



Islamabad POST

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Detailed News On Page-06

Pak stance on Kashmir unwavering

Detailed News On Page-03



Azerbaijan envoy meets PIA CEO

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

PM Shehbaz warns Imran Khan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday warned his predecessor Imran Khan not to cross limits by giving statements about split of the country. "Do your politics, but don't dare to cross limits and talk about division of Pakistan," he said in a tweet from Turkey, where he is on a three-day official visit. PM Sharif mentioned that as he was making accords with Turkey aimed at bringing prosperity to Pakistan, the PTI chief was issuing threats against Pakistan. "While I am in Turkey inking agreements, Imran Niazi is making naked threats against the country," he said in a tweet.

Fawad foresees Punjab CM election

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former information minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Thursday that he was foreseeing an elected government taking over in Punjab following an election for the provincial chief minister next week rendered necessary after the de-notification of 25 PTI MPAs by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). He said there was a constitutional crisis in both the Punjab and Center.

Hanif Abbasi resigns as SAPM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi on Thursday resigned as special assistant to the prime minister (SAPM) after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had stopped him "temporarily" from performing his duties. In a letter dated June 1, addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Abbasi said that he would be "unable to perform at present" and requested the premier to accept his resignation while thanking him for the opportunity.

Govt drops petrol bomb on citizens

Price of petrol moved up by Rs30 to Rs209.86; Diesel at Rs204.15, China agrees to refinance \$2.3 loan for Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail announced Thursday that the price of petrol has been moved up by Rs30 to Rs209.86, a few days after increasing the rate of the commodity by the same amount. Ismail, in a press conference, said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved hiking the price of petrol, diesel, and light diesel by Rs30 per litre, while the rate of kerosene oil has been hiked by Rs26.38 per litre.

New price (per litre):	
• Petrol	Rs209.86
• Diesel	Rs204.15
• Light Diesel	178.31
• Kerosene oil	Rs181.94

"...kerosene oil is the only commodity which is not leading to losses for the government. However, we are facing losses of Rs8 on light diesel, Rs9 on petrol, and Rs23 on high-speed diesel," he said. The finance minister acknowledged that the lower-income segment of society would be affected the most as a result of the petrol price hike, but noted that the rate of oil has also sky-rocketed in the international market. In response to a question, the finance minister said he was

Continued on Page 06

Promotion of foreign investment top priority: PM

DNA

ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says promotion of foreign investment in the country is among the top priorities of the government. He was talking to a delegation of the Board of Turkish Sutas group, which called on him in Ankara on Thursday. The Prime Minister informed the delegation that the government is removing the obstacles created for investors during the past four years.

He said the government is ensuring the establishment of industries and creating job opportunities in the country. The Turkish Sutas group expressed keen interest for investment in Dairy sector in Pakistan. On the occasion, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned in Pakistan to cooperate with the Sutas group in the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has

Continued on Page 06

Army Chief receives security briefing at Corps HQ Quetta

While visiting Command and Staff College, COAS appreciated faculty members



NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Command and Staff College, Quetta, on Thursday. He was received by Corps Commander Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali. COAS met the faculty and addressed participants of Command & Staff College Quetta. The COAS appreciated faculty members for honing professional skills of students.

COAS urged course participants to remain abreast with future battlefield challenges, latest technological advancements and focus on professional pursuits.

Later, COAS visited Corps Headquarters where he was given detailed briefing on security situation in the province and lauded the commendable efforts of formations deployed across the province for providing secure environment for socio-economic activities, including smooth conduct of Local Bodies elections in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Advisor on Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, Federal Minister for parliamentary affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi, NA Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Italy. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. - DNA

Rs7.91/kWh hike in power tariff

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The residential and commercial electricity consumers in Pakistan have been slapped with a whopping Rs7.91 per kilowatt-hour, or per unit, hike in the price of electricity. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved the new tariff that would take effect after a notification from the federal government. After increasing the petroleum prices by Rs30 per litre, this increase in electricity prices will surely bring a tsunami of inflation in the country where the people are already feeling it hard to meet both ends. Nepra has sent the new tariff to the federal government to issue a notification in this regard. As per Nepra Act, the federation has a right to submit an application for the same tariff for all the DISCOs. The same tariff for the DISCOs is determined after including the amount of the subsidies in the tariff. The consumers will be charged as per new tariff after a notification issued by the government.

According to Nepra, MEPCO, HESCO, GEPCO, KESCO, and TESCO had applied for multi year tariff for fiscal year 2020-21 to 2024-25, whereas, IESCO, LESCO and FESCO had applied for their yearly adjustments as per the approved multi year tariff. Nepra said it has set the tariff for the fiscal year 2022-23.

Nepra has set the average national tariff at Rs24.82 per unit for fiscal year 2022-23 which is Rs7.91 more than the previous year's tariff of Rs16.91 per unit. Nepra cited devaluation of the Pakistan rupee and an increase in fuel prices in international market and production capacity.

National day of Italy Pak, Italy ties on a positive trajectory: Kaira

Says Italy is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in the EU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has felicitated the government and people of Italy on their 76th Republic Day. He was addressing the participants of a reception regarding Republic Day of Italy hosted by the Italian embassy here in Islamabad today.

The Adviser said that Pakistan regarded Italy as a reliable friend and partner. He said, Pakistan and Italy have commonality of views on broad range of regional and international issues. He said, the trajectory of Pakistan Italy ties is positive and we are determined to make every effort to maintain it. Qamar Zaman Kaira said, Pakistan looks forward to further strengthening its partnership with Italy for the achievement of its objectives of peace prosperity and development. He said Italy

is one of Pakistan's largest trading partners in the EU. Pakistan is firmly committed to further expanding and deepening our mutually beneficial relationship in economic and commercial spheres. Qamar Zaman Kaira said that considerable number of Pakistanis were living in Italy who also serve as a strong bridge between our two friendly nations.

Italian Republic Day, also widely known as 'Festa della Repubblica' for Italians, is nationally celebrated in Italy on June 2, every year. The historical day commemorates the institutional referendum of 1946 when Italians were called to take a vote and decide the form of their government after World War II. With a flood of votes, they chose to be a republic with a constituent assembly and sent the kingdom to exile. So, on this day, a massive celebration takes place in the city of Rome to celebrate the creation of the Italian Republic.

Inside...

Imran Khan's mental condition becomes threat: PPP - Page 02

Pakistan's stance on Kashmir unwavering - Page 03

Dr Pasha urges opposition to shun politics on economy - Page 04

A new plan for Palestine that may just work - Page 05

Depp celebrates defamation verdict, Heard 'heartbroken' - Page 06

Kazakh President stresses enhanced ties with Poland - Page 07

KP Cabinet approves subsidized flour for public - Page 08

Imran Khan vows to remain undeterred till fresh polls

Says "puppets" of the US are now running the country after he was ousted through a "foreign conspiracy"



DNA

SHANGLA: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Thursday vowed to keep holding rallies and continue his anti-government campaign till general elections are announced. Addressing a jalsa in Shangla, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the former prime minister said that he is staying in the province for two more days to prepare everyone for the "Azadi March" anew. "I am strengthening all my organisations in the province and planning everything," he said. Last week, Khan had abruptly called off the long march, saying the decision to continue it would have led to further chaos and bloodshed. Criticising the government's decision to increase the prices of petroleum products by Rs30 per litre, Khan said that the government cannot buy oil from Russia at 30% lesser prices because the United States "does not permit" them to do so. "Our government wanted to strike a deal with Russia,

PTI to face abrupt disintegration: Maryam



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would go burst and face abrupt disintegration, expressing the optimism that Pakistan would stay fully safe and sound, due to current leadership of the country. Lambasting the statement of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan about strategic assets and disintegration of the country, that came into being, after great sacrifices by Muslims of the Sub-continent. Addressing news conference, she said: "It is a condemnable statement of Imran Khan that Pakistan, will be divided into three parts,"

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

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Imran Khan's mental condition becomes threat: PPP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri while criticizing the recent statements of the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, and said Imran Khan has challenged Pakistan's existence by talking against the nuclear program of the country and Imran Khan's mental condition has become a threat for the country.

She said the Imran Khan has lost his senses after losing power and challenging the existence of the country and targeting the institutions. This she said while holding a joint presser along with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders, Faisal Karim Kundi, Nadeem Afzal Chan and others at Islamabad here.

Ms Marri said Imran Khan is saying that if he will be in the power, the country and its institutions would exist however if he would not be in power, nothing would exist which is highly condemnable. She said that PPP was a party which raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khapay" at the time when Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was martyred and country was facing the situation of anarchy and chaos.

"PPP has rendered great sacrifices but continued its struggle for strengthening the democratic norms in the

country while the former Prime Minister Imran Khan is challenging the existence of Pakistan and talking of dividing the country only for the sake of losing power which reflects his unpatriotic thinking", she added. She vehemently said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent statements are of serious nature and being criticized from all sides and she termed it a conspiracy against Pakistan. "Imran Khan sometimes comes forward to save Farah Khan and sometimes he speaks about the interests of those who benefited him", she added.

While talking about the recently announced relief package of Rs 28 billion to avert the affects of petroleum price increase on the poor, Shazia Marri said an increase in the prices of petroleum products was although a difficult decision to take but inevitable for saving the country's ailing economy due to the ineffective policies of the previous government.

"There was no option for the current government except increasing the prices of petroleum products when the country was facing with economic crisis, unemployment and increased poverty ratio ever inherited from the previous government", she said.

The relief package has been announced to provide relief to the poor people from the petroleum prices increase induced inflation. She said that

eight million existing beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support program (BISP) Kafaalat will be eligible to get additional Rs 2000 along with their quarterly assistance while six million more beneficiaries would be identified through the BISP National Socio Economic Registry (NSER) after sending their CNIC to a number which would be announced shortly.

She said that present government is aware of how increase in the price of daily used commodities has reduced the purchasing capacity of the common people. "We reminded the previous government again and again about the impacts of inflation on the poor but they created difficulties for the people in the name of Ehsaas", she added.

"Why we called Imran Khan 'selected' as none of his policies was pro-people and he is unable to tell the people in its speeches about his government's performance of the last four years", she said. Ms Marri said that the former PM had no answer to the corruption scandals like Peshawar BRT, Malamajbba, Rawalpindi Ring Road, Petroleum sector, Medicine, Farah Gogi etc in which his government was involved. She added Imran Khan was attacking on institutions since long time and he was threatening those institutions which were taking decisions as per the constitutional requirements instead of appreciating.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri holding a joint presser along with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders, Faisal Karim Kundi, Nadeem Afzal Chan and others. - DNA

FCCI stresses safe work environment for women

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Female friendly atmosphere will be created in private industrial, commercial and business entities enabling women workforce to play its productive role with their fullest potentialities towards the national economy, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing a launching ceremony of the joint working group of the FCCI and Women Workers Alliance (WWA) here today, he lamented that women are more than half of our population but their role in economic activities is quite negligible. He said that Faisalabad has become hub of national economy and new mega industrial estates are being developed here on scientific lines. He said that at least 65 industrial units with foreign collaboration are already working in M3 Industrial Estate while their number could jump to 150 during 2023-25. He said that the export related units are already providing necessary facilities to the workers in general and women in particular under different agreements, conventions and protocols. He said that FCCI is making efforts to convince industrialists to dole out these facilities voluntarily instead of taking it as a mandatory social compliance. He said that some major gender imbalances have been removed and women are now getting the same salary as enjoyed by the male workers. He said that export oriented are bound to provide separate toilets and washrooms for women workers but now industrialists are providing these facilities with their own free will just to facilitate their female workforce. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh said that he was convincing the entire industrial sector to extend these fundamental facilities to their female employees as their social corporate responsibility. He said that the Former Governor State Bank of Pakistan upon his request had directed commercial banks to allocate a sizable share of loan portfolio for female entrepreneurs.

KMU Marks Int'l Nurses Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar-Institute of Nursing Sciences (INS) arranged international nurse's day 2022 to commemorate and pay tribute to the nurses who are working as front liners in the health delivery system. The International nurse's day is celebrated every year on the birth day of Florence Nightingale "the lady with the lamp" who is considered the founder of modern day nursing. The event was attended by delegates from different nursing institutes, dignitaries from Peshawar region and students and faculty of KMU-INS.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar KMU, Professor Dr. Muhammad Saleem Gandapur appreciated the role of nurses in caring for the sick patients in hospitals. He stressed that nurse's care for the patients 24 hours a day while they are admitted in hospitals. He further emphasized that KMU was playing a key role in uplifting the standards of nursing education in Paki-



stan since 2008. He elaborated that KMU-INS is the first and only institute offering PhD program in the field of nursing. Ms Mehr Mustafa, controller of the nursing examination board, KP asserted that international nurse's day is the day for nurses to appreciate the great work they were doing in hospitals to care for the sick patients and their families. She continued that nursing education has completely transformed over the years from a diploma in nursing program to a bachelor, master and doctor programs. Dr. Najma Naz, of KMU-INS mentioned about the trends and challenges of the nursing profession in Pakistan. Finally, Dr. Dildar Muhammad of

KMU-INS, stressed that the theme of 2022 of international nurse's day is "Nurses a voice to lead: invest in nursing to secure rights and global health". He asserted that Pakistan should invest in nursing human health resources to uplift healthcare service delivery. The event was glorified by a lamp lighting ceremony wherein a pledge was taken from prospective nurses; the final year students of BS Nursing to care for the patients without any discrimination of color, creed, ethnicity, religion, race or domicile. Dr. Sabiha Khanum, Director KMU-INS, thanked all the students, faculty and delegates for their worthy presences on this occasion.

DC inspects fair price shops across city

DNA

LODHAN: Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi inspected Fair Price Shops at various places in the city for monitoring cheap flour under Chief Minister's Public Convenience Package. The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the stock register of arrival and sale of cheap flour. He directed the District Food Controller to set up fair price shops at important places across the city. He said that a 10 kg bag of cheap flour is available at the sale point for Rs. 490. The Deputy Commissioner said that the supply of cheap flour in the district is being ensured at government rates in all cases. He said that Punjab government was taking all possible steps for the welfare of the people and alleviation of the problems faced by them. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi also checked the weight of the flour bag on the occasion. He directed the food department officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of cheap flour. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi also organized Revenue Public Service Court on the second day. The Revenue Service Court was held at the Kanjo Hall of the District Council. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Azuba Azeem and other revenue officers stayed in the service court to resolve public revenue issues. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi made a surprise visit and reviewed



the arrangements of Revenue Service Court. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi said that the purpose of Revenue Public Service Court is to provide immediate relief to the people. He said that revenue officers were present under one roof for redressal of grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the rate of relief on the petitions filed in the Revenue Service Court is very high which is encouraging. He said that the traditional culture has been eradicated through the revenue court and all the revenue officers have been brought together under one roof. Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi said that solution of people's problems is the first priority of district

administration. He said that he would serve the people through Revenue Court for two days every month. On behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif, Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi addressed the gathering. Rubina BB, a resident of Lodhran Tehsil, presented a check for financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to his wife Muhammad Mureed. Is taking practical steps. He said that step by step efforts are being made to help the orphans, widows and needy people not to feel alone. On the occasion, Rubina Bibi thanked Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shahbaz Sharif and Deputy Commissioner Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi for providing financial assistance.

Need stressed for awareness among masses about working of FTO

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Asif Mehmood Jah has directed all the regional offices to spread awareness about objectives behind establishment of FTO office and its working. He said FTO is responsible for redressal of complaints regarding mismanagement in the working of all subordinate offices of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) so that the problems being faced by general masses and business community are removed at the earliest. The complainant can lodge their complaint by writing it on a simple paper, or through email or whatsapp message, he informed delegation members.

Speaking on the occasion, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi said FTO office was established around 22 years earlier and it has benefited thousands of complainants by providing them free of cost justice. The appeal to the decision of FTO can only be made to President of Pakistan and people will be surprised to know that the percent of appeal is only one person, Zia added. Out of total number of appeals made to President of Pakistan, the decision FTO is withheld in around 95 percent of cases, he went on to say. On this occasion, Adviser Regional Tax Office said seminar should be held in different parts of the country for information of general public to benefit from the office of FTO.

tion including SVP Khalid Shehzad, VP Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, GS Mian Waheed Bacha and others. During the meeting, Adviser apprised delegation members about objectives behind establishment of FTO office and its working. He said FTO is responsible for redressal of complaints regarding mismanagement in the working of all subordinate offices of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) so that the problems being faced by general masses and business community are removed at the earliest. The complainant can lodge their complaint by writing it on a simple paper, or through email or whatsapp message, he informed delegation members.

JI to launch countrywide protest

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami would launch a countrywide protest movement from Lahore on June 11 if the government had not taken measures to eliminate Riba and control inflation in the national budget scheduled to be presented in the national assembly on June 10, announced JI Emir Sirajul Haq at press a conference in Mansoorah on Thursday. The incumbent government, he added, had not only continued the policies of the PTI regime, it further burdened the masses with massive inflation. Sirajul Haq made it clear the poor people of Pakistan were no longer ready to become sacrificial goats on the dictation of the global lenders, asserting the time had come the ruling elite itself made some sacrifices. Around Rs42 billions per year were spent on protocol and VIPs life-style of the rulers, billions were used on other non-developmental expenses, he said, asking the rulers to take austerity measures, end luxurious lifestyle to prove they were the representatives of the people who were even deprived of the basic facilities. The JI chief said people in Cholistan had no access to even drinking water, hours long load-shedding continued throughout the country and amid the situation the government increased the petrol prices by Rs30 per liter and cooking oil rate by Rs250 per kg. He questioned the government's claims made before bringing no-trust movement against the PTