day. The JI former MNA Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, JI candidates for provincial assembly Izazul Mulk Alfari, Shad Nawaz Khan, Dir Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Mian Noor Alam Bacha, Anjuman Tajir Timergara president Haji Anwarul Din, Khall traders' body president Hameedur Rehman, Talash bazaar president Dr Noor Muhammad and other JI leaders were also present on the occasion.

The JI chief demanded the government to immediately bifurcate the existing Malakand division as it was the largest divi-

sion in the country with over 9 million populations. He also demanded restoration of the economic and industrial zone in Malakand under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

The JI chief said the region should be declared as a tax-free zone till 2030 according to an agreement with the government reached in 1962. He said the JI had planned to launch a massive drive for getting rights for local people in Malakand division. Siraj said that Malakand division had great potential for tourism development but the successive governments did nothing to improve the standard of living of local people.

Replying a query, the JI chief said that there was no need of military courts for civilians as the anti-terrorism courts were already active in the country. However, he said the people involved in the May 9 and 10 vandalism and looting should not be forgiven. Criticizing the incumbent government the JI chief said the PDM leadership had badly failed to deliver. "It seems there is no government at

the center and in the provinces", Siraj said, adding the nation faced hardships owing to inflation and price hike. He said that both the PDM and PTI were equally responsible for the current mess in the country. "Both they want to increase their bank balances and properties abroad", he alleged, adding they were not sincere with the nation.

Siraj demanded the government to announce general elections in the country as a free, fair and transparent election was the only solution to the present day crises. The JI chief alleged the Sindh government and the PPP leadership damaged the constitution and democratic norms during the Karachi Mayor's election and resorted to immoral, unconstitutional and undemocratic practices to get elected its own candidate. He announced the JI would stage a protest rally against the Karachi mayor's election in front of the chief election commission office in Islamabad on June, 23rd.

Supervisory staff: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Malakand's controller of examination

Muhammad Naseem Khan along with female members of a vigilance committee on a tip off paid a surprise visit to the examination hall for the intermediate classes at government girls' high school Rabat here on Wednesday and found that the paper had been opened before its due time.

Taking prompt action the controller of examination replaced the entire supervisory staff and directed the concerned authorities of education department to take disciplinary action against the school's head, superintendent and deputy superintendent for their unfair practice. Talking to local journalists Mr Naseem said the board was informed by its sources that the paper leaked from the hall before its due time and circulated through WhatsApp groups. He said the visiting team caught the staff red handed and replaced it. The official said the board would make no compromise on transparency of the ongoing HSSC examination.

Plan for disposing of animals' wastes on Eid chalked out: A meeting of the Local Government and Rural Development

(LG&RDD) focal persons for all tehsils in Lower Dir was held at Timergara here on Thursday with assistant director Timergara Amir Nizam Durrani. Besides supervisors Dilshad Khan, Zarbaz Khan, Salahud Din, the assistant director Munda and Samarbagh Umar Rahman were also in attendance. The meeting chalked out a comprehensive strategy regarding a special cleanliness campaign on the occasion of Eid ul Adha.

It was decided in the meeting that each VC NC having enough funds would hire three janitors to collect the remnants of sacrificial animals at a special garbage point in every village to be disposed of by the TMA vehicles.

The meeting also reviewed measures taken by all NCs, VCs in view of the directives issued by the provincial government and Director General local government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for controlling the spread of fatal dengue disease. The meeting also discussed in detail issues related to computerized death, birth, marriage and divorce certificates.

Controller exams visited

girl's schools' hall: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Malakand's controller of examination Muhammad Naseem Khan along with female members of a vigilance committee on a tip off paid a surprise visit to the examination hall for the intermediate classes at government girls' high school Rabat and found that the paper had been opened before its due time.

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HYDERABAD: Vendors displaying colourful garlands for decorating sacrificial animals to attract customers.



Iran top diplomat in Kuwait on third leg of Gulf tour

KUWAIT CITY (AFP): Iran's top diplomat arrived in Kuwait, the third leg of a Gulf tour that saw him hold "constructive" talks with his Omani counterpart in Muscat earlier in the day. It came a day after Tehran held discussions in Doha on its nuclear programme with Qatari and European Union officials, the latest in a flurry of diplomatic moves by the Islamic republic as it seeks to reduce its isolation, improve its economy and project strength.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian's tour of the Gulf will see the Iranian foreign minister also making a stop in the United Arab Emirates. Gulf countries are seeking to ease tensions with Iran fuelled in recent years by the conflicts in Yemen and Syria. Most dramatically, China brokered an agreement in March between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore ties after a years-long rupture. Amir-Abdollahian discussed "the latest developments in the regional and international scene" in a meeting with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf al-Ahmed al-Sabah, according to Kuwait's state news agency KUNA. "The resolution of challenges with the collective participation of countries in the region is the best way to achieve the progress of nations and ensure security in the Persian Gulf," Amir-Abdollahian tweeted after the meeting. Earlier, he met with Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi of Oman, mediator in indirect talks between Iran and its sworn enemy the United States over its suspect nuclear programme and a possible prisoner swap. The Omani minister said they discussed "continued consultations and cooperation" on issues of bilateral concern.



"There is great consensus in the visions... that will contribute to stability, security and peace," he said, quoted by the official Oman News Agency. Amir-Abdollahian called the meeting "constructive" and praised the effective cooperation between the two sides, ONA said. Iran said last week it had been engaged in indirect negotiations with the United States through Oman, with nuclear issues, US sanctions and detainees on the agenda. The following day, Iran's nuclear negotiator said he had met with diplomats from three European countries in Abu Dhabi to discuss a number of issues including the country's nuclear programme.

A landmark deal reached in 2015 between Iran and world powers was designed to prevent Tehran from secretly developing a nuclear bomb, a goal the Islamic republic has always denied. The United States under then-president Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018, before Iran began backing away from its own commitments, including by

stepping up its enrichment of uranium. The administration of US President Joe Biden has sought to revive the deal, but the process has stalled in on-off talks since 2021. In recent weeks, Iran and the United States have denied media reports that they were close to reaching an interim deal to replace the 2015 accord. In Doha, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri, held talks with the European Union's Iran nuclear talks coordinator Enrique Mora.

"I had a serious and constructive meeting with Enrique Mora in Doha," he said on social media. "We discussed and exchanged opinions on a range of issues, including negotiations to lift sanctions." EU spokesperson Peter Stano confirmed the meeting. He said the bloc was "keeping diplomatic channels open, including through this meeting in Doha, to address all issues of concern with Iran". Amir-Abdollahian also discussed "developments in the nuclear agreement" with his Qatari counterpart, according to the official Qatar News Agency.

New Zealand says Xi not a 'dictator'

SYDNEY (Reuters): New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, ahead of his official trip to China at end of this month, said on Thursday he did not agree with US President Joe Biden's remark that Chinese leader Xi Jinping was a dictator. "No, and the form of government that China has is a matter for the Chinese people," Hipkins told reporters.

Asked by a reporter whether the Chinese people had a say in the form of government, Hipkins said: "if they wanted to change their system of government, then that would be a matter for them." Hipkins is scheduled to visit China from June 25 to 30, leading a trade delegation that includes some of New Zealand's biggest companies. He will meet Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and the chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, Zhao Leji. China hit back after Biden referred to President Xi Jinping as a "dictator", saying the remarks were absurd and a provocation, an unexpected flare-up following attempts by both sides to reduce friction.

Kazakhstan not to host talks on Syria's conflict

MOSCOW (AP): Kazakhstan said it will stop hosting talks aimed at resolving Syria's 12-year-old conflict. The abrupt announcement surprised Russia and other participants as they wrapped up the 20th round of talks in the capital of Astana. Since 2017, the former Soviet republic has provided a venue for talks to representatives of Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iran on ways to resolve the Syrian war.

Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry said the talks have fulfilled their mission and that "the initial goals, including the creation of de-escalation zones, ending the bloodshed and reducing the number of casualties have been fully implemented." The ministry's spokesman, Aibek Smadiyarov, cited Syria's recent return to the Arab League and efforts to restore ties with Turkey as proof that the Astana talks achieved their purpose. But Alexander Lavrentyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin's envoy to Syria who led Moscow's delegation at the talks, said Kazakhstan's decision was a complete surprise and an unexpected move. Lavrentyev said that no decision was made about a new venue for future talks later this year, but suggested they could be held in Moscow, Ankara, Tehran, or even Damascus. This week's talks in Astana followed an improvement in ties between Syria and some Arab countries that once backed Syrian opposition groups fighting against Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

Lavrentyev said Syria's return to the Arab League during the May summit in Saudi Arabia was an "important step" towards ending the conflict. Representatives from the United Nations and Syria's neighbors - Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq - attended the Astana talks as observers and expressed hope for a swift end to the conflict and the return home of millions of refugees living in their countries. Turkey, Russia and Iran described the latest talks in Astana as "constructive" and said they discussed "preparing the roadmap for the restoration of relations between Turkey and Syria." Moscow and Tehran have backed Assad's government in the war and helped his forces reclaim control over most of the country. Even with the bulk of Russia's armed forces fighting in Ukraine, Moscow has maintained its military foothold in Syria and has also made persistent efforts to help Assad rebuild fractured ties with Turkey and other countries in the region. Turkey has had troops in northwestern Syria backing opposition fighters in the last rebel-held enclave. Syria's assistant foreign minister, Ayman Sousan, said Turkey should come up with a "clear timeline" for the withdrawal of its forces from Syria.

NATO wants to fight climate change

BRUSSELS (AP): NATO faces a series of dilemmas in its attempts to fight climate change while ensuring the effectiveness of its combat forces, as Europe's biggest land war in decades ravages Ukraine, the head of the military alliance told The Associated Press in an interview.

The world's armed forces are among the greatest consumers of hydrocarbons - fuel and oil - that contribute to greenhouse gases. They have been in much demand recently as global warming fans conflicts and crises because of resource and food scarcity.

The main dilemma NATO is contending with, Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, is the difficult choice "between either having a green or a strong military." He said that NATO needs to "reconcile the need for an effective, strong, armed forces with the need to have climate-friendly armed forces."

Last year, in its new Strategic Concept - essentially NATO's mission statement - the world's biggest security organization recognized, for the first time, climate change as "a defining challenge of our time, with a profound impact on Allied security." The document acknowledged that the 31-nation alliance's "infrastructure, assets and bases are vulnerable to its effects." But Stoltenberg said that NATO armies are being forced to operate in more extreme climate conditions and are increasingly called upon to take part in disaster relief operations. "Climate change is a crisis multiplier. It increases competition over scarce resources like water and land, and it drives millions

of people to leave their country. So, all this impacts our security," Stoltenberg told the AP at NATO's headquarters in Brussels. Last week, NATO began an air deployment exercise in Germany billed as the biggest in the alliance's history. Some 250 aircraft - a major source of emissions - from 25 nations responded to a simulated attack on a NATO member. The United States alone sent about 100 aircraft.

The exercise was long-planned, but remains part of NATO's deterrence and defense strategy; its ongoing effort to dissuade Russian President Vladimir Putin from expanding his war against Ukraine to any member of the alliance. Wargames are not likely to be halted. Stoltenberg said that the best way to achieve a balance is "to develop technology and to ensure that the armed forces are part of the energy transition which is going on." NATO has established an "innovation fund" and a center for excellence on climate change to help develop such technology. The United Kingdom has also begun to use more climate-friendly fuels, biofuels, for some of its aircraft. Other allies are working on ways to reduce their dependency on diesel, which is also particularly vulnerable to air or land attacks when being transported.

But Stoltenberg said that NATO cannot simply "go 100% from fossil technologies to zero-emission technologies in one stroke." That raises another dilemma.

"Over time we will have parallel systems that will increase costs and there will be additional problems with logistics," when it

comes to supplying motors, battle tanks and ships with different kinds of fuels and parts, he said. "The other dilemma (is) to make sure that the systems can work together," Stoltenberg said. "If different nations (use) different systems that are partly fossil and partly new technologies, then the issue of the interchangeability and interoperability will be even harder." The fight against climate change has, in some ways, been postponed by the heavy reliance of many European countries on Russia for oil and natural gas before it invaded Ukraine last year. Some, like Poland, are slowing their transition away from coal, while others, such as Belgium, plan to keep using nuclear energy for longer. Stoltenberg warned that nations must be wary of creating new dependencies, notably on authoritarian countries like China, for rare earth minerals like lithium and cobalt used in the manufacture of batteries and solar panels and windmills.

Security though is at the heart of the battle against climate change, Stoltenberg told the AP, and peace is a precondition for that, whether in Ukraine or elsewhere. We need peace and stability, he said, so countries can cooperate among themselves and incur a meaningful global effort to reduce emissions. "If allies or Ukraine were forced to choose between a climate-friendly or an effective armed force, then everyone would choose a strong and effective military because that's about our security," he said. The challenge, Stoltenberg underlined "is to reconcile, those two goals in the long run."

US Capitol rioter receives sentence for stun gun attack

WASHINGTON (Agencies): A California man has received a 12-year sentence for plunging a stun gun into the neck of a police officer during the 2021 attack on the United States Capitol, one of the lengthiest punishments handed down so far. Nevertheless, Daniel "DJ" Rodriguez, 40, was defiant, crying out that "Trump won" as he was escorted by law enforcement from a federal district court in Washington, DC.

Only two other defendants in the Capitol attack have received longer prison sentences. In announcing the sentence, Judge Amy Berman Jackson called Rodriguez a "one-man army of hate, attacking police and destroying property" during the events of January 6, 2021. That was the day supporters of then-President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol, in a bid to disrupt the certification of the Electoral College votes from the 2020 election. Trump had falsely claimed the election was rigged to explain his defeat in that race. Still, Judge Jackson brushed aside defence arguments that Rodriguez was simply misled by Trump's "irresponsible and knowingly false claims". "You showed up in [Washington] DC spoiling for a fight," Jackson told Rodriguez. "You can't blame what you did once you got there on anyone but yourself."

Rodriguez offered his own statement to the court, explaining his actions by saying, "I did what I thought was right at the time." He also acknowledged the "great deal of pain" inflicted on Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, whose body camera captured the stun gun assault. "I'm hopeful that Michael Fanone will be OK someday," Rodriguez said. Fanone, however, walked out of the courtroom in the midst of Rodriguez's meandering, 25-minute-long speech. The former police officer later told the Associated Press, "Nothing he could have said to me today would have made any difference whatsoever." He has previously credited the events of January 6 with ending his law enforcement career. Fanone suffered a heart attack, burns and traumatic brain injuries when he was overtaken by rioters who beat him and dragged him down the Capitol steps. He has since testified about his experiences before a now-defunct House committee investigating the Capitol attack. Rodriguez had previously pleaded guilty in February to four felony charges, including assaulting a law enforcement officer, obstruction of justice, and conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding.

Iraq's president ratifies record \$152b budget

BAGHDAD (AP): Iraq's president approved a record \$152 billion budget that the parliament voted on earlier this month and which adds about half a million public sector jobs.

Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid ratified the budget, which has a projected deficit of \$48 billion. Parliament last week voted on the draft, six months into the fiscal year and after months of negotiations.

The main sticking point during the talks was the distribution of oil revenue between the central government in Baghdad and the semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan region in the north. The approved draft consolidates Baghdad's authority over the oil sector and allocates 12.6% of the revenue to the Kurdistan region. The Iraqi Kurdistan local government will be allowed to sell its own oil but will have to deposit the revenue first in a bank account that officials from the central government can monitor. Baghdad will then deduct that amount from its

monthly allocation to the Kurdish regional government and transfer any surplus money to it.

According to an official in Baghdad, the government expects the Kurdistan region's oil exports by way of the Turkish port of Ceyhan - halted for several months due to legal disputes - to resume next week at a rate of 400,000 barrels per day. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under regulations. Iraq's president hailed the budget as "a turning point for the government's implementation of its program, which includes securing the necessary needs of citizens, providing basic services such as health and education, rehabilitating the infrastructure and initiating vital and strategic projects."

The budget, which was also approved for 2024 and 2025 in the same amounts, includes substantial spending on increasing public wages and investing in reconstruction projects that have suffered from years

of conflict. It also has provisions for raising salaries of public sector employees and the conversion of contracted workers into permanent public employees. Meanwhile, the country's Interior Ministry announced the openings for 37,100 members of the police force, for three-year periods with a monthly pay of 500,000 Iraqi dinars - about \$377. It was looking for Iraqis between 18 and 22 years of age. The budget's rosy revenue projections and more than half a million new positions in the public sector have drawn criticism.

Abdulsalam Hassan, an Iraqi researcher and economist, said the state's expenditures were already too high and that the new budget "resembles a ticking time bomb that will have detrimental effects on Iraq's delicate economy." The International Monetary Fund in a recent report warned against "fiscal loosening" and a heavy reliance by Baghdad on oil revenues.

Fighting resumes after Sudan cease-fire ends

CAIRO (AP): Clashes resumed between Sudan's military and a powerful paramilitary force after a three-day cease-fire expired, a protest group and residents reported. Sudan descended into conflict in mid-April after months of worsening tensions exploded into open fighting between rival generals seeking to control the African nation. The war pits the military, led by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, against the Rapid Support Forces, a militia-turned-paramilitary force commanded by Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo.

The cease-fire, brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia, expired. The truce had brought relative calm to Sudan's capital, Khartoum, since it took effect, but fierce fighting was reported starting in parts of the city. Residents said the clashes centered

around an intelligence headquarters near Khartoum International Airport. There were sporadic clashes elsewhere in the capital, according to three people who live in the capital. "The battles have been intensified," said Khalid Abdel-Rahman who lives in Khartoum's city center. "Sounds of gunfire echoed across the area."

Fierce clashes were also reported around a military facility in the neighboring city of Omdurman, according to area resistance committees that are part of a wider group that spearheaded pro-democracy demonstrations over the past years. The resumption of fighting signals that US and Saudi efforts to extend the truce have failed. Both Washington and Riyadh have been mediating between the warring factions to stop the clashes. The conflict has been centered

largely in the capital and western Sudan's Darfur region, which have seen ethnicity-motivated attacks on non-Arab communities by the Rapid Support Forces and allied militias, according to UN officials. The fighting has killed thousands of people and forced more than 2.5 million people to flee their homes to safer areas in Sudan and neighboring countries, according to the UN migration agency. The UN said that within the last month, it has helped truck 17 tons (15.4 metric tons) of aid to various parts of Sudan, including 50 truckloads in the first two days of the latest cease-fire. "We will continue to deliver, cease-fire or not," UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said at the world body's headquarters, while emphasizing that the fighting needs to stop so that the world body can reach all people in need.

Mines dislodged by Ukraine dam collapse could wash up on beaches: UN

GENEVA (Reuters): A United Nations official said that the mines dislodged by the flood waters from Kakhovka dam in Ukraine could float downstream and reach as far as Black Sea beaches. Paul Henslop, head of UN Mine Action at the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine, told reporters in Geneva that PMF-1 mines, also known as "butterfly" mines, were light enough to float downstream for a large distance.

"I would not be surprised

to see that those mines have either got down as far as the sea or over the coming months, as the water is continuing to flow, will be transported down there," he said. "Unfortunately, we could see anti-personnel pressure mines washing up on beaches around the Black Sea." Henslop said anti-tank mines, which are heavier than anti-personnel mines, were less likely to float long distances. The collapse of the Russian-held dam on June 6 unleashed floodwaters across

southern Ukraine and Russian-occupied areas of the Kherson region, killing more than 50 people and destroying homes and farmland. Ukraine's environment minister said that the dam's collapse had caused 1.2 billion euros in damage. Ukraine accuses Russia of blowing up the Soviet-era dam, which has been under Russian control since the early days of its invasion. The Kremlin has accused Kyiv of sabotaging the hydroelectric facility.

EU agree on new sanctions against Russia

BRUSSELS (AP): European Union countries agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine aimed at countering sanctions circumvention through third countries and businesses. The EU had previously imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Banks, companies and markets have been hit - even parts of the sensitive energy sector. More than 1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans.

Much work in the latest batch of sanctions has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort don't get through via nations that trade with the EU and have maintained a business-as-usual relationship with Moscow. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said the new package will "deal a further blow to Putin's war machine with tightened export restrictions, targeting entities supporting the Kremlin." "Our anti-circumvention tool will prevent Russia from getting its hands on sanctioned goods," she added. It is the first time that plans have been announced to target trade via other countries, apart from sanctions against Iranians alleged to be supplying drones to

Russia. It also prohibits the transit via Russia of products and technologies which might help boost its defense and security sector.

Under the latest package, if the EU sees for example that exports of a certain computer chip increase five-fold to one nation, and then sees that such exports from the country increase by about the same amount to Russia, the bloc would be able to take tougher action to end the practice. The new package specifically allows the implementation of measures restricting the sale, or export of sensitive dual-use goods and technology to third countries who could then transfer them to Russia. Under the new rules, the EU could exert much more pressure to end the practice than before. "It does give a big stick with which the EU can say: 'please don't do it,' and then, if it continues we go to restrictive measures," said an official from an EU nation on condition of anonymity because the rules had yet to be published in the EU's official journal. The rules cannot be excessively rigid, since the EU does not want to immediately alienate nations. "We need to look for a balance with nations. When we address their bad behavior, we have to make sure we don't immediately drive them into the arms of Putin," the official said.

The new package will also target 71 extra persons and 33 entities in relation with the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia. Also included is the prohibition to access to ports in the EU by vessels engaged in ship-to-ship transfers when there is a suspicion that a boat is not respecting the ban on importing seaborne Russian crude oil and petroleum products into the bloc. In addition, the package extends the suspension of the broadcasting licenses in the EU of five Russian media outlets under state control. Past sanctions have been agreed on in just months - extremely quickly for the EU. But new measures are becoming increasingly hard to endorse as they inflict damage on the economic and political interests of some member countries even as they aim for the Kremlin. Hungary, for instance, had said earlier this week it wouldn't allow EU measures targeting Russian state nuclear energy company Rosatom, insisting on the importance of nuclear energy for Europe's security and environmental goals. Hungary signed new agreements in April to ensure its continued access to Russian energy, a sign of the country's continuing diplomatic and trade ties with Moscow that have confounded some European leaders amid the war in Ukraine.

Desperate need for clean energy surge in the Global South: IEA

VIENA (Agencies): Financing for clean energy in developing and emerging economies, excluding China, must increase sevenfold within a decade if global warming is to be capped at tolerable levels, the International Energy Agency (IEA) says. To keep temperatures from rising to catastrophic levels, annual investments in non-fossil fuel energy in these Global South countries will need to jump from \$260bn to nearly \$2 trillion, the intergovernmental agency said in a report.

"Financing clean energy in the emerging and developing world is the fault line of reaching international climate goals," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol told journalists. The report was released on the eve of a two-day Summit for a New

Global Financing Pact in Paris, which seeks to galvanise support for revamping the mid-20th century architecture governing financial flows from rich to developing nations. G20 nations are historically responsible for 80 percent of global carbon emissions, which are wreaking havoc on the Earth's climate. "Many vulnerable, lower-income states have been overwhelmed by economic shocks, debts they cannot pay, and the effects of climate change a crisis to which they contributed very little, but which is costing people in these countries dearly," Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's secretary general, said in a statement.

"These are unprecedented challenges that require a rethink of how the world's

financial architecture is set up." Speeding the transition from dirty to clean energy and helping the Global South cope with and prepare for devastating climate impacts are high on the summit agenda. Nearly 800 million people lack electricity and 2.4 billion have no access to clean cooking fuels, most of whom reside in poor and emerging countries. Under current policy trends, one-third of the rise in energy use in these nations over the next decade will be met by burning fossil fuels, the main driver of global warming, the IEA warned. According to Birol, investments in clean energy are increasing, but "the bad news is that more than 90 percent of that increase in clean energy since the Paris Agreement in 2015 comes from advanced economies and China."

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Military courts and test of adjudicators

ON Wednesday, the Supreme Court (SC) constituted a nine-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to hear cases against civilians' trials in the military courts. The jury comprises Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik. Earlier, prominent lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, Justice Jawad S Khawaja, several social activists, and political workers approached the apex court to examine the prosecution of civilians in the military courts. The Petitioners pleaded with the court to annul sections 2 and 59 of the Army Act, notify section 94 and rules unlawful, and declare civilians' trials in military courts unconstitutional.

The saga of military courts is unceasingly resonating in all nooks and corners of the country. At the same time, this issue has become one of the burning topics for prime-time TV talk show, scholarly debates, and political discussions in Tea bars, libraries, and public gatherings in all parts of the nation. The PTI-led opposition is increasingly inserting pressure on the governments, military as well as senior judiciary through continuous lobbying and engagement with foreign media, bar associations, civil society, and human rights groups to get freed its workers/supporters involved in May 9 violence and attacks on military installations. Several lawyers leaders and human rights activists termed the trials of civilians in the military courts unconstitutional and filed petitions in the apex court to revoke the government's decision. The critics are of the view that the government must not drag the military into the political and controversial issues and rioters should be tried in the Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATC) as they committed violence and terrorism against civilians as well as military targets/ installations.

Realistically, the case of rioters' trials in the military courts is a complex issue, that needs an evaluation from several perspectives including the determination of its legality, the contradiction to fundamental citizenry rights, accused rights to appeal in the higher courts along with the judicial appreciation of the provisions of the Army Act in the light of May 9 events and overall scenario in the country. The senior judiciary also considers the military courts a risk to its independence and a serious hazard to civilian supremacy in the country. The bar and civil society are urging the apex court to protect its domain and not to backtrack from its constitutional role as the trials of civilians in the military courts do not meet the international standards, violate the people's right to a public hearing, fair trial, and judgment amid heightened confidentiality and an opaque trial of the accused.

Currently, this legal subject has become a political dispute and a matter of the ego for the ruling government and the military establishment that originated this issue and resolutely pursued trials of civilians in the military courts. The situation is likely to become more complex after military courts announce verdicts and their decisions be reviewed by the higher courts in line with the constitution. Historically, the role and domain of military courts and military adjudicators are very limited and conditional, while the political nature of the case further complicated the situation and made their work more difficult and controversial. At the helm of prevailing confusion and ambiguity, the competing groups are satisfying their grudges against each other while the coalition government is tactfully using May 9 events against its staunch adversary. Thus, the ongoing political wrangling between the government and the opposition is seriously undermining the country's economy, national unity, and cohesion.

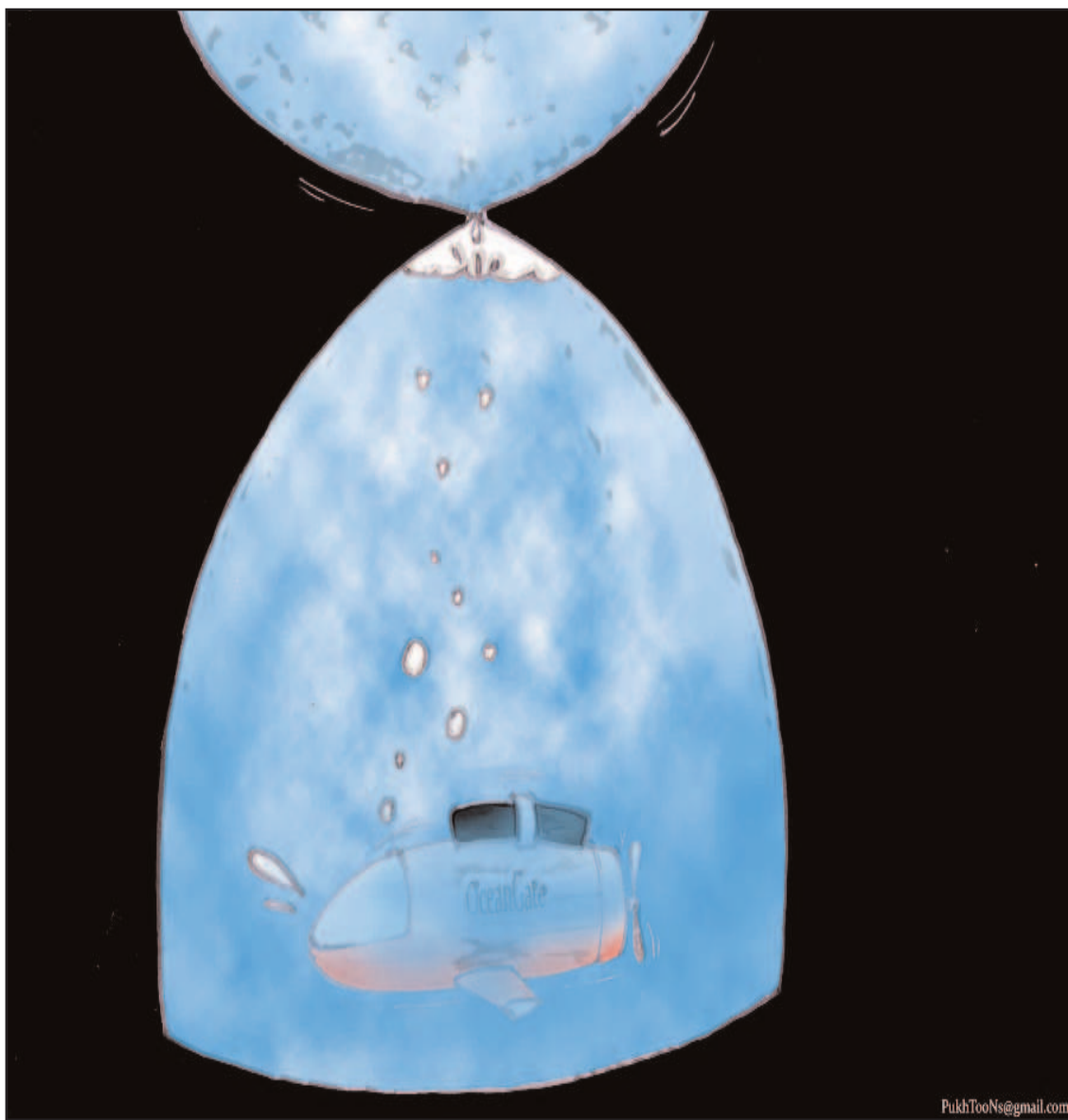
The Chief Justice of Pakistan has constituted a larger bench to examine the case of civilian trials in the military courts, while relevant military laws would also come into consideration by the competent and most powerful bench of the Supreme Court which comprises the current Chief Justice as well as the nominated future Chief Justice of the Apex Court, Justice Qazi Fiaz Esa. This is an important and great idea that the two senior-most judges who often choose to stay on the opposing poles will review the most sensitive case in the country's history. The current government intends to settle its score with the PTI by using military establishment and covering extra mileage against its opponents by trying opponents in the military courts. Otherthe, the ruling elite has nothing on its credit except the baggage of corruption and making a mockery of public issues. The Chief Justice has made a larger bench to shed off blame for any partiality and favoritism, however, the bench members have conflicting ideologies and diverging interests in the prevailing situation in the country. The court and adjudicators will face a great challenge in securing the constitution, protecting the dignity of the judiciary, and overcoming their internal differences and biases. Will the credibility of the justice system in Pakistan be restored if the decision is made in favor of military courts? Whether judicial activism will prevail against the military courts, or the judges will reinvent the theory of necessity once more.

Unfortunately, the 9-member larger bench collapsed before the commencement of the hearing as Justice Qazi Faiz Esa and Justice Tariq quit the jury, amid fear, apprehensions, and doubts. Apparently, the judges failed at an early stage of their examination, while the remaining seven-member bench kicked off the hearing of the case on Thursday.

There are different views, multiple scenarios, and countless assumptions regarding the forthcoming verdict in the case regarding trials of civilians in military courts. But ultimate justice has always been a need of the countries around the globe that guide leaders and set the course for the nations. Therefore, the public and both contesting groups must have good faith in the judiciary that will surely rescue the nation at this crucial point in history.

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The exorbitant price of Europe's economic sovereignty

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard

GALACTIC sums of taxpayer money are to be sacrificed on the altar of European economic sovereignty. The shock of the pandemic and Putin's war have caused the EU to swing wildly from naive globalism to the indiscriminate pursuit of industrial self-interest.

The EU wants its own supply of semiconductor chips, its own lithium gigafactories, and its own indigenous clean hydrogen, whatever the cost, and even when it patently violates the principle of Ricardian competitive advantage. Intel has secured €10bn of subsidies from the German authorities to build two semiconductor 'fabs' in Saxony-Anhalt able to manufacture advanced chips down to the frontier of two nanometers (2nm) - largely duplicating a plant that already exists on EU territory in Ireland.

This may be glamorous, but Germany does not need such cutting-edge chips to build cars or to supply its manufacturing base. It needs routine chips that are cheap and globally abundant, albeit subject to boom-bust cycles and occasional scarcity much like commodities. The Intel subsidy amounts to over €3.3m for each of the 3,000 permanent jobs expected at the site. It is the biggest foreign investment project in German history and perhaps the most foolhardy. Negotiations are running in parallel with Taiwan's TSMC for another site near Dresden, undoubtedly involving public funds of equal scale. German economists from across the spectrum are united in a blizzard of criticism. "It is sheer madness. They will struggle to generate any value added," said Justus Haucap, a competition expert from Dusseldorf University.

"Why are we handing out presents to profitable companies?" asked Reint Gropp, head of the Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH). The plant

may prove to be the last hurrah of the silicon chip era. It relies on the extreme miniaturisation of silicon wafers, a technology already nearing its limits that may soon be leapfrogged by the next generation of compound semiconductors. It is akin to the strategy of Germany's car industry in relying for too long on refinements to the combustion engine when it was about to be blind-sided by electrification. The UK company Paragraf, a Cambridge University spin-off, is already producing 2D graphene chips for sensors that are one-atom thick, a thousand times faster than silicon wafers, and use 10,000 times less energy. It is a technology so sensitive that staff require special protection in electronic intelligence to prevent Chinese cyber-theft.

The British government is spending far less in headline sums on its £1bn semiconductor strategy but the money is surgical, targeting ultra hi-tech clusters in areas where the UK is already a world leader. It is a bet on the future of advanced compound chips, but also on the crucial niche of design. Some 95pc of the processors in the world's smartphones are designed by ARM in Cambridge. The UK strategy is nothing like the EU's €43bn chips act, which aims to raise Europe's share of global chip output from 8pc to 20pc by the end of the decade (they love targets in Brussels), and which actually requires €500bn in total investment to be plausible.

It is the semiconductor equivalent of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, and will probably result in the same pathological misallocation of resources. Olaf Scholz's coalition in Berlin hopes that Intel's €30bn project - with a smaller sister site nearby in Poland - will lead to a Silicon Saxony able to match the great global chip hubs, with an economic

ecosystem of supporting universities and tech contractors. Prof Gropp said it is really just a big factory: "It won't be the centre of decision-making and there won't be any important research activity."

TSMC's founder Morris Chang describes America's push for chip sovereignty as a "very expensive exercise in futility". One wonders what he thinks of Europe's bid to catch up from further behind and without cheap energy or a reservoir of specialised workers. Labour costs in Taiwan's chip industry are 40pc lower and the country has a nexus of technical colleges feeding into the fabs.

Critics say the EU has drawn entirely the wrong conclusion from the supply-chain rupture during the pandemic, when car-makers cancelled their chip orders, only to discover later that makers of laptops and home electronics had snapped up all the available supply to meet lockdown demand. There was no disruption in global chip supply apart from a brief problem in Malaysia. It is true that half the world's advanced chips of 10nm or below come from Taiwan, which could be stormed by the Chinese navy at any time, and these chips are becoming necessary for AI accelerators, supercomputing, G5 mobile, or smart weapons systems. This supply chain is clearly unsafe but the problem is being rectified rapidly. The question is how much money the EU wants to spend replicating plants in the US, Korea, Japan, or indeed Ireland, and thus contributing to the next global chip glut.

The EU is adopting the same blunderbuss strategy in pursuit of battery sovereignty. Is it really worth trying to claw back market share for lithium-ion EV batteries with lavish subsidies for gigafactories when Chinese companies such as CATL are already well

ahead and are switching to zero-carbon plants faster than Europe can talk about it? The wiser course would be to focus all efforts on the next generation of solid state and other advanced batteries with five times the energy density and range. It is these that will conquer the world market in the 2030s. It is the same folly with the EU's €500bn hydrogen strategy. It makes no sense to ship green ammonia to Europe from halfway around the world in oceanic tankers, losing 80pc of the energy in the process.

Green hydrogen should be produced at scale in spots with the world's cheapest renewable energy, such as Namibia, Morocco, and the Gulf, or Chile's Atacama Desert and Australia's Pilbara, and it should be turned into fertilisers or green steel on site before being shipped. Europe cannot compete in green hydrogen production at a global level and should not try to do so. What it can plausibly do (by the 2030s) is to harness free surplus power from its wind and solar parks at peak times to produce hydrogen for local needs, either for energy storage to balance the grid, or to displace dirty hydrogen in nearby chemical plants. That makes sense. Industrial strategy has its value. It is imperative at times. But there is a mad frenetic element to Europe's quest for fortress autonomy across the board. It smacks of over-reaction. EU superstate enthusiasts are exploiting the emotion of the moment to push an ideological agenda. The UK is well-advised to avoid this numbers game. The best industrial strategy is good education in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, maths), nurtured by well-funded research bodies, under the rule of tort law, and all sitting on a bed of low effective taxation for business and investment. Let the market do the rest.

The Telegraph

UN aid cut to Rohingya must be urgently reversed

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

THE recent decision by the UN to reduce aid to the Rohingya is a devastating blow to their already precarious circumstances. This cut-back will inevitably exacerbate the suffering of a vulnerable population that has already endured unimaginable horrors. The reduction in health-care services will lead to increased mortality rates, particularly among children and the elderly. The lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities will expose the Rohingya to diseases, posing a significant risk to public health in the already overcrowded camps. Educational programs will also suffer, denying children the opportunity for a brighter future.

Moreover, the aid cut sends a disheartening message to the Rohingya community, who have already experienced a lack of international support and attention. It undermines their hope for justice, amplifies their feelings of abandonment and perpetuates their statelessness. This decision risks further entrenching their marginalized status and perpetuating cycles of poverty and despair. The international community has a moral obligation to support the Rohingya people in their time of need. By cutting aid, the UN risks undermining its own mandate to protect and uphold human rights. Member states must take immediate action to pressure the UN and other humanitarian organizations to reverse this decision and restore essential aid to the Rohingya population. Diplomatic efforts should be intensified to engage with the Myanmar government and demand an end to the persecution and discrimination faced by the Rohingya.

Additionally, it is essential to address the root causes of the crisis. The international community should exert diplomatic and economic pressure on Myanmar to promote accountability and justice for the atrocities committed against the Rohingya. Steps must be taken to ensure the safe and voluntary return of the Rohingya to their homes with full rights and protections. The decision to cut UN aid to the Rohingya population is an affront to our shared humanity and a betrayal of our responsibility to protect the vulnerable. The international community cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering and injustice faced by the Rohingya. It is imperative that we act swiftly to reverse this decision, restore essential aid and work toward a lasting resolution to the crisis. Only by doing so can we uphold the fundamental principles of human rights, promote justice and offer hope for a brighter future to the Rohingya people.

The recent reduction in food rations by the UN World Food Programme for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh is piling further pressure on already vulnerable populations. The cuts, from \$12 per month to a mere \$8, are pushing refugees toward returning to perilous conditions in Myanmar. UN special rapporteurs have warned that these reductions will inevitably lead to increased rates of malnutrition, infant mortality, violence and even death. The desperate cir-

cumstances may force some refugees to risk their lives at sea rather than face hunger and potential death in the overcrowded camps. This is not the first time that food ration cuts have accompanied efforts to coerce Rohingya refugees into leaving. Back in 1978, the Bangladesh government weaponized food to compel starving Rohingya refugees to return to Myanmar, where persecution awaited them. History now seems to be repeating itself, as Rohingya refugees are once again confined to camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, with no permission to work. Their survival depends solely on food rations.

A report by Alan C. Lindquist, former head of the UN Refugee Agency's Sub-office in Cox's Bazar, revealed the dire situation in 1979. The report quoted Bangladesh's then-secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Syed Ali Khasru, who stated that the government would not make the refugees "so comfortable that they won't go back to (Myanmar)." The conditions in the camps were devastating, with 80 to 85 people dying daily by December 1978. The terrible circumstances drove a significant number of Rohingya to go back to escape the suffering, with more than 2,000 returning every three days, as stipulated in an agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Tragically, more than 11,900 Rohingya lost their lives, while another 107,000 were forced to return to Myanmar. In the present context, the World Food Programme is making these cuts due to donor shortfalls. It is crucial for international donors, as well as Bangladesh, to learn from history and not repeat the mistakes of the past. Myanmar is still far from being a safe haven for the Rohingya. Both the international community and Bangladesh have a responsibility to address this crisis. Bangladesh should ease restrictions on the refugees, allowing them to earn money to purchase food and prevent another tragic death toll. The current situation demands urgent action from all stakeholders involved. The UN must prioritize restoring adequate funding to secure full food rations for the Rohingya refugees. International donors should step forward and fulfill their obligations to ensure the basic human rights and well-being of the Rohingya population. Bangladesh, while hosting a significant number of refugees, must show compassion and empathy by lifting restrictions on their ability to work.

By empowering the refugees to support themselves and purchase food, Bangladesh can help prevent further suffering and loss of life. It is essential to recognize the long-term implications of the aid cuts and the potential consequences they hold for the Rohingya population. The international community, donor countries and Bangladesh must collaborate to find sustainable solutions that address the root causes of the crisis and ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of the Rohingya people. Only through collective efforts can we strive toward justice, human rights and a brighter future for the Rohingya community.

Arab News

Who wins in the Hunter Biden plea deal

Norman Eisen

WE might have expected a fight from Hunter Biden and his lead trial counsel Abbe Lowell rather than news of Tuesday's plea deal with the Justice Department. After all, Lowell did not become one of America's most successful trial lawyers by pleading his clients out.

But the deal, requiring Hunter Biden to plead guilty to two tax misdemeanors and to admit to felony gun possession, was a good one for the two of them - and for prosecutors. From the defense perspective, the charges for not paying taxes on time and for possessing a weapon while on drugs were not going to be the easiest to defend. In his 2021 memoir, Hunter Biden said he was abusing substances again in 2018, which raised suspicion that he possibly broke federal law when he purchased the gun.

Biden's counsel has partly attributed these offenses to his client being in the depths of his substance abuse. But, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, many people who are tried and convicted are suffering from substance use disorders. So a plea deal minimizes Biden's risk of incarceration and lets him close this dark chapter of his life. Of course, it also does the same for his father, lifting a potential complication from President Joe Biden's reelection campaign. If his son and his legal team had chosen to fight, the case would have played out amid the 2024 presidential campaign and become an even bigger talking point for Joe Biden's Republican rival. Hunter Biden and Lowell, both of whom I've gotten to know during my tenure in the Obama White House and over my career as a criminal defense lawyer, were undoubtedly attuned

to this political dimension.

But make no mistake, entering this plea deal is also the right thing for the government to do. Charges would have been unusual in these circumstances. As a defense lawyer who has handled both firearms and tax cases, it is uncommon for someone to be prosecuted for possessing a firearm if he did not go on to commit some further crime with the weapon obtained. Additionally, as The New York Times reported, a gun possession charge would have been subject to a vigorous legal challenge, on the grounds that it runs afoul of a recent Supreme Court decision expanding the Second Amendment's protection of the right to possess a gun. As for the tax charges, where you have repayment, as happened in Hunter Biden's case, such matters are usually resolved civilly.

Biden should not be treated better than anybody else, but it would be a betrayal of the rule of law by prosecutors to treat him worse than similarly situated individuals simply based upon his last name. And there was risk that a jury in Delaware might not convict owing to Biden's compelling personal story of overcoming addiction and his family name. Next, Hunter Biden will be arraigned and enter his plea. At some point after that, his sentencing will occur. Under the terms of the plea agreement here and those in similar cases, these offenses are very likely not going to generate jail time. But can we be confident a no jail sentencing will really put Hunter Biden's legal woes to bed, especially given that David Weiss, the Trump-appointed US attorney overseeing the probe, said the investigation is "ongoing"?

Prosecutors may still be looking further into other matters, such as Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings, a previous focus of their investigation.

However, that is not likely to amount to much, as I discovered when I served as special counsel to House Democrats for the first impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. The investigation included a deep dive into the issue of Hunter Biden's foreign business connections, and we found no indication of criminality on his part. Moreover, Lowell and his co-counsel are skilled defense attorneys and likely would not have resolved Biden's legal troubles now if more serious charges could still be to come. Indeed, Chris Clark, another Biden attorney, said he believes that with this deal, "the five-year investigation into Hunter is resolved." Though we cannot know with certainty,

Weiss likely said that the investigation is "ongoing" because he is tying up loose ends. It probably does not hurt that as long as the investigation is technically open, he can more easily fend off illegitimate interference from Trump's congressional allies. The Justice Department has a policy of limiting the information they provide Congress about ongoing investigations - and with good reason. Politics has no place in the law-enforcement process.

Notwithstanding any loose ends, and all of the GOP claims that Hunter Biden got a "sweetheart deal," his legal drama will likely soon be in the rearview mirror, both for him and his father. When you combine that with the immediate benefit to Hunter Biden himself, and the wisdom of the plea for prosecutors, this is a just conclusion all around.

CNN

Paris talks aim to rehaul world financing norms

DOZENS of heads of state, along with leaders from business, multilateral institutions and civil society are set to gather in Paris Thursday to discuss ways to rehaul the global financial system, as climate change inflicts ever harsher consequences especially on debt-strapped developing countries.

The two-day Summit for a New Global Financial Pact is the latest in a raft of ambitious meetings French President Emmanuel Macron has hosted over the years with mixed results. The goal of these latest talks, France's presidency says, is to lay the groundwork for a financial system responsive to some of today's most daunting challenges: from fighting the fallout of rising greenhouse emissions and inequality to protecting biodiversity. Key to realizing them is giving poorer, frontline nations the funds to do so.

In a statement published Wednesday in France's Le Monde newspaper, President Biden joined 11 other heads of state, including Macron, in calling for a "just and inclusive" transition to help the most vulnerable countries address development needs and fight poverty and climate change. "We are convinced that poverty reduction and the protection of the planet are converging objectives," the leaders wrote, calling among other things for \$100 million in voluntary funds, faster debt relief and more multi-lateral and sustainable financing for the most vulnerable countries. "Fighting poverty and acting for the climate and biodiversity: we do not have to choose," Macron said in a recent tweet that called for building a "fair transition."

"African countries and the

Lisa Bryant

Global South more broadly are having to service debt obligations, increase their adaptive capacity and suffer climate loss and damage simultaneously," said Maria Nkhonjera, senior program officer for the African Climate Foundation, a South African-based policy and research organization. "It's about creating a financial system that's fair and responsive to their needs." Those meeting in Paris include African leaders, Brazil's president, Lula da Silva and China's premier Li Qiang. European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen is expected at the talks, along with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. "The idea is not to have a clear initiative out of this or a clear outcome, but really to steer a process that in the coming months through other conferences," said Simone Tagliapietra, senior fellow at Brussels-based economic think tank Bruegel. "The only way to tackle this problem is through collaboration."

Still, of the 50 heads of state due to attend, very few hail from the richest, most powerful nations. Only two, host Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, represent G7 countries. The Paris meeting "seems to be big on lofty promises and light on actual commitments," wrote development media outlet Devex. Tagliapietra agrees the low turnout of western leaders could be a handicap. "You need strong political steering" to tackle the summit's ambitious goals, he said, "and not having all the leaders in the room might weaken this effort."

Still, he added, "it might still be a useful summit to steer a process that could lead to impor-

tant decisions later on." A group of developing countries led by Barbados' prime minister, Mia Mottley, has set out a set of objectives in changing the way rich countries finance poorer ones on the frontlines of climate change - including meeting promises they made but never kept. Among those set out by the group, known as the Bridgetown Initiative: a 2009 agreement for developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion yearly in climate financing, and finding new ways for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to increase loans to developing countries and support private investments in green energy. "What we are seeing is that loans and development aid are simply being repackaged as climate finance," says Nkhonjera of the African Climate Foundation. "So it's not about a relocation of funds from one area to another, but about pumping more funds into the system."

Host France is additionally pushing for debt restructuring for especially strapped nations, starting with Zambia, and for slapping a carbon emissions tax on the shipping industry. The International Monetary Fund has said a debt agreement between Zambia and its creditors could be achieved within days, Reuters reports. The summit's success will be measured "by the financial flows the Global North is able to mobilize for the Global South when it comes to climate change, adaptation and mitigation," Bruegel's Tagliapietra said.

Several non-governmental groups, including international charity Oxfam, have called on rich nations for even bigger com-

mitments. "Countries from the South deserve better than bread-crumbs and debt," the NGOs said in a statement, which calls for writing off debts of the most vulnerable countries, taxing the biggest and richest polluters and fighting tax evasion and illicit financial flows. Oxfam, for one, estimates that developing countries need trillions of dollars before 2030 to cope with climate change and meet their sustainable development goals.

Backdropping their demands are massive debts that many developing countries are struggling to repay. China has been especially singled out for its reluctance to forgive loans - with some exceptions - and its lack of transparency on its lending terms and sums. But critics say Western countries have also fallen short. "Broken promises, missed opportunities and a failure to see the bigger picture; that's the story of the west's approach to developing nations in recent years," Larry Elliott, The Guardian's economics editor, wrote in an opinion for the newspaper. If the West wants to offer an alternative to Chinese influence, especially in Africa "it needs to sharpen up its act fast," he added.

Still, Bruegel analyst Tagliapietra counts among others in saying China's presence at the Paris summit is a plus. "Not having China in the room would be missing an important part of the debate," he said, noting the recent efforts by Washington and Beijing to stabilize ties as another positive backdrop. "Having a constructive approach with the Chinese is what's needed at the end of the day," he added, "if we are to achieve the sustainable development agenda."

VOA

Further tests await Israel's successful protest movement

Yossi Mekelberg

ISRAEL is no stranger to mass protests. At many major junctures in the country's history, people have taken to the streets to voice their concerns. In the late 1970s, for instance, many thousands filled the streets to encourage their government to make progress in the peace negotiations with Egypt. A few years later, in 1982 - in what is still the largest demonstration in the country's history - protesters demanded a judicial inquest into Israel's role in the massacre of Palestinian refugees in Sabra and the Shatila camp in Beirut.

However, as crucial as these mass rallies were, they concentrated on a single issue, they took place over a short period of time, they mainly took place in the more liberal-oriented Tel Aviv and you could not mistake the political-ideological persuasion of those participating.

But what we have seen over the past six months of almost daily protests against the current government's antidemocratic drive, through legislation and other means, is a completely new phenomenon in terms of intensity, methods, organization and perseverance. It may well go on to become a model for others to emulate - a model of civil resistance to governments that are moving away from democracy toward a quasi-authoritarian system of governance. However, it remains unclear for how long the protest movement can sustain this standoff with the government and continue to motivate masses of people to keep on actively protesting. On the one hand, the mass demonstrations that began in early January of this year were a spontaneous and direct response to a series of anti-democratic pieces of legislation brought in by the new coalition government. Both the speed and the magnitude of the assault on good governance, on integrity in public life and, above all, on the judiciary provoked the pro-democracy forces in Israel to organize themselves, quickly and with a sense of purpose.

On the other hand, much of what has emerged in the last few months is an accumulation of malaise in large parts of Israeli society, which fear for the democratic system but are also resentful that their dwindling influence on the direction the country is taking is in inverse correlation to the contributions they make to Israel's prosperity and security. Meanwhile, those who barely pull their weight are

now in power and using antidemocratic methods in their attempts to perpetuate their rule. Impressively and organically, an authentic leadership of this protest movement has emerged and, with it, the exemplary organizational skills required to continue to hold the countrywide mass rallies. But these leaders also have day jobs and by no stretch of the imagination do they represent a monolithic movement with a single and coherent political agenda. This is both the movement's strength and its weakness. It is mainly a coalition of movements and individuals that has set itself to contain and, if possible, reverse the government's moves to seize all power and, in the process, trample on and crush the checks and balances system without which no true democracy can survive.

But whereas there are still substantial numbers turning out to make their voices heard, particularly at the major demonstrations in Tel Aviv's Kaplan Street, numbers are declining and it is a huge challenge for the organizers to consolidate this support every weekend. At the same time, however, the very proactive "Black Flag" movement, for example, which throughout the week "meets and greets" ministers and other MKs who are members of the coalition wherever they go, with chants such as "democracy" or "shame," is continuing its activities all across the country and on social media with high levels of determination, sophistication and efficiency. Admittedly, sustaining this level of support for so long is extremely impressive, especially in the face of the authorities' state power and resources. However, if initially Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was taken by complete surprise at the resistance to his unscrupulous and irresponsible maneuvering, and seemed to lose both his cool and his judgment, he is now back to his old opportunistic "best" in manipulating the entire political system. This presents a tough challenge to those who head the protest movement as they seek to convince people that they may have won a battle or two but are very far from winning the war.

For now, much of the antidemocratic legislation is on hold, while negotiations between representatives of the coalition and the opposition are being hosted by the president, but both sides know that, at present, there is no compromise in sight.

This serves Netanyahu as best as it can under the circumstances and it also sedates the protests against his government. Undeniably, when it comes to mass protests, the number of feet on the ground is key, but it was only to be expected that the initial fever would subside somewhat. Yet a smaller protest movement, but one more united behind its message, could actually bolster it and increase its impact. Such a movement could look beyond the current crisis and the business of containing this government and begin to build a progressive-democratic agenda that is fit for the 21st century and will be able to guarantee that the democratic system cannot be harmed by the occasional election result.

Now that cracks are beginning to show in the Netanyahu government, there is an opportunity for the protest movement to galvanize its leadership, its cadres and, most importantly, its objectives. Furthermore, there are opportunities for the segments of Israeli society that are natural allies of the protest movement - such as the Palestinian citizens of Israel, who do not feel that their plight is currently being aired by the protests, or those on the periphery who have been neglected by the government but traditionally support the right - to be brought into the fold. Reaching out and including these populations could strengthen the protesters' cause and give them additional legitimacy. Israel's protest movement can look back on the last six months with great satisfaction and pride. It has built an apolitical front that has, at least for now, slowed down the attacks on the country's democratic system and driven a wedge between those in the government who are ready to charge on with their irreversible harms against the judiciary regardless of the public response and those who realize that, even if they support such moves, it could all end in an electoral disaster for them.

The danger now is that Netanyahu and some of his allies might revert to delaying- and salami tactics - incremental moves that, when combined, are as dangerous yet not as obvious and, as a result, will make it harder to encourage people to take to the streets. And this is where the leaders of the protest movement are going to be further tested. Hopefully they will show their mettle, as they have done so impressively over the last 24 weeks.

Irregular migrants take huge risks in search of a better life

A ship carrying hundreds of migrants last week sank in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Greece. There are dozens dead and hundreds still missing. Meanwhile, a BBC investigation found evidence that gangs in Iran are kidnapping and torturing Afghan migrants while demanding ransom payments. These events highlight the extreme risks that many irregular migrants face around the world. But migrants continue to attempt hazardous journeys.

Irregular migrants lack official government permission to cross a border. Some irregular migrants are refugees fleeing violence and persecution. Others seek economic opportunity. Many are fleeing both violence and economic despair in search of a safe haven and hope. Irregular migrants often lack the resources or permissions necessary to travel by safe or comfortable means, leaving them to walk extremely long distances or take unsafe forms of travel. For example, some migrants crossing through Mexico to the US jump onto dangerous trains, often riding on top. Last week's shipwreck near Greece may be one of the worst maritime disasters in the Mediterranean, but it also represents just one of many cases in which migrants drown while attempting to travel on overcrowded boats. In the US and Europe, migrants have died due to suffocation or extreme temperatures in the backs of trucks and trailers.

Irregular migrants contend with

exhaustion and exposure. Many routes pass through inhospitable environments such as mountains, deserts and rainforests. Heat, cold, rain, snow, sun exposure and more present risks. In some places, such as the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama, snakebites and other natural hazards threaten migrants. Many drown while attempting to cross rivers. These exposures and hunger weaken migrants, leading to exhaustion and injuries. When migrants are injured or become ill, they often lack access to healthcare. Families can easily become separated. For example, there are many stories of parents losing children as they struggle through the Darien Gap, though some are reunited. When migrants drown at sea in rivers, sometimes parents or children survive but lose their family members.

Some of the worst risks come from people seeking to exploit the migrants' desperation. Human traffickers, gangs and other criminals find many ways to profit. Some of their methods are nonviolent forms of exploitation, such as charging high prices for water, food and shoes along key routes or charging migrants for assistance crossing borders. Other forms of exploitation are very violent. The BBC found that gangs in Iran are kidnapping Afghan migrants - sometimes with the cooperation of human traffickers - and then abusing them; they send evidence of the violence to the migrants' fami-

lies and demand a ransom. Robbery is a frequent risk. Sexual abuse is a very common experience for irregular migrants, especially but not only women. Migrants face the danger of exploitation for unpaid or cheap labor and sex trafficking - both while they travel and often at their destination. Migrants who must sleep without shelter and travel along dangerous routes are at high risk of murder, beatings, rape and theft.

A look at some of the world's most popular and dangerous routes for migrants offers a glimpse into the obstacles that they face. Afghans attempting to travel through Iran to Turkiye and then Europe often must pay traffickers and face violence from the traffickers, other criminals and border security forces. Many migrants from Africa and the Middle East face extreme risks and deprivations attempting to reach Libya and then cross by boat to Italy. However, it is the most dangerous sea route for migrants in the world. Furthermore, many migrants are detained in notoriously awful prisons in Libya. Venezuelans endure extreme environments as well as violence in their efforts to reach the US, Chile and other countries. The suffering of Central American migrants trying to reach the US starts well before they arrive at the US-Mexico border, where they face additional hurdles and dangers.

Why do so many people - including families with young

children or pregnant women - attempt these difficult journeys? Sometimes, they do not fully understand the risks. Media reports suggest that traffickers often lie to migrants about the length and difficulty of a route. However, many migrants are well aware of the dangers and push on anyway. There are many stories of migrants who fail in their initial efforts to migrate but try again, often multiple times, across multiple borders. The reality is that many of these migrants have little left to lose. Many irregular migrants spend all they have, even borrowing from family or friends, to pay for their journeys. Some are robbed and have nothing left. Failure is not an option. Furthermore, many migrants are fleeing violence and deprivation at home, so violence and deprivation along the way to a potentially better life can easily be worth the risk. They seek to reunite with family who have already made it, to find safety and hope or to find economic opportunity that allows them to feed and shelter their families. Many destination countries and transit countries try to stop migrants with walls, forcing them back across borders or onto the sea and other means. While such methods might deter some migrants, they fail to address the fundamental reality that most migrants cannot give up. More effective approaches might include providing more regulated pathways for migration and helping to address the initial factors that push migrants to attempt risky journeys.

Who will pay to rebuild Ukraine after all this death and destruction?

Denys Shmyhal

WE have no doubt that the war with Russia will end with Ukraine's victory. But when the war is over, the big question will be who will pay for its consequences? Who will pay for the reconstruction of Ukraine? Today an international Ukraine recovery conference begins in London. This is how we see it.

There is not a snowball's chance in hell that Putin's Russia will pay Ukraine reparations for the destruction. According to the World Bank, \$411bn (£320bn) is needed to rebuild Ukraine. That far exceeds our country's GDP in 2022, and that isn't the final amount. Russia has already killed or injured over 22,000 Ukrainian civilians, destroyed and damaged 1,500 hospitals, hit 10% of our education infrastructure and 50% of our energy infrastructure; 2.4 million people have had their homes damaged or completely destroyed. Because of the Russian army's actions, about 30% of Ukraine's territory may be contaminated with mines and shells. That is an area roughly the size of Great Britain. The scale of destruction is unlike anything Europe has seen since the second world war.

For the first time in history, we have the chance to put into effect the principle of just retribution, whereby the aggressor finances the reconstruction of what has been destroyed. We must seize this opportunity and create a new be-

con of hope for Ukraine and for other states that could potentially become victims of aggression. After the large-scale Russian invasion, more than \$300bn in foreign exchange reserves held by the Russian central bank were frozen in the west. Searches for and seizures of Russians' private assets continue. The international task-force dealing with the seizure of assets of sanctioned individuals and companies had found \$58bn in Russian funds by March this year. Detecting and blocking is only half the battle. Russia's assets should work for Ukraine. Under no circumstances should they be allowed to return to the Russian Federation. This would mean the defeat of the free world and maximum injustice to Ukraine: Russia will use these resources for new wars and our country will be in ruins.

Russia's money should become a major source of recovery. It should not be funded by Ukrainians, partner state taxpayers or international financial organisations. Russia must pay. That would be logical, fair and just. In November 2022, the general assembly of the UN adopted a historic resolution on the creation of an international mechanism to ensure Ukraine is compensated for its losses. The first practical step was taken at the summit of Council of Europe member states

in Reykjavik, where a register of damage was launched. A digital record of the destruction caused by Russian aggression is the first element of the international compensation mechanism. In this way, we will carefully record and verify all losses in order to hold Russia accountable.

There are four more important steps ahead. First, an international commission to determine the amount of compensation to be paid to victims on the basis of the data in the register must be established. Second, partner states must amend their legislation to allow the diversion of "frozen" Russian assets to Ukraine. Third, a compensation fund in which the money will be collected must be set up. Finally, the practical implementation of confiscations and payments for reconstruction will be needed. We are aware that we are pioneers. So far, no one has done anything similar. We understand the fears of our partners, but Russia's criminal actions are so unprecedented that fundamentally new, courageous decisions are needed. These decisions will be important not only for Ukraine, but for the whole world.

We propose to create a universal system whereby the internationally recognised aggressor and perpetrator of war pays for its crimes. This will be a fully legitimate mechanism based on the rel-

evant international agreement. Today the ball is in our partners' and allies' court. It depends on them how quickly we move from an idea to its implementation. We call on our partners, especially from the US, the UK, the EU and Canada, to show leadership and take practical steps to seize relevant assets for the reconstruction of Ukraine. On Monday, the UK government unveiled new legislation that would maintain the imposition of sanctions on Russia until and unless Putin pays adequate compensation to Ukraine. In that way, frozen Russian assets can be donated to Ukrainian reconstruction. That is a start.

And Ukraine is leading by example. At the start of a full-scale war, we took decisive steps to seize Russian assets. So far, the assets of some 6,800 individuals and legal entities linked in one way or another to the aggressor state have been frozen, with some of them already confiscated. Every Russian state dollar found and confiscated relieves the budgets of partner states. Instead, it increases our ability to rebuild the economy and infrastructure on the principle of "build back better". The seizure of Russian assets is in the national interest of states seeking lasting peace and global prosperity in a world in which autocratic regimes are afraid to attack their neighbours. For they will know that they will be forced to pay for everything.

There will be no civil war over Trump. Here's why

Robert Reich

THE former president of the United States, now running for re-election, assails "the 'thugs' from the Department of Justice", calls Special Counsel Jack Smith a "deranged lunatic" and casts his prosecutions and his bid for the White House as part of a "final battle" for America. In a Saturday speech to the Georgia Republican party, Trump characterized the entire American justice system as deployed to prevent him from winning the 2024 election.

"These people don't stop and they're bad and we have to get rid of them. These criminals cannot be rewarded. They must be defeated." Once again, Trump is demanding that Americans choose sides. But in his deranged mind, this "final battle" is not just against his normal cast of ill-defined villains. It is between those who glorify him and those who detest him. It will be a final battle over... himself. "See you in Miami on Tuesday!!!" he told his followers on Friday night in a Truth Social post, referring to his Tuesday arraignment.

It was chilling reminder of his 19 December 2020, tweet, "Be there, will be wild!" - which inspired extremist groups to disrupt the January 6 certification. At the Georgia Republican party convention on Friday night, the Arizona Republican Kari Lake - who will go to Miami to "support" Trump - suggested violence. "If you want to get to President Trump, you're going to have to go through me and you're going to have to go through 75 million Americans just like me," Lake exclaimed

to roaring cheers and a standing ovation. "Most of us are card-carrying members of the NRA," the National Rifle Association gun lobby. "That's not a threat, that's a public service announcement." Most Republicans in Congress are once again siding with Trump rather than standing for the rule of law.

A few are openly fomenting violence. The Louisiana representative Clay Higgins suggested guerrilla warfare: "This is a perimeter probe from the oppressors. Hold. rPOTUS [a reference to the real president of the United States] has this. Buckle up. 1/50K know your bridges. Rock steady calm." Most other prominent Republicans - even those seeking the Republican presidential nomination - are criticizing Biden, Merrick Garland and the special counsel Jack Smith for "weaponizing" the justice department. All this advances Trump's goal of forcing Americans to choose sides over him. Violence is possible, but there will be no civil war.

Nations don't go to war over whether they like or hate specific leaders. They go to war over the ideologies, religions, racism, social classes or economic policies these leaders represent. But Trump represents nothing other than his own grievance with a system that refused him a second term and is now beginning to hold him accountable for violating the law. In addition, the guardrails that protected American democracy after the 2020 election - the courts, state election officials, the military, and the justice department - are stronger than before Trump

tested them the first time. Many of those who stormed the Capitol have been tried and convicted. Election-denying candidates were largely defeated in the 2022 midterms. The courts have adamantly backed federal prosecutors. Third, Trump's advocates are having difficulty defending the charges in the unsealed indictment - that Trump threatened America's security by illegally holding (and in some cases sharing) documents concerning "United States nuclear programs; potential vulnerabilities of the United States and its allies to military attack; and plans for possible retaliation in response to a foreign attack", and then shared a "plan of attack" against Iran.

Republicans consider national security the highest and most sacred goal of the republic. A large number have served in the armed forces. Trump's own attorney general, Bill Barr, said on Fox News Sunday that he was "shocked by the degree of sensitivity of these documents and how many there were, frankly ... If even half of it is true, then he's toast. I mean, it's a very detailed indictment, and it's very, very damning. And this idea of presenting Trump as a victim here, a victim of a witch-hunt, is ridiculous." None of this is cause for complacency. Trump is as loony and dangerous as ever. He has inspired violence before, and he could do it again. But I believe that many who supported him in 2020 are catching on to his lunacy. Trump wants Americans to engage in a "final battle" over his own narcissistic cravings. Instead, he will get a squalid and humiliating last act.

Pakistan Stock Exchange loses 68 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 68.75 points on Thursday, a slight negative change of 0.17 per cent, closing at 40,152.05 points against 40,220.80 points the previous day.

A total of 116,478,645 shares were traded during the day as compared to 97,020,043 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.2,560 billion against Rs. 3,572 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 309 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 106 of them recorded gains and 169 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 34 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 27,046,841 shares

at Rs.1.68 per share; WorldCall Telecom with 25,455,644 shares at Rs.1.12 per share and Bank of Punjab with 3,297,500 shares at Rs.3.30 per share.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.1,450.90 per share price, closing at Rs.23,449.90, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Tex with an Rs.28.85 rise in its per share price to Rs.648.85.

Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.202.50 per share closing at Rs.6,447.50; followed by Bata (Pak) with Rs.57.00 decline to close at Rs.1,693.00.

Rupee gains 24 paisas against US Dollar in interbank

Pakistani Rupee on Thursday gained 24 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs

286.73 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.97.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 289.5 and Rs 292 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by Rs 1.54 to close at Rs 315.17 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.63, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost one paisa to close at Rs 2.01, whereas an increase of Rs 0.91 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 366.04 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 365.13.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal depreciated by 07 paisas each to close at Rs 78.06 and Rs 76.43

respectively.

Gold prices decline by Rs.200 to Rs218,500 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.218,500 on Thursday against its sale at Rs. 218,700 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.172 to Rs.187,328 from Rs. 187,500 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.171,718 from Rs. 171,875, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market declined by \$5 to \$1929 from \$1934, the association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing meeting of Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions.

PSUCMEA, WCCIS ink MoU

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation from Pakistan Stainless Utensils & Cutlery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSUCMEA) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) at SCCI here on Thursday.

The aim of MoU was to enhance partnership for building institutional capacity of agencies involved in Women Entrepreneurs development, representing them at all national and international fora, to support women empowerment.

The parties shall endeavor to undertake the professional training programmes, exchange of technical know how, joint research, innovation, commercialization activities and collaborate on Project Institute of Fashion Cutlery, development of women led enterprises who are into fashion industry, job creation for females with digital skills.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Bostan, Ikan Parang, Sea Harvest and SC-Hong Kong carrying Containers, Steel Coil, Palm oil and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile two more ships, Kaifan and Opera with 31,287 tonnes of Gas oil and 3,359 tonnes of Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

A total of 9 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Al-Areesh, MSC Madeleine, Maersk Hartford and Maersk Bostan sailed out to sea on Thursday morning and three more ships, SC-Hong Kong, Ikan Parang and Sicrocco are expected to sail on today afternoon.

Cargo throughput of 161,800 tonnes, comprising 98,645 tones imports Cargo and 63,155 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,075 Containers (360 TEUs Imports and 3,715 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are five ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Kaifan, Sil Houette Island and Jeil Crystal &another ship, Frankfurt Express carrying Gas oil, Coal, Chemicals and Containers are expected to take berths at FOTCO, PIBT, EVTLL and QICT on today & another containers ship 'Long Beach Express' is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Friday.

BoE hikes rate half-point as high inflation persists

LONDON (AFP/APP): The Bank of England Thursday lifted its key interest rate by a half-point to five percent to tackle stubbornly high UK inflation despite such a move worsening a cost-of-living crisis.

The higher-than-expected hike to a 15-year high was the 13th increase in a row. "There had been significant upside news in recent data that indicated more persistence in the inflation process," the Bank of England (BoE) said minutes from the regular policy meeting.

The decision came one day after data showed UK annual inflation remained at 8.7 percent in May, defying expectations of a slowdown.

The UK inflation rate is the highest among G7 rich nations. Prior to the data, markets had expected a smaller quarter-point increase.

A half-point hike was in stark contrast to the Federal Reserve, which last week pressed pause on US rate hikes after a sharp easing in the country's inflation.

The European Central Bank last week raised its borrowing costs by a quarter point.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Thursday chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT).

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq

Bajwa, Attorney General of Pakistan, Secretary Finance, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law and Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting, said a press release issued here.

The CCoIGCT considered summary of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding recommendations of the negotiation committee on the commercial agreement to be signed between KPT and AD Ports UAE.

It was informed that the negotiation committee con-

Export of sport goods increases 12.75%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of sport goods from the country witnessed an increase of 12.75 percent during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the export of corresponding months of last year.

The country exported sport goods worth US\$ 370.532 million during July-May (2022-23) as opposed to the export of US\$ 328.632 million during July-May (2021-22), showing growth of 12.75 percent, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 28.19 percent, surging from US\$ 169.634 million last year to US\$

217.451 million during the current year. The gloves exports, however, dropped by 11.29 percent by going down from US\$ 69.759 million last year to US\$ 61.886 million during the current year, the PBS data revealed.

Likewise, the exports of all other sports goods rose by 2.19 percent to US\$ 91.196 million from US\$ 89.239 million last year.

Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the sports goods export witnessed a decrease of 3.27 percent in May 2023 as opposed to the export of the same month of last year. The sports goods exports in May 2023 were recorded at US\$ 31.763 million against exports of US\$ 32.836 million in May 2022.

European stock markets retreat

LONDON (AFP/APP): European stock markets retreated Thursday as traders track more rate hikes from central banks aimed at cooling elevated inflation.

The Bank of England was set to follow the Swiss and Norwegian central banks in raising borrowing costs in a decision due at 1100 GMT.

"For markets the cure of higher interest rates could be worse than the disease of high inflation amid speculation a 50-basis point rise could be in the offing" from the BoE, noted AJ Bell head of financial analysis Danni Hewson.

"Hawkish rhetoric from the US Federal Reserve is also doing little for sentiment."

Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell dealt a blow to investors hoping its tightening cycle may be

near an end by warning US lawmakers Wednesday it "may make sense" to keep lifting, worsening a cost-of-living crisis.

The European Central Bank last week joined Canada and Australia in hiking further.

Turkey was also tipped to reverse course from years of unconventional economics promoted by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and dramatically raise interest rates to fight soaring inflation and steady the troubled lira.

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It is Published Through This Notice That I Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed S/o Bashir Ahmed Resident of Mohalla Parchan Tehsil and District Kohat is The owner of House No. 177 Size 6.5 Marla Sector 01 Phase 01 KDA Kohat. He Has Requested That The Original Papers of The Said House Has Been Lost Some Where and now Issuance of Duplicate Papers is Desired The House is not Mortgaged There Has Been Appointed no Attorney and not Sold to Anybody if any Bank /Institution /Firm or Person Has any Objections He/She Should Contact The Housing Officer UADA Kohat Within 15 Days of Publication of This Notice in Writing with Proof otherwise Duplicate Papers will be Issued and no objection will be Accepted (Director Urban Area KDA Kohat)	IN the Court of Haq Nawaz Khan district Judge /Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar.Civil Appeal No 24/13. Institution 20/6/2022. Date of hearing. 26/6/2023. Abdur Rehman etc VS Abdul Qados etc. Notice 8/1/6/1. Nor Mohamad. 8/1/6/2.Said Mohamad. 8/1/6/3.Nor Zaman Khan. 8/1/6/4.Iqbal Husain sons of Mohamad khan.8/1/1. Nor Mohamad. 8/1/2. Said Mohamad. 8/1/3.Nor Zaman Khan. 8/1/4.Iqbal Husain sons.18/5.Mst Zar Noshah. 8/1/7.Rodena daughters of Mohamad Khan. 8/1/2. Abdul Ghawas son.8/2/3. Amena. 8/2/4.Roheah. 8/2/5.Abidah. 8/2/6.Samena. 8/2/7.Hamdonisa daughters of Misal Khan. 2.Abdul Ghafar.3. Mohamad Zaren sons of Gujor.5.Mst Merjan widow of Sher Zaman. 6.Zafarullah Khan. 7.Nasrullah Khan sons of Sher Zaman. 28.Razi Khan son of Mian Dad Khan. 35.Abdul Maten son of Yaseen. 4/1.Rozi Khan. 4/2.Musharaf Khan. 4/3.Said Nawab Khan sons of Umer Khan. 23/1.Seraj son of Mst. Shnai. 24/4.Mst Taslem. 24/5.Mst. Ziban daughters of Umer Khela residents of Jingdara Torwarsak tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned cases the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 26/6/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.
It is Published Through This Notice That I Umar Hayat S/o Abdullah Jan R/o Mohallah Pawa Khel Nasrat Khel Tehsil and District Kohat is The owner of Plot no. 43 Sector F-2 Size 5 Marla Phase (II) KDA Kohat Has Appointed has Mr. Khan Habib S/o Sher Humbal R/o Qaum Bosti Khel Nasir Mela p.o Dara Adam Khel Tehsil and District Fata Kohat Peresently Kooha Himmam Main Bazar Kohat Through (Special) Deed no. 447 Bahi no. 04 Volume no. 238 Dated 04/09/2020 which is Registered in The office Kohat of Tehsildar/Sub Registrar The Attorney Holder now wants to Transfer The Above Said Plot If Any Bank/ Institution/ Firm/ Person Has Any objection About The Transfer He Should Contact The Housing officer UADA Within 15 Days in Writing with Proofs otherwise Plot will be Transfer and no objection will Be Accepted (Director Urban Area KDA Kohat)	

FBR surpasses income tax collection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has surpassed the income tax annual target 10 days ahead of the close of the ongoing financial year.

According to the FBR Twitter handle, so far it has collected Rs 3,035 billion against the target of Rs.3,026 billion, showing 41 per cent unprecedented growth as compared to the last year.

"Inland Revenue Service FBR surpasses income tax annual target of Rs. 3,026 Billion, ten days ahead of the close of the ongoing Financial Year, showing 41 per cent unprecedented growth in comparison to the last year and has collected Rs.3,035 billion, till 21st June 2023", FBR tweeted.

Oil prices gain on tailwinds from supply side

NEW YORK (APP): Crude oil futures prices posted solid growth on Wednesday thanks to tailwinds from the supply side.

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for August delivery rose 1.34 US dollars, or 1.88 percent, to settle at 72.53 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for August delivery added 1.22 dollars, or 1.61 percent, to settle at 77.12 dollars a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange.

The prospects of tight supply of corn and ethanol in the United States mean oil demand would get a boost as corn is used to produce ethanol, which is mixed with fossil fuels.

Merchandise exports decreased

RIYADH (APP): The General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) issued the International Trade Report of April 2023, showing a decline in merchandise exports by SAR 34.7 billion (25%) in April 2023. The value of exports amounted to SAR 103.0 billion in April 2023, down from SAR 137.7 billion in April 2022.

According to the report, the value of oil exports fell by SAR 25.9 billion (23.6%) in April 2023, decreasing to SAR 83.8 billion from SAR 109.7 billion in April 2022. This decline in oil exports had the most significant impact on the decrease in merchandise exports.

The report showed a decline in non-oil exports (including re-exports) by SAR 8.7 billion (31.2%), decreasing to SAR 19.2 billion from SAR 27.9 billion in April 2022.

The value of merchandise imports increased by SAR 0.6 billion (1.0%) in April 2023.

The value of imports amounted to SAR 57.9 billion in April 2023, compared to SAR 57.3 billion in April 2022.

Exports increase by 22.13% to Rs.8.187 trillion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 22.13 percent during the past seven months of the current fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Thursday.

Exports from July 2022 to May 2023 were recorded at Rs. 6,187,511 million as against Rs. 5,066,143 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 22.13 percent according to provisional data released by PBS.

On year-on-year basis, exports from the country during January 2023 amounted to Rs. 628,037 million as against Rs. 512,962 million during May 2022, showing growth of 22.43 percent.

On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 3.15 percent when com-

pared to the exports of Rs. 608,863 million in April 2023.

Main commodities of exports during May 2023 were knitwear (Rs. 94,969 million), ready made garments (Rs. 76,422 million), bed wear (Rs. 57,521 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 49,865 million), rice other than basmati (Rs.32,197 million), cotton yarn (Rs.28,650 million), towels (Rs.24,975 million), rice basmati (Rs.19,074 million), fish & fish preparations (Rs.14,439 million) and made-up articles excluding towels and bed-wear (Rs.14,367 million).

On the other hand, imports from July 2022 to May 2023 were recorded at Rs. 12,327,431 million as against Rs. 12,667,725 million during the corresponding period of last year showing a decrease of 2.69 percent.

During the month of

May 2023 imports into Pakistan amounted to Rs. 1,235,475 million as against Rs. 854,112 million in April, 2023 and Rs. 1,321,609 million during May, 2022 showing an increase of 44.65 percent over April, 2023 but a decrease of 6.52 percent over May, 2022.

Main commodities of imports during May, 2023 were petroleum products (Rs. 171,029 million), petroleum crude (Rs.109,865 million), natural gas, liquefied (Rs.102,995 million), palm oil (Rs. 83,980 million), plastic materials (Rs. 54,664 million), electric machinery and apparatus (Rs.52,629 million), iron and steel (Rs.40,305 million), raw cotton (Rs.29,864 million), medicinal products (Rs.24,052 million) and pulses (leguminous vegetables) (Rs.19,730 million).

Ali highlights potential to achieve food autarky

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Rice Research and Development Board Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik emphasized that Pakistan has the potential to achieve food autarky by utilizing 18 million hectares of arable land and saving a significant amount of foreign exchange.

Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Momin Ali, he said last year \$14.5 billion were spent on agriculture-related imports to avert food insecurity, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

He welcomed the substantial allocation for the promotion of the agriculture sector in the federal and provincial budgets however expressed reservations over the lack of setting aside sufficient funds for conducting modern research by plant breeders of public and private sectors.

He pointed out that 93

new seed varieties were introduced in neighbouring countries last year and cotton's seed was pest free.

"Government must encourage plant breeders by offering a lucrative package of incentives for evolving the best quality high yielding pest-free seeds of rice, cotton and wheat," he added.

He said in this regard, the private sector has taken the initiative as Guard Agriculture Research and Services has announced three cash awards of rupees 10 million each for developing new seeds of rice, cotton and wheat to boost agriculture production across the country.

Shahzad Ali Malik said cultivating barren land can lead to increased agricultural output, which can contribute to food security and reduce the dependence on imports.

This could have positive effects on the economy by increasing the availability

of food and reducing the trade deficit, he added.

"Converting barren land into agricultural land can have positive environmental impacts, such as preventing soil erosion, improving soil fertility, and increasing biodiversity. These environmental benefits can contribute to long-term economic sustainability and resilience", he added.

The leader of the delegation Momin Ali stressed the need for using modern agricultural implements and technology for bringing a green revolution in the country.

He said plant breeders are the backbone of the agricultural sector without which bumper production is not possible so government must attach great importance to them and help carry out ultra-modern research to meet the ever-increasing food staple needs of a growing population.

Wall Street stocks dropped

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Wall Street stocks fell after US Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell warned Wednesday of further interest rate hikes, while European markets slid after a stubbornly high inflation reading in Britain.

Speaking to a Congressional hearing, Powell said that although progress has been made, inflation remains "well above" the Fed's target of two percent.

"Given how far we've come, it may make sense to move rates higher but to do so at a more moderate pace," he said.

The US central bank last week held rates steady after 10 straight increases, but signaled more hikes could come to bring prices under control.

Ahead of his address, Powell said in a written statement that "nearly all" Fed policymakers agreed on the need to "raise interest rates somewhat further by the end of the year."

All three major US

indices retreated for a third straight session, with the S&P 500 losing 0.5 percent.

London and eurozone markets closed lower after data showed UK inflation remained unchanged at 8.7 percent in May.

Markets had expected consumer prices to cool but now fear the Bank of England could go for a bigger rate hike than previously thought to tame inflation at a meeting on Thursday.

"The impact of further monetary tightening on the British economy is likely to hinder economic activity and ultimately cause a contraction," said Ricardo Evangelista of ActivTrades.

British housing builders were also "feeling the heat" from inflation numbers "as concerns about a housing market slowdown gather pace," said Michael Hewson, chief analyst at CMC Markets UK.

Fears that higher rates could do more harm than good for loans and deposits resulted in downgrades at

UK banks including Natwest that saw shares falling to their lowest levels since November 2022, according to Hewson.

The anxiety in the United States and Europe follows disappointment across market floors this week with Beijing's tepid moves to try and revive the Chinese economy.

The People's Bank of China reduced its benchmark five-year rate by 10 basis points on Tuesday, less than the 15 points expected.

Uncertainty over the Chinese economy, which continues to show signs of weakness as the post-Covid rebound fades, also weighed on the yuan, which on Wednesday briefly fell past 7.2 per dollar for the first time since November.

"Developments in China... continue to point to a slower-than-predicted post-pandemic recovery in the world's second-largest economy," added Evangelista.



In brief

Naila Kiani reaches home

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's leading female Pakistani high-altitude mountaineer Naila Kiani has reached home from Nepal after scaling the Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain. Naila will head to the country's northern areas today as she plans to scale yet another mountain namely Nanga Parbat. Talking to media, the mountaineer has said that she developed liking for the sport two years ago. "And now I have reached the peaks of all high mountains in the world," she said, and added, "Women, too, should join the sport. It is difficult, but not impossible." Naila Kiani is the first and only Pakistani woman mountaineer to climb six peaks above 8,000 meters. She climbed six 8,000 meters only within two years of starting her mountaineering career. A mother of two girls, she graduated in Aerospace Engineering from the University of London and worked in Engineering and Banking industry. She competed as an amateur boxer as well. In May 2023, Naila became the second Pakistani woman to climb the 8,848-metre-high Mount Everest. Naila was the first international climber to reach the summit of Everest in 2023.

PSOA to hold exhibition matches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Students Olympics Association (PSOA) on Thursday announced to hold exhibition matches in various cities to celebrate Olympic Day. Friday, 23 June, will mark 129 years since the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Olympic Day — which marks the formation of the IOC on this day in 1894 — aims to celebrate the joy of sport and remember the creation of the modern Olympic Movement by founder Pierre de Coubertin. The theme for the Olympic Day 2023 is called "LetsMove" which is inspired by the research conducted by WHO in 2022, which shows the significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds from just 30 minutes of movement a day. President, Pakistan Students Olympics Association, Maqbool Arain said that the Association would organize various sports competitions across the country to mark Olympic Day. "We have issued instructions to all our affiliated units to organize sports exhibition competitions in their respective areas," he said in a statement.

Lifetime bans for match-fixing

BEIJING (Reuters): China's snooker authorities have upheld lifetime bans for match-fixing handed out to Liang Wenbo and Li Hang by the sport's world governing body (WPBSA) and given five other players longer suspensions for domestic matches. The Chinese Billiards and Snooker Association (CBSA) said on Wednesday 2021 Masters champion Yan Bingtao, who received a five-year ban from the WPBSA earlier this month, was banned from all domestic events and activities for seven and a half years. Zhao Xintong, who won the UK Championship in 2021, was banned for a year and eight months by the world governing body for his involvement in the sport's biggest match-fixing scandal but given an additional 10-month ban by the CBSA.

Polls to elect Zaka Ashraf as PCB chief on June 27

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The election of the PCB Chairman will be held on Wednesday, 27 June to formally elect Zaka Ashraf at the PCB headquarters in Lahore as the Election Commissioner has constituted the PCB Board of Governors.

The Pakistan Cricket Board is in receipt of the letter and notification dated 20 June from the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ministry that states: "On completion of the tenure, the Management Committee of PCB stands dissolved, ceases to operate".

Accordingly, the Election Commissioner, Mr Ahmed Shehzad Farooq

Rana, who is also the Acting Chair of the PCB, has constituted the PCB Board of Governors in accordance with Para 10 of the PCB Constitution 2014 and in line with and pursuant to the above referred letter and notification.

Shehzad Rana said: "The election of the PCB Chair will be held in a fair and transparent manner whilst adopting due process and ensuring completion of all legal formalities."

The formation of the PCB BOG now stands as follows:

Mr Muhammad Zaka Ashraf (PCB Patron's nominee)

Mr Mustafa Ramday (PCB Patron's nominee)

National Bank of Pakistan

State Bank of Pakistan

Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL)

Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC)

President Larkana Region

President Dera Murad Jamali Region

President Bahawalpur Region

President Hyderabad Region

The election schedule will be issued after receiving nominations from the departments/service organisations. The Election Commission office has written to the departments/service organisations to nominate their representatives.

Indian football team coach says he will 'do it again' after red card against Pakistan

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Indian football team coach Igor Stimac, after being sent off during the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship for snatching the ball from Pakistan's player, has said he will do it again to protect his team from "unjustified decisions".

During a match between Pakistan and India, Stimac snatched the ball from Abdullah Iqbal as he was preparing for a throw-in during the 44th minute of the first half, which led to a heated exchange between the players of both teams.

The Croatian Stimac was shown a red card for this offence and yellow cards were also shown to Sandesh Jhingan and Pakistan's Rahis Nabi for

their role in the fracas.

Pakistan's Easah Suliman, who has also served the U-19 England football team as their captain, quickly jumped to the scene and exchanged words with the referee and the Indian coach.

"Football is all about passion, especially when you defend the colours of your country," Stimac tweeted.

"You can hate or love me for my actions yesterday, but I am a warrior and I will do it again when needed to protect our boys on the pitch against unjustified decisions," he added.

Earlier, India comfortably defeated Pakistan by four goals as the hosts did not face a single shot on target. India opened their account when captain Sunil

Chhetri took full advantage of an error by the Pakistani goalkeeper Saqib Hanif in the 10th minute.

India doubled their lead without any trouble just five minutes after scoring their first goal as Chhetri converted from the penalty spot.

Chhetri completed his hat-trick in the 74th minute with another penalty after he was taken down in the box by Mohammad Sufyan.

India's Udanta scored another one for the hosts in the 81st minute with a very calm and composed finish after beating the offside trap.

It must be noted that the Pakistan football team played this match against India without getting a 24-hour rest due to visa issues and flight delays.

IOC banishes boxing governing body from Olympics, but the sport will still be at the Paris Games

GENEVA (AP): The International Boxing Association was banished from the Olympic family on Thursday, ending a years-long dispute fueled by defying advice and instructions from the IOC. Boxing, however, will keep its status as an Olympic sport at the 2024 Paris Games.

The International Olympic Committee voted to derecognize the IBA at a specially called meeting — an outcome that was inevitable after being recommended two weeks ago by the executive board, a body chaired by IOC president Thomas Bach.

The vote was 69-1, with 10 members abstaining. Boxing was never really in danger of being kicked out of the Olympics over the four years since the IOC suspended the sport's governing body in an effort to force changes. "We highly value the sport of boxing. We have

an extremely serious problem with IBA because of their governance," Bach told IOC members during their online meeting.

The dispute centered on the IBA's management under presidents from Uzbekistan and Russia who the IOC disapproved of, its finances being backed by Russian state energy firm Gazprom, plus the integrity of bouts and judging. "The boxers fully deserve to be governed by an international federation with integrity and transparency," the IOC president said.

The IOC is already overseeing boxing competitions for the Paris Olympics without IBA involvement, as it did for the Tokyo Games in 2021. It was unclear if boxers representing national federations who stay affiliated to the IBA will be classed as eligible for the Paris competition.

Boxing can now be confirmed on the 2028 Los

Angeles Olympic program, which the IOC and Bach withheld as leverage against IBA. Boxing is "guaranteed" to be in Los Angeles, members were told Thursday.

The sport is good for Olympic business with broad appeal — 25 different countries won boxing medals in Tokyo, with nine taking gold — and the IOC repeatedly said its problem was with boxing officials, not its athletes.

"The boxers fully deserve to be governed by an international federation with integrity and transparency," the IOC president said. The IOC is already overseeing boxing competitions for the Paris Olympics without IBA involvement, as it did for the Tokyo Games in 2021.

It was unclear if boxers representing national federations who stay affiliated to the IBA will be classed as eligible for the Paris competition.



HARARE: Shai Hope celebrates his 15th ODI century.

Netherlands, West Indies register thumping victories in CWC Qualifier

HARARE (Agencies): All-round Netherlands thrashed the USA by five wickets before Shai Hope and Nicholas Pooran's centuries propelled West Indies to a dominating victory over spirited Nepal in the CWC Qualifier on Thursday.

In the ninth match of the CWC Qualifier, the tournament favourites and former champions blew Nepal with a massive 101-run margin at the back of sensational centuries by Shai Hope and Nicholas Pooran.

Put into bat first, West Indies piled up a massive 339/7 despite a horrible start.

The former champions were three down for just 55 runs in the 16th over until Hope and Pooran did astounding recovery.

The pair put on a mammoth 216-run partnership for the fourth wicket and both scored centuries.

Nicholas Pooran was the core aggressor of the stand as he scored brisk 115 runs off just 94 deliveries, smashing 10 boundaries and four sixes before perishing in the 44th over.

Following his departure, Skipper Hope put on brief partnerships with Rovman Powell (29) and Jason Holder (16*) before finally perishing in the final over.

Shai Hope top-scored for the West Indies with a 129-ball 132, laced up with 10 boundaries and three sixes.

Set to chase a mammoth 340, Nepal batting lineup struggled against West Indian bowling attack and bundled out for a mere 238

in the final over.

Aasif Sheikh was the pick of the batters for Nepal with a gutsy 93-ball 63.

Besides him, Gulshan Jha (42) and skipper Rohit Paudel (30) were the other significant contributors.

Jason Holder led the bowling attack for the West Indies with 3/34, followed by two each from Alzarri Joseph, Keemo Paul and Akeal Hosein.

Meanwhile, in the 10th fixture of the CWC Qualifier, Netherlands registered a resounding five-wicket victory over the USA.

After putting USA into bat first, the Dutch bowlers showcased some tight bowling display to restrict USA to a modest 211/8 in 50 overs despite Shayan

Jahangir's 71.

Jahangir struck five boundaries and two sixes on his way to an 86-ball 71 and top scored for the USA, who had an overall dismal show with the bat.

Jessy Singh (38) and Gajanan Singh (33) were the other notable run-getters for the USA.

Set to chase 212, Netherlands comfortably accumulated 214 runs for the loss of five wickets and 40 balls to spare.

Skipper Scott Edwards and Teja Nidamanuru spearheaded the run-chase with brilliant half-centuries after valuable contributions from their top order.

Edwards top-scored for his side with a brisk 60-ball 67 which featured six boundaries.

Sabalenka beaten by Kudermetova at Wimbledon warm-up event

BERLIN (Agencies): World number two Aryna Sabalenka's Wimbledon preparations suffered a blow as she was beaten by Veronika Kudermetova at the German Open.

The top-seeded Belarusian lost 6-2 7-6 (7-2) to the Russian wildcard in the second round in Berlin. Sabalenka is the latest top-10 player to fall short at the grass-court event after defending Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina lost on Wednesday.

American fifth seed Coco Gauff is also out after a straight-set defeat. Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova, who won the Libema Open last week, won 11 of the last 12 games to secure an impressive 6-4 6-0 win over Gauff in just 75 minutes.

The tournament in Berlin was Sabalenka's first since the semi-final of the French Open and she would have been hoping to get plenty of match practice on grass



before her first Wimbledon since 2021. The 25-year-old did not compete at SW19 last year after the All England Club banned Russian and Belarusian players following the invasion of Ukraine.

However, the Australian Open winner immediately fell a double break down against Kudermetova, ranked 10th in the world, and struggled to find her rhythm as she won just two games in the opening set. Sabalenka then fell a break down in the second set and struggled through an error-strewn tie-break as Kudermetova, 26,

eased into the quarter-finals. Elsewhere, Italian fourth seed Janik Sinner came from behind at the Halle Open in Germany to overcome compatriot Lorenzo Sonego 6-7 (4-7) 6-4 6-4 and reach the quarters.

Sinner, 21, who reached the last eight at Wimbledon last year, has needed three sets to win all his matches so far in Germany.

He will face Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik, ranked 48th in the world, in the quarter-finals after he beat home favourite Jan-Lennard Struff 6-3 6-7 (4-7) 6-3.

Peshawar, Bajaur, Orakzai, Lakki Marwat enters into Tug-of-War semi-finals in Inter-Madrasas Games

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar, Bajaur, Orakzai recorded victories against their respective rivals in the Tug-of-War in Inter-Madrasas Games being played on different venues across the provincial capital here on Thursday.

Director of Sports Merged Areas Pir Abdullah Shah witnessed the thrilling matches. In the Tug of War event played at Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar sub-division defeated Orakzai by 2-1 in a thrilling match. Orakzai won the first pull and on the other hand, Peshawar after leveling the tally 1-1, came back strongly and won two consecutive attempts to move ahead.

In the other matches, Lakki Marwat sub-division defeated the Kohat sub-division by 2-0 while Bajaur also recorded a victory against the Bannu sub-division. Now Bajaur, Peshawar, Lakki Marwat, and Bannu took berth into the semi-finals.

In the football event being played at Tahmas Khan Football Stadium District Mohmand overpowered the strong Tank team by 2-1 in a thrilling match. For Mohmand Ibrar slammed in a nice goal but it was tied by Qari Alamgir on the field attempt. It was in the second session which Inam Ullah scored another goal for Mohmand to close the match at 2-1 in his team's favour.

In the second match, Sub-Division



Peshawar defeated Orakzai by 2-0, in a one-sided affair. Bismillah Jan and Hasrat Ullah scored one goal each for Peshawar, thus guiding the team to a 2-0 victory. Orakzai tried their hardest to reduce the margin but failed and thus Peshawar won the match witnessed by the capacity crowd present on this occasion.

In the cricket event being played at Islamia College Ground Khurram District defeated District Tank by eight wickets.

Tank skipper Javed won the toss and elected to bat first by setting up 130 runs. Muhammad Ibrahim and Yasir were the top run contributors as Ibrahim made 41 runs with five boundaries and one six and Yasir made another cracking 39 runs including six boundaries and two sixes.

In reply, Khurram chased the target for the loss of two wickets. Hasmat Ullah hammered a cracking 52 runs including nine boundaries and three sixes while

Waqar and Hussain scored 44 runs and 26 runs. In the other match, Sub-Division Peshawar defeated Orakzai District by 62 runs and qualified for the quarter-finals. Peshawar made 126 runs for the loss of five wickets while Orakzai was bundled out for 64 runs only and thus Peshawar won the match by 62 runs.

In the Volleyball event played at PSB Coaching Center Hall, in the first match Sub Division Peshawar defeated Orakzai by 3-0, the score was 25-22, 25-19, and 25-21. In the second match, Lakki Marwat defeated Kohat by 3-1, the score was 27-29, 25-23, 25-21, and 25-22.

On the occasion, the Director of Merged Areas, Pir Abdullah Shah also talked to the players regarding available facilities including accommodation, daily allowance and traveling and other facilities.

He said, "It is ensured that all out facilities are being given to the players of different Madrasas based in merged tribal areas during the Games."

Hockey international and chief coach Shafqatullah, President KP Tug-of-War Association Taj Muhammad, Assistant Director Admin and Media Focal Person Awan Hussain, AD Sports Raheed Gul, District Sports Officer Noorullah Wazir, District Sports Officer Sajid Afridi, Coach Muhammad Aamir and other personalities were present.

Punjab CM advisor on Sports visits Sialkot

SIALKOT (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister (CM) Punjab on Sports Affairs Wahab Riaz visited Sialkot on Thursday and inspected the exercises, organised by Rescue-1122 at Upper Chenab Canal near Sahuwala to review the rescue and relief preparations in the wake of expected flood.

Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan accompanied him during the inspection. They also visited the Sublime Flyover Sports Arena and later chaired a meeting at the DC Complex. District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Hasan Iqbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Revenue Muhammad Iqbal and Director Youth Affairs Punjab Sports board Umair Hassan were also present.

Wahab Riaz told the media that instructions had been issued for preparing the Jinnah Stadium ground in two months so that the cricket activities could start there. He said reconstruction project at Jinnah Stadium with Rs2 billion would continue in the next financial year. He said efforts would be made to solve problems being faced regarding new astro-turf for the hockey stadium.

He said that approval had been given to hand over the old astro-turf to the Hockey Association for laying that at 'Yateem Khana Hockey ground'.

The CM advisor lauded the Sublime Flyover Sports Arena project and said that similar projects would be encouraged in other districts as well. He said that the Punjab government was determined to provide the best sports opportunities to the youth, all possible resources were being used to equip children with the best education and training facilities.

Advisor to the CM Punjab said that on the occasion of Eidul-Azha, provision of the best facilities should be ensured in the markets for sale of sacrificial animals as per the government guidelines.

Earlier, the advisor was given a briefing on security, cleanliness and other administrative issues. He expressed satisfaction over the steps being taken by the district administration, police and local bodies.



In brief

AIOU creates knowledge through its 21 Journals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that we are taking all necessary steps to further improve the quality of research in AIOU. In a statement, he said that the university is creating knowledge through its 21 journals publishing in different disciplines to pay special attention to matching the quality of our journals with international standards. Research is the backbone of universities, and we will provide full support to our faculty members and researchers in their research. Dr. Nasir said that it is a matter of pride for all of us that AIOU is currently publishing 21 research journals in various disciplines, all the journals are available in the university library and on the university website as well. He added that universities play a key role in the inventions and development of society through research journals and academic conferences. AIOU is striving hard for the promotion of research culture and organizing national and international conferences. It is pertinent to mention here that the university gives financial incentives to faculty members for research projects.

IRSA releases 291,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 291,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 383,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1464.23 feet and was 66.23 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 191,200 cusecs and 148,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1156.30 feet, which was 106.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 60,900 cusecs and 10,900 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 171,400, 126,100, 79,400 and 30,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 67,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 39,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police arrest 7 for carrying weapons

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police have arrested seven accused for carrying illegal weapons and recovered weapons and ammunition from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that R.A. Bazaar, Airport and Rattamra police in their ongoing operations held seven accused, namely Muhammad Shah, Waheed Gul, Ramazan, Zain, Zeeshan, Arslan, and Amaal for possessing five 30-bore pistols, a dagger and ammunition from their possession.

Special committee formed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Thursday unanimously formed a special committee to address the issuing of licenses in a more efficient manner. The committee will be responsible for framing the Terms of Reference (ToR) and providing recommendations to the federal government regarding the streamlining of the license issuance process. The members of the committee included Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, Mohsin Tawar, Junaid, and Minister for Narcotic Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri and Minister of State Faisal Karim Kundi cutting cake on 70th birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at BISP Headquarters. Parliamentary Secretary Naveed Aamer Jeeva also present on the occasion.

Sherry alerts authorities concerned amid GLOF risk in GB, KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday issued an alert regarding glacial lakes outburst floods (GLOFs) in the northern region of the country. The minister took to Twitter to share the update as rising temperatures in the north posed serious risk to the glaciers and its local communities.

Senator Rehman wrote that Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(KP) district administration, local bodies and people had been instructed to be vigilant and take precautionary measures.

In Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the risk of floods and glacial lake outburst floods was increasing due to temperature being 4-6 degrees above normal, she added.

"District administration, local bodies and communities should be vigilant and take precautionary measures," Sherry Rehman said.

Especially during the coming week on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha when the influx of tourists would begin in the northern regions due to holidays, she added. The minister underlined that Pakistan has more glaciers than any other country outside the polar region.

"Recall that last year more than 30 incidents of GLOF displaced thousands of people. So everyone is requested to prioritize safety," she said.

Over Rs. 18b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat during last 3 days

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed a total of Rs18.77 billion among 2.85 million deserving women under Benazir Kafaalat program during the last three days.

According to the Spokesperson BISP, Benazir Education Stipends have also been paid to the mothers of 7,41,000 school-going children. So far, about 25 percent of the deserving women have received their quarterly assistance. Benazir Income Support Programme has been disbursing Benazir Kafaalat cash and Benazir educational stipends since Monday (June 19). After a 25 percent increase, this time the quarterly installment amount is Rs. 9000. About 81 billion rupees is being distributed to nine million deserving families under Benazir Kafaalat. In case of any complaint, the beneficiaries must immediately report to BISP toll-free helpline 0800-26477. All messages from BISP are sent from 8171 only, the spokesperson said.

IWMI arranges journalists' field visit

LAHORE (APP): The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan arranged a capacity building media exposure field visit to Okara district for improved reporting on water governance, which was attended by print, electronic, and digital media journalists from Lahore and Okara. Journalism students from the University of Okara also participated in the media exposure field visit, to learn how to report on water and agriculture sector challenges.

Dr. Habibullah Habib, Director - On Farm Water Management (OFWM) Research Farm (Renala Khurd), OFWM Punjab, gave the welcome note and urged the media to highlight the benefits of Laser Land Levelling, bed and furrow technology, and drip irrigation system, to promote increased crop water productivity through limited water resources. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness through media, as media being the fourth pillar of the state can significantly contribute towards raising awareness of climate smart agriculture and environmental awareness among the general public.

Ideal democracy linked with constitutional supremacy: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri on Thursday said that the role of all institutions was well defined in the Constitution adding that ideal democracy in the country was linked with constitutional supremacy.

Taking part in the budget debate in the National Assembly, she said that the disbursement of fund under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) was not a charity rather, it was the right of the people. Shazia Marri said the government has to take responsibility in difficult situation due to poor economic policies of past regime. She said that the budget of BISP had been significantly increased as now social security had become an important issue in the country.

The children enrollment in school has jumped to 7.4 million from 3.7 million

registering an increase of 210 percent due to Benazir Bhutto Shaheed education scholarship. The government has set enrollment target of 9.2 million, she added. She went on to say that the assembly was dissolved unconstitutionally and the prime minister was ousted through adopting constitutional procedure. The coalition parties united for survival and stability of the country, she said and added that it was not for the first time that many parties were on same page for the stability of the country. She said that earlier, PPP and PML-N inked charter of democracy for strengthening of democracy.

The minister said that all amendments incorporated in the constitution by the military dictator Zia ul Haq were changed with consensus of all political parties. We will continue our struggle to strengthen democracy in the country, she added.

NIH issues advisory on prevention of dengue fever

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Center for Disease Control (CDC) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has issued an advisory for the prevention and control of Dengue Fever keeping in view the seasonal trends of the disease.

According to NIH, the objective of the advisory is to sensitize human and animal healthcare authorities to further strengthen and improve the level of preparedness in the prevention and control of the disease before the alert season.

It is said that dengue is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes of the genus Aedes (Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus).

It is endemic in almost all geographical regions of Pakistan and there is substantial evidence that its multiple serotypes are circulating in the different areas of the country.

Despite patchy surveillance, a total of 52,929 cases and 224 deaths were reported in 2021, while in 2022, we have reported approximately 79,007 confirmed cases of Dengue with 149 deaths.

This year, since January 2023

Pakistan has reported 3,019 suspected cases and eight deaths in the IDSR reporting system.

It added that it was imperative to work on prevention while staying vigilant for the detection of cases and ensuring preparedness to launch response activities for curtailing the transmission of dengue fever disease. This advisory is intended to facilitate the healthcare authorities and professionals in effectively dealing with the potential challenge during the Dengue season. The advisory also calls upon hospitals to build their capacity for the management of patients, to keep rapid response arrangements in place, and to maintain regular liaison with relevant departments and stakeholders.

As per the advisory, precautions should be taken to prevent dengue fever including adopting personal protection measures like wearing long-sleeved clothes, use of mosquito repellent lotions, sprays, use of mosquito repellent coils, using bed nets while sleeping outside in an open environment and using mesh screens on windows.

NRE to be held in August: PMDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has planned to conduct National Registration Examination (NRE) in the month of August this year.

According to PMDC, this highly anticipated medical and dental examination for foreign medical graduates is designed to allow aspiring professionals to showcase their knowledge and skills, paving the way for their future success. The National Registration Examination is a crucial step for foreign medical and dental graduates in their professional journey, serving as a comprehensive assessment of individuals seeking licensure or registration in their respective disciplines.

It is an essential benchmark that ensures the highest standards of competence and expertise are met within the industry.

To facilitate the candidates across Pakistan the PM&DC is going to conduct the NRE in four major cities of the country like Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Peshawar. The NRE exam will be conducted by the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) under the supervision of PM&DC. The syllabus of NRE is available on the PM&DC website. Only candidates with Provisional licenses issued by PM&DC

will be able to register themselves for the said examination. The council has advised aspiring candidates to complete the prerequisite documentation required for registration for the said examination.

It added the PM&DC is committed to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and expertise. By conducting the National Registration Examination, the department aims to promote public trust and confidence in medical and dental professionals and ensure the continued growth and development of this field, it added.

All aspiring candidates have been asked to visit the official website of the PM&DC at www.pmdc.pk to obtain detailed information regarding the examination, including eligibility criteria, registration procedures, and syllabus. It is essential to review the guidelines thoroughly and adhere to the specified deadlines to ensure a smooth and successful registration process, it added. The PM&DC Council decided to uphold the decision of the scholarship program offered to the students who got eligible for the scholarship of PM&DC. The council has assured that all students who qualified for the scholarship program will get their second scholarship installment on 1st week of July 2023.

IESCO notifies 2-day power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday issued 2-day power suspension programme for Friday and Saturday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period on Friday from 09:00 am to 2:00 pm, Islamabad Circle, Kaldana, Kohala, Barin Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Kohala, Morat Feeders. On Saturday from 09:00 am to 2:00 pm Islamabad Circle, Tufail Shaheed, Charah, Farash Town, Karpas Feeders Rawalpindi City Circle Noggi, Bajanyal, People's Colony, Azizabad, Pindhon, I-14/3, Noon, I-16, HPT (Radio Pak) Lukho Road, Ameer Hamza, Officer Colony Feeder, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Kahota City, II, Hanif Shaheed, Chakri, Arslan Poultry Farm, SPD, Padial, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Bisali, Lab-I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Bhal, Jarrar Comp Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Puran, Kohar, Sarai Alamgir, Shamsabad, Chhapran, Captain Nisar Shaheed, Express Mangala, Madu Kalis, Shah Safer Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Basharat, Chakral.

Commissioner reviews progress on small dams

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatha along with Secretary Irrigation Dr Wasif here on Thursday presided over a meeting and reviewed progress on small dams.

Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema, Director Development Nazia Sudhan, Project Director Irrigation, Tabraiz Elahi and other officers concerned attended the meeting. The Commissioner said that the importance of small dams for the agriculture sector particularly in the Potohar region could not be denied and efforts were being made to utilize the dams across the division with their full potential. Before starting construction work of new dams, their comprehensive feasibility report

should be made, he directed.

The patchwork of the approach road leading to the dams should be done by the District Councils, he said adding, solid steps should also be taken to protect the dams and their catchment areas.

The dams are important to provide water for domestic use, agriculture, fisheries, irrigation and tourism said Dr Wasif and gave assurance of providing special funds for the repair and desilting of dams in the upcoming annual development schemes.

During the meeting, it was informed that in the Rawalpindi division including Islamabad, 58 dams were completed and operational. The gross storage capacity of these dams is 0.29 million acre-feet.

The dams provide 43.15 million gallons of drinking

water per day.

Out of a total of nine dams in district Rawalpindi, eight were completed and operational while out of a total of 11 dams in Jhelum District, nine were completed and made fully functional.

Similarly, out of a total of 17 dams in the Attock district, 16 were completed and working. Out of a total of 13 dams in Chakwal district, 10 were completed and made operational while six dams completed in Talagang were supplying water. The Commissioner said that if there is an administrative problem in non-functional dams, it should be resolved as soon as possible by taking the local administration on board while the engineering issue could be resolved with the help of the irrigation department.

Parliamentarians highlights sharing Eid joy with poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a compelling display of compassion and social responsibility, parliamentarians have come forward to highlight the profound significance of caring for the less fortunate during the auspicious occasion of Eid.

Talking to APP here on Thursday, Parliamentarian Kishwar Zehra emphasized the significance of sacrifice taught by Eid-ul-Azha.

She mentioned that on Eid day, she prefers to wear plain cotton clothes, symbolizing simplicity and humility.

Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali suggested that Eid should serve as a reminder to care for the poor and fulfill their needs. He also emphasized the importance of national unity for the prosperity and development of the country and also extended Eid greetings to Pakistanis both at home and abroad.

Dr Darshan highlighted the blessed nature of Eid for Muslims worldwide. "Despite economic challenges, people make the best possible preparations for Eid", he added.

Ahmed Hussain Deharr representing a rural constituency stated that he and his fellow villagers wear traditional attire on Eid.

He emphasized the importance of spending the day with their voters and addressing the issues faced

MNAs demand action against corruption, address key issues in constituencies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) on Thursday emphasized the need to combat corruption and address pressing issues in their respective constituencies.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) MNA Mahar Irshad Ahmad Khan said that the incumbent government is making all efforts to eradicate the menace of corruption. He called for a united front against corruption, urging all leaders in the assembly to take an oath to eradicate this menace

through efforts.

He also highlighted the challenges faced by his constituency and emphasized the importance of establishing a university, improving basic amenities, and establishing the province of Seraiki to uplift the people of Southern Punjab. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) legislator Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh emphasized the support of the business community for Pakistan's economy and stressed the importance of gaining their trust. He also demanded the repair of roads connecting his constituency with other cities.

by the underprivileged.

Deharr further proposed that the government should provide an Eid gift to the poor in the form of free electricity up to 100 units.

Dr Afzal Dhandla emphasized the significance of preparing for Eid-ul-Zah throughout the year, as it follows the Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH). He stressed the duty of caring for the poor on this day and highlighted the notion of sacrifice as an act of obedience to God. Shahida

Akhtar Ali shared that her family exchanges gifts and decorates their house to celebrate Eid, considering it their own festival. Tahira Aurangzeb acknowledged the busy nature of Eid day and the importance of performing collective sacrifice, a key aspect of the festival for Muslims.

Ramesh Kumar Wankawani expressed his opinion that festivals like Holi and Diwali should be celebrated with the same enthusiasm as Eid.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani inaugurating the newly established broadcasting room in the Senate at Parliament House.

IOM to resume cooperation

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Refugees and Repatriations Minister, Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani met with Maria Moita chief of the Mission of the International Organization for Migration in Afghanistan. A meeting focused on resuming International Organization for Migration's joint cooperation office with Minister and top IMO for Afghanistan, said a statement. Both sides agreed that quick measures should be taken to resume joint cooperation between sides, the statement added.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Zil-Hajj 04, 1444 — Friday, June 23, 2023

Open competition launched

KABUL (TOLONews): An organization held a nationwide competition initiative in a bid to create job opportunities for youth. The youth from 34 provinces of Afghanistan will present their economic proposals and only three of them will be confirmed. "The Kar Afrini camp is launched to help grow the economy and reduce poverty in Afghanistan," said Abdul Qadir Beheshti. The youths who participated in this initiative said that such programs will increase their access to work.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

IEA reacts to UNAMA statement to UNSC

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the Islamic Emirate welcomes the statement of the UN Secretary General's special envoy for Afghanistan Roza Otunbayeva to the UNSS in which she acknowledges "the positive changes that have taken shape in Afghanistan such as the effective ban on narcotics, macro-economic stability, elimination of corruption, access to education or girls in some spaces, collection of revenues, payment of salaries, significant improvement in security and concerned efforts against Daesh."

"The SRSG's statement made some efforts to reflect the complex ground realities of Afghanistan, unlike

the recent report by the Monitoring Team of the Sanctions Committee and Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, which were both riddled with inaccuracies and heavily tilted to reflect political agendas of some actors," the statement said.

Speaking at UN Security Council's Meeting on the situation in Afghanistan, Otunbayeva said, that the "April 5 restrictions against the Afghan women working for the United Nations place a question mark over our activities across the country. We have been given no explanation by the de facto authorities for this ban and assurances that it will be lifted."

Otunbayeva said that the UN does not want to put the

lives of its female staff at risk and therefore asked them to not report to the office and also asked the male staff to stay home to respect nondiscrimination.

The Foreign Ministry's statement said the Islamic Emirate remains committed to the international norms and obligations that do not contradict the principles of Islamic law, or contravene Afghanistan's cultural norms or undermine national interests.

"We therefore urge all actors to respect the peremptory norm of non-interference and cease all attempts at meddling in our internal affairs including the modalities and composition of our government and laws," the statement reads.

'Afghanistan again becomes breeding ground for terrorism'

KABUL (Khaama Press): According to the UN under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov, Afghanistan has again become a haven for terrorists. Voronkov was addressing a conference on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization counter-terrorism convention organized by Russian and Chinese missions.

"This event is very timely, especially in light of the conclusions made as part of the 14th report from the group on analytical support and monitoring of sanctions regarding the Taliban," Voronkov said, Tass reported.

"The document is rather profound and informative," effectively shows that Afghanistan is once again slowly becoming one of the most important, or maybe even the most crucial epicentre of the spread of terrorism. Despite all promises, all loud statements, the facts prove otherwise," he added.

He also emphasized that the current regime of Kabul is "unable or unwilling to reduce the terrorist threat."

A day before, the CSTO council of foreign ministers convened in Belarus and discussed the Ukraine conflict and Afghanistan situation. The organization's member states reiterated their concerns over Afghanistan's extremist groups.

Earlier, a Russian FM spokesperson expressed concern over security threats emanating from Afghanistan with the support of externals. While Russian Foreign minister also said that Washington seeks to foment regional instability by utilizing "acting illegal armed groups" in Afghanistan.

Govt officials flog a man accused

PAKTIKA (Khaama Press): Taliban's supreme court on Thursday announced that a man accused of having extramarital relationship was publicly flogged in eastern Paktika province.

The whipping took place in Mata Khan district of eastern Paktika province on June 22, according to official sources. The accused criminal confused to his crime at the provincial court proceedings, the statement said.

The statement further added that some high-ranking Taliban officials including Chief Justice of Paktika province and a considerable number of people participated the flogging.

Previously, the high court to Faryab province had announced that four men and two women had been sentenced to public lashing for having illicit relationship and drinking alcohol.

Meanwhile, Taliban's Supreme Leader Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada on Tuesday in new decree asked the Islamic Emirate members that no single individual should be punished without the courts' order.

According to the new decree, only official courts have the authority to determine the sentence of the criminals and punish them accordingly.

Geneva ready to develop cooperation with Ministry

KABUL (Agencies): The Deputy Minister of Public Health, Mawlawi Mohammad Ishaq Sahibzada, met with Alex Virtanen, head of Geneva in Afghanistan.

Virtanen shared details about the Geneva mission in Afghanistan and said: that the organization is ready to develop cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health, a statement added.

Geneva will develop cooperation, mainly on the safety of patients, health care staff, health centers, provision of ambulances, health transfers, launching a campaign about covid-19 and other sectors, the Ministry's statement added.



Public Health praised the Geneva mission in Afghanistan and thanked

the organization saying that the Afghanistan Public health ministry will support

their mission in Afghanistan and provide all needed facilities.

Mes Aynak mining still on hold as company deals with challenges

LOGA (Agencies): MJAM, the Chinese company that has the extraction contract for Aynak copper mine, in Logar province, has not been able to start operating due to the number of challenges they are facing.

According to John J. Coy, the vice president of MJAM, land acquisition around the mine is one major obstacle that is currently preventing the company from starting work.

Coy said the company cannot solve this problem alone and requires the Islamic Emirate of

Afghanistan's cooperation.

In addition to the land acquisition issues, it is reported that other major obstacles also exist and require resolution before the project can begin. Coy suggested that the Aynak copper mine contract needs to be reviewed in light of current challenges, and that there should be more dialogue between the Chinese company and the Islamic Emirate.

In return for the contract, the company is contractually bound to help needy families in the area with aid.

In the meantime, the Minister of Culture and Arts, Atiqullah Azizi, has stated that his ministry has prepared a plan to preserve the ancient Aynak copper mining site where countless artifacts have been found. Azizi says his ministry is currently in talks with a company to carry out this work and hopes to start practical work on the project as soon as possible.

Shokrallah, a representative from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, says the ministry is working to start practical work on min-

ing the Aynak copper mine. However, the ministry acknowledges that they are in talks with MJAM to resolve the differences about this project.

The Aynak copper mine extraction contract was won by MJAM back in 2007. Since then, security problems and the presence of ancient artifacts in the mining area have prevented the company from starting work on the project, leading officials to seek out solutions and dialogue with the Islamic Emirate to resolve the problems.

Number of children suffering malnutrition up in Panjshir

PANJSHIR (Agencies): At least 516 malnourished children have been registered in Panjshir in the past two months, local Public Health officials said.

The provincial head of Public Health Department of Panjshir, Dr. Asadullah Nejat said that the number of children suffering from malnutrition has been on the rise in the province during the past two months.

"36 children who were suffering from acute malnutrition, have been hospitalized in the emergency hospital of the province, and the rest are being treated in the health facilities outside the hospital," the statement quoted Nejat.

Pointing to the registration of the new cases and delivery of necessary health services, Dr. Nejat said that some of the mobile health teams have been appointed across the province,



the statement added.

He said that in addition to deploying the mobile health teams, the provincial Public Health Directorate

is making efforts to treat the malnourished children by launching counseling and awareness programs in the province.

Ghazni farmers want Baghcheri Dam water released forthwith

GHAZNI CITY (Pajwhok): A number of residents of southern Ghazni province have asked local authorities to release water from Baghcheri Dam because the dam is full and they need water to irrigate their farm fields.

Mohammad Mahdi, a tribal elder of Baghcheri Village of Qiaq Valley, told Pajwhok Afghan News that floods occurring in the beginning of this solar year had filled the dam to its capacity.

He asked local authorities to release the dam's water because they needed it direly for irrigation of their fields.

Hamid, another farmer, told Pajwhok if the water was not released soon, they would lose all of their crops and suffer hundreds of thousands of afghanis losses.

He said farmers spent their savings on cultivating crops and if water was not released now, their crops would dry up.

According to Hamid, farm fields of 15 villages are irrigated by water from the dam and this season is very important for their fields to be irrigated, otherwise farmers will face serious problems.

Maulavi Mohammad Shafiq Mansoor Omar, the head of sub-rivers administration, said: "The issue of water shortage is increasing day by day in Ghazni, so we took control of water management in our hand to fight the increasing drought impacts and better manage the water and solve the problems of all the people".

Mansoor Omar told Pajwhok a delegation of water management authority was dispatched to visit the Baghcheri Dam and after the delegation approved the release of water, a limited amount of water was released from the dam.

He assured the residents that the water level in the dam had reached the height of 12 meters and water up to six meters will be released during the upcoming five or six days for the irrigation of fields.

According to Omar, it is the first time water will be released from the reservoir in coordination with residents and farmers.

Baghcheri Dam is situated in Jaghato district of Ghazni province and this dam was constructed in 2009 by Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) which has the capacity to store 800,000 cubic meters of water.



AWCC customer service center opened



MAIDAN WARDAK (Agencies): Afghan Wireless Communication Company continues to expand services to its customers across the country, and this week opened a new customer services office in Maidan Wardak province.

Emblazoned in the company's corporate colors of blue, white and orange, the new center was officially opened on Wednesday in the presence of provincial officials and company representatives.

Suleiman Khorram, head of AWCC's central zone, said at the event that AWCC customers in the province will now be able to access services directly and easily.

The customer services center boasts the latest equipment and facilities needed to assist customers,

and in keeping with regulations. "This branch will provide services to customers based on the procedures of the ATRA (Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority) administration," said Khorram.

Provincial officials, including the head of the telecommunications and information technology directorate, welcomed AWCC's move and urged the company to expand services further, so as to include the province's districts.

"At the provincial level, in all places where telecommunication services are weak, it has been determined for private companies that these companies must start their telecommunication services and upgrade to 3G and 4G at the sites where their services are 2G," said Noorabad

Monsef, Head of Telecommunication and Information Technology of Maidan Wardak.

"Telecom services in the districts are 2G, and if attention is paid to this area and it is upgraded to 3G and 4G [problems will be solved], also there are other problems that will be dealt with later by the ATRA and the Chief of Telecommunications," said Abdul Qayoum Shahbaz, a representative of the governor's office.

A number of Maidan Wardak residents also welcomed AWCC's initiative.

AWCC officials meanwhile said the company's plan to roll out more customer service centers continues and they are hoping to open more branches in Paktika and Daikundi provinces in the near future.

Nawzad district faces lack of water: Residents

HELMAND (TOLONews): Residents of Nawzad district in Helmand province said that the continuation of life in some villages of the district has become difficult due to recent wars and drought, which has forced them to leave their areas.

Residents of this district added that they face many challenges and that the current government should address their problems.

Hedaytullah, a Nawzad district resident, said that due to the lack of water in the district, they have to leave their district.

"If there is no water there will be no work, and people are so tired. Among 100 people in the district only two of them are happy and comfortable, but the others are not comfortable and everyone is tired here," said Hedaytullah.

"If water is found, we will all work, we have the same request because all the people are leaving this area," said Asadullah, a Nawzad district resident.

Meanwhile, local officials of Helmand acknowledge the problems of residents of the district and

said that efforts are ongoing to solve them.

"In the last 20 years, Nawzad district of Helmand witnessed a lot of fighting, and this district has faced drought for years; these two are the reasons for the lack of water and people leaving the area," said Mohammad Qasim Riyaz, deputy of Helmand's information and culture department.

Earlier, residents of the Washir district also complained about the lack of water in their area and demanded the problems be addressed.

Handmade crafts exhibition organized in Bamiyan province

BAMIYAN (TOLONews): A two-day exhibition of handmade



local products was held in the central province of Bamiyan.

There were 31 stalls in the exhibition. The participants of the exhibition urged the interim government to provide further opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

"We call on the government and other organizations to consider holding such an exhibition in the future," said Anita, a participant.

"We hope such exhibitions will increase in the future and the grounds for organizing such exhibitions will be paved even outside the country," said Masouma Ibrahim, a participant.

The provincial officials said that the exhibition aims to promote local products and handmade materials made by women.

"This exhibition is held for 80 participants in general. 10 of them are men and the rest are for

women," said Hossien Azimyar, the organizer of the exhibition.

"Such exhibitions are being held in Bamiyan and are expected to be held in Kabul in the near future," said Mohammad Naem Rizayi, head of the department of Industry and Commerce in Bamiyan.

Visitors at the exhibition meanwhile called on the Islamic Emirate to support women in a bid to pave the way for economic growth in the country.

"Every woman here is active, and is also responsible for the economic support of her family, hence should be supported," said Horia Mandigar, a visitor.

The exhibition was organized by the Aga Khan Foundation in Bamiyan and the neighboring province of Daikundi.



PESHAWAR: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on higher education sector of KP, at Governor House.

Biden, Modi hail ‘defining partnership’

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been officially welcomed at the White House as part of a state visit, kicking off a day of events that will be capped by a lavish state dinner.

Modi was greeted by US President Joe Biden on Thursday, as a military band played both countries’ national anthems and soldiers paraded on the south lawn. The Indian leader met chants of “Modi, Modi, Modi” from supporters. Protesters also gathered outside the White House gates. “I’ve long believed the relationship between the United States and India will be one of the defining relationships of the 21st century,” Biden said. “Prime Minister Modi, welcome back to the White House.”

“The challenges and opportunities facing the world in this century require that India and the United States work and lead together, and we are,” he said, hailing the informal “Quad” group of the US, India, Australia and Japan – long seen as a bulwark against China – as well as efforts to protect critical technologies and what Biden called shared core principles of “equity under the law, freedom of expression, religious pluralism, diversity of our people”. Speaking in Hindi, Modi responded that he did not think he could thank Biden enough “for his warm welcome and his far-sighted speech. Thank you, President Biden, for your friendship.” “This grand welcome ceremony of the White House today is an honour and pride for 1.4 billion people of India,” he said. “This is also an honour for more than four million people of Indian origin living in the US.”

“The two countries are committed to work together for the global good and for global peace, stability and prosperity. Our strong strategic partnership is a clear proof of the power of democracy,” Modi said, adding that the “world order is taking a new shape”. The two leaders had met Wednesday for a less formal dinner in advance of the main events on Thursday, which will include a joint news conference – a rare event for Modi who often avoids direct questioning from reporters – as well as an address to a joint session of the US Congress, capped by the state dinner in the evening. Modi started the day by hosting a yoga event at the United Nations. He then visited the National Science Foundation with US First Lady Jill Biden before having dinner at the White House with the president. Modi also met with Tesla CEO and Twitter owner Elon Musk on Tuesday and is set to address business leaders on Friday.

Despite the pomp rolled out by the White House, Modi’s visit has been overshadowed by a wide array of calls for Biden to address human rights abuses that international monitors say have flourished under the prime minister’s leadership. Those calls have come from religious freedom, press freedom and other civil liberty groups. Seventy-five legislators from the president’s Democratic Party have also pushed the Biden administration to address the rights concerns during the visit with three progressive Democrats – US Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib – saying they would boycott Modi’s address to Congress.

“I encourage my colleagues who stand for pluralism, tolerance and freedom of the press to join me in doing the same,” Ocasio-Cortez said in a Twitter post on Wednesday. “I look forward to discussing how we could strengthen our partnership and build a future together, worthy of both our peoples, one grounded on democracy, human rights, freedom and rule of law,” Biden said at the White House, seated next to Modi Thursday. The Indian leader, who spoke mostly in Hindi and appeared with a translator, nodded after Biden’s words. Critics have said Modi’s administration has leaned into a Hindu nationalism that has targeted minorities, eroded democracy and shrugged off human rights. They accuse the Biden administration of turning a blind eye in the name of geopolitics. Both the US and India have expressed increasing unease at China’s growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Washington sees India, the world’s most populous country, as a possible counterweight to that influence.

Modi has been to the United States five times since becoming prime minister in 2014, but this trip will be his first with the full diplomatic status of a state visit, a fact analysts said underscores how significant the Biden administration sees India’s role going forward. Reporting from Washington, DC on Thursday, Al Jazeera’s Kimberly Halkett noted that only one other leader has been given such a welcome – including a state dinner and addressing Congress – under the Biden administration. “The fact that he has kind of this double honour, it’s something that’s been bestowed only on one other world leader under the Biden presidency, and that is the leader of South Korea,” Halkett said, referring to South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol’s visit in April, another event in which Biden sought to shore up support against China.

Mily courts also tried civilians in past: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that those who moved the Supreme Court (SC) against the trial of civilians in Military Courts have political motives.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Thursday, he said it is not the first time that the trials of civilians will take place in military courts. He said there are precedents of these trials and the judiciary has also endorsed them on various occasions in the past. He recalled that twenty-four or twenty-five civilians were convicted by the military courts in the previous government.

The Defence Minister asked the petitioners not to challenge the country’s dignity and honor for the sake of their political motives. He said our security personnel continue to render sacrifices in the war

on terrorism and that they are our benefactors. Khawaja Asif said the memorials of martyrs and the military installations were attacked on the 9th May. He said the political workers were motivated by their leader to attack the state. He said this crime is not tolerable.

The Defence Minister also stressed that the institutions should refrain from encroaching into each other’s territory. He warned that such a situation only leads to confrontation. He made it clear that the parliament will not let anybody trespass its territory. Responding to the points raised by different members, Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain said all the minorities in Pakistan enjoy complete freedom and protection under the country’s constitution.

The Minister said he

took immediate notice of the letter issued by the High Education Commission, banning the Hindu festival Holi in universities. He said on his instructions, the letter has now been withdrawn. Rana Tanveer Hussain said the minorities in Pakistan are free to practice their religion. He said Holi is an important festival of Hindu community.

The Chair in his remarks also termed the letter banning the Holi festival in universities as illegal and contrary to the constitution. The Chair said under the constitution, the followers of all religions have the freedom to practice their religion and promote their culture. The House also adopted a motion for constituting a special committee to give recommendations to the federal government to streamline the issuance of arms’ licenses.

‘Debris’ found in search for missing Titanic sub

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The desperate search for a missing submersible near the wreck of the Titanic entered a critical juncture on Thursday when air was expected to run out for the five people aboard, but officials vowed to continue scouring the remote North Atlantic.

A remotely operated vehicle deployed from a Canadian vessel to the ocean floor discovered a “debris field” near the Titanic, the US Coast Guard said on Thursday morning on Twitter, adding that experts were “evaluating the information.”

Another robot from a French research ship was also sent diving toward the seabed to search for signs of the 22-foot (6.7-meter) Titan submersible. The van-sized Titan, operated by US-based OceanGate Expeditions, began what was to be a two-hour descent at 8am (1200 GMT) on Sunday but lost contact with its support ship.

The submersible set off with 96 hours of air, according to the company, which means the oxygen would be exhausted by Thursday morning, assuming the Titan is still intact. Precisely when depends on factors such as whether the craft still has power and how calm those on board are, experts say. Rescuers and relatives of the Titan’s five occupants took hope when the US Coast Guard said on Wednesday that Canadian search planes had recorded undersea noises using sonar buoys earlier that day and on Tuesday.

But remote-controlled underwater vehicles searching where the noises were detected did not yield results, and officials cautioned the sounds might not have originated from the Titan. US Coast Guard rear admiral John Mauger told broadcaster NBC earlier on Thursday that the search would continue throughout the day.

The Titanic, which sank in 1912 on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg, killing more than 1,500 people, lies about 900 miles (1,450 km) east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and 400 miles (640 km) south of St John’s, Newfoundland. The Titan’s deep-sea excursion to the shipwreck capped a tourist adventure for which OceanGate charges \$250,000 per person.

The passengers included British billionaire and adventurer Hamish Harding, 58, and Pakistani-born business magnate Shahzada Dawood, 48, with his 19-year-old son Suleman, who are both British citizens. French oceanographer and leading Titanic expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet, 77, and Stockton Rush, the US founder and chief executive of OceanGate, were also on board. Rush is married to a descendant of two of the Titanic victims.

President stresses on Varsities to use technology

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President, Dr Arif Alvi here Thursday said that promotion of higher education was imperative for sustainable progress and development and stressed on the universities to use technology in order to increase the number of graduates for the benefits of Pakistan.

The President expressed these views during a high-level meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan and members of the Provincial Cabinet here at Governor House. Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, problems related to higher education sector and universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa came under discussion. The President said that higher education was very important sector and the universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa could increase the number of graduates with the help of technology for prosperity of the country.

He emphasized on the universities of KP to increase the volume of online education and start different shifts for producing a large number of quality technical and vocational educated manpower, which was imperative for sustainable economic growth and socioeconomic development. He asked universities to hire services of grant specialist for addressing its financial issues and research grant.

The caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan underlined

the need for early appointment of the Vice Chancellors in universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On this occasion, the Provincial Government authorities gave briefing on the existing financial and administrative affairs of the universities.

President for enhanced focus on education, health sectors: President Arif Alvi on Thursday called for enhancing focus on education and health sectors to provide education and health facilities to underprivileged population of the country.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of an international conference on health research 2023 here at Khyber Girls Medical College, he said that only four to five percent of the country’s population is privileged enough to get higher education while the common man was facing great problems. He pointed out that 27 million children out of the 250 million total population of the country were out of schools while a great number of people were not having access to quality health services in their respective areas. The President urged the policy makers to take timely and quick decisions and emphasized on the stakeholders, philanthropists, volunteers and Ulemas to play their role in creating awareness about the modern day challenges and educating children.

He said that the government could not along set up schools for 27 million out of school children or provide health facilities to all and this responsibility came to the shoulder of civil society to serve the population. He said that the country’s economy was facing several challenges and

expressed the hope that it would improve with the passage of time, adding that teachers, doctors, students, Ulemas and every person would have to play role in nation building.

The President said that currently the country needs doctors and nurses, adding that there was a demand 900,000 nurses in the country while presently 200,000 trained nurses were working in the field. He appreciated the organisers of the first ever international conference on health research and said that new researches in health sector in collaboration with the international practitioners was need of the hour.

He said the doctors especially the newly graduated students should concentrate on new research topics and educate the people about communicable and non-communicable diseases and preventive measures. The President also stressed to encourage the females to come forward and join the practical life after completing their education especially in the field of medical.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan expressed resolve of his government to address the challenges in the field of health in KP, adding the provincial government had increased funds for the health sector and set up new health centres to meet the demand. The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali, Principal Rehman Medical Institute Professor Dr Muhammad Rehman and other guests were also attended the concluding session of the international conference.

SC to ‘quickly wrap up’ pleas against civilians’ military trials

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said Thursday the top court would “quickly” wrap up the pleas against the trial of civilians in military courts, refusing to stay the trials.

“It is not right to issue stay orders on everything,” the CJP said while heading a seven-member bench – comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi.

A nine-bench member was earlier formed to hear the pleas, but Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Tariq Masood objected to the bench’s formation. Senior Puisne Judge Justice Faez Isa said he “did not consider the nine-member bench a bench”, with Justice Masood backing him.

Justice Isa stressed that the court should first issue a verdict on the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, 2023, and then constitute new benches. An eight-member larger bench of the SC had on April 13 ordered that even if the Practice and Procedure Act, received the assent of the president, the law would not be acted upon in any manner till further order.

“I will not accept this court until a decision is issued on the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act. All decisions are unconstitutional until the verdict on this act is issued,” Justice Isa said, but noted that he was not recusing himself from the bench. Responding to the judge’s concerns, CJP Bandial said he had constituted the bench in line with the law.

Then, the hearing resumed with seven members, and after hearing arguments, it was adjourned till tomorrow morning 9:30am. The petitions separately filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja, legal expert Aitzaz Ahsan, and Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (Piler) Executive Director Karamat Ali are against the trial of military courts. The government decided to try civilians in military courts after people allegedly belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) resorted to attacking army installations on May 9, following the arrest of their party chief.

When the hearing resumed, Justice Shah informed the court that he was a relative of petitioner Khawaja and that if anyone had concerns about his inclusion in the bench, he would recuse himself. At this, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan said he had no reservations against his inclusion in the bench.

Then, CJP Bandial directed all the parties to keep the arguments short as the court was hearing the case amid summer vacations. Khosa started his arguments by saying that Article 245 was imposed in the country. At this, Justice Shah remarked that the federal government had issued orders for the revocation of the notification. When CJP asked whether civilians were being tried in military courts, the lawyer responded: “Yes, military trials of civilians is underway.” “The notification of the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting that there were irrefutable evidence for May 9 events,” Khosa maintained.

Then, Khosa read out the Formation Commanders Conference’s handout and noted that the trials of civilians would be conducted either by a colonel or a brigadier. Justice Shah told the lawyer to stop presenting statements and come to facts. “Tell us what the law says,” Khosa said he had requested anti-terror courts to shift civilians’ cases from military courts. Justice Naqvi added that the anti-terror courts had jurisdiction to hear the cases filed against May 9 vandals. The lawyer agreed and said his client is of the view that these cases should be heard by anti-terror courts.

Justice Afridi inquired if anyone had challenged the law under which the military trials will be conducted. At this, Justice Malik asked if the law related to military trials could be challenged. She asked the lawyers to inform the court about the rules of the Army Act and military courts.

“Tell us about the law or something solid on the basis of which the punishments are being awarded,” Justice Afridi remarked. Justice Malik and Justice Shah asked on what basis the civilian cases in the anti-terrorism courts were transferred to military courts. Justice Malik also mentioned that under Section 549 of the Army Act, the relevant department would take action against people found guilty.

Lawyer Khosa told the court that the Army Act does not mention civilians. Then, Justice Shah said he believed civilian laws have stricter punishments than military ones. The CJP also said that private conversations were recorded and privacy was breached.

Later, the CJP mentioned that he was not issuing a stay order on the trials of civilians in military courts. “It is not right to issue stay orders on everything.” He also sought details of the people arrested during the May 9 violence. Ex-CJP’s plea Former CJP Khawaja filed a petition under Article

184(3) of the Constitution, challenging the trials of civilians through military courts.

The Federation of Pakistan has been made respondent through the law, defence secretaries, and provincial chief secretaries have been made respondents in the plea. The former chief justice submitted that the instant petition does not seek to support or attack any political party or institution, adding that it raises an important constitutional question involving fundamental rights that requires adjudication in the present circumstances.

Greece boat tragedy: DNA samples collected

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has obtained DNA samples from the families of 126 missing victims of the Greece boat tragedy, it emerged Thursday. Samples were submitted by the relatives of 52 victims in FIA Gujarat Circle and 46 affected families in Gujranwala Circle.

Meanwhile, blood samples were also obtained from the relatives of 28 people of Kotli Azad Kashmir. Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Haq Nawaz said that total 30 persons of the Kotli, were on board of the ill-fated boat and only two survived after the incident. The DC said 24 of the missing people belonged to the Khuiratta Sub-division, three to Charhoi Sub-division and one to Sehensha Sub-division.

Seven of the 12 human traffickers, nominated in the first information report (FIR), including Muhammad Mehtab, Asif Khan, Manazer Hussain, Zaffar Mahmood, Assad Mahmood, Sohail Iqbal and Fareed Khan of the Kotli district had been arrested, while another trafficker Sajid, resident of Gujrat, was already in the custody of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), he added. Last week, an Italy-bound fishing trawler reportedly carrying at least 800 people – including hundreds of Pakistanis – capsized off Greece. Only 104 people are known to have survived and the chance of finding more survivors was seen as virtually nil. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has assured that the government would take strict action against Greece boat tragedy and an investigation report would be submitted within a week by duly fixing responsibility on those involved in negligence.

It is never too late to say no to injustice: PM

(Continued from Page 1)

The prime minister appreciated John Kerry and the United States Administration for their priorities on the environment-related issues. The first-ever appointment of John Kerry as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate also manifested the realisation of the importance of the issue. The prime minister observed that environmental problems were adversely affecting the development and growth rate of the developing countries. He highlighted that the unprecedented floods of 2022 had exacerbated the economic woes of Pakistan. The prime minister urged the developed countries to help the developing word overcome the negative impacts of the environmental issues on their growth rate. He believed that the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held in Paris was a ray of hope for the developing world.

Moreover, he said, the reformation of the international financial infra-

structure was also important to provide resources to the developing countries. John Kerry endorsed the prime minister’s viewpoint of threats posed by the climate change to the developing world. Both the leaders agreed to keep up the contacts and consultation to carry out joint efforts for the purpose.

Moreover, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that supporting the debt-burdened developing countries under New Global Financing Pact was the need of the hour for the relief of their people.

The prime minister, in a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held here, said the disastrous impacts of climate change had exacerbated the difficulties of the already suffering developing states. He appreciated the French president for hosting the Summit and inviting him to the event as well as for the warm hospitality.

The prime minister paid tribute to the French president for taking a

“bold step” towards the development of a system based on financial equity for the developing world faced with the challenges like the dearth of resources, debt burden, interest payments, and stalled development. The prime minister appreciated President Macron for his effort toward evolving a global consensus. The French president thanked the prime minister for participating in the Summit. During the meeting, both leaders also discussed other matters of mutual interest and agreed to keep up the contacts.

PM meets UN Secretary General, Saudi Crown Prince, Egypt president: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the Summit for New Global Financing Pact here and discussed the challenges of climate change being faced by the world, especially Pakistan.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the UN Secretary General and

expressed his best wishes for him. In response the Secretary General also expressed goodwill to PM Sharif. Shehbaz Sharif told the UN Secretary General that he considered him the benefactor of Pakistan as “we cannot forget your help during the last year’s floods”. He said the UN Secretary General himself was a witness to the devastation caused by the climate change in the country. The prime minister also informed the UN Secretary General about the measures taken by the government for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-hit areas.

“Reconstruction of the infrastructure affected by the floods and rehabilitation of the flood affected people is the government’s top priority,” he added. He said due to the climate changes, financial burden on the developing countries had been increased manifold as they were facing new challenges to raise the economic growth and maintain fiscal balances.

PM Shehbaz called for utilizing the Loss and Damage Fund to provide financial assistance to the developing

countries. The summit in Paris for the New Global Financing Pact was a good start in the right direction, he added. He said along with climate justice, a fair attitude was also required in the distribution of global financial resources with developing countries. The UN Secretary General appreciated the commitment of the prime minister and his government for the rehabilitation of the flood victims.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also met Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Prince Muhammad bin Salman here on the sidelines of the Summit for New Global Financing Pact.

Besides discussing matters relating to mutual interests, the two leaders agreed to further expand the shared actions to promote bilateral cooperation in diverse areas. Prime Minister Sharif expressed his best wishes to the Saudi Crown Prince. Prince Muhammad bin Salman also expressed his goodwill for the Pakistani government and its people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also met with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi here wherein the two leaders agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in multiple fields. The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit being hosted by France. The prime minister, along with a delegation, is on an official visit here to attend the Summit on the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

The prime minister said that the establishment of Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 held in Sharm El-Sheikh was an important development. He said the Loss and Damage Fund had laid the basis for an important milestone at the global level. The prime minister said that the resolve shown at Sharm El-Sheikh was moving forward gradually. The two leaders resolved to promote and further strengthen the bilateral relations. They also agreed to keep up the bilateral contacts on regional as well as international affairs.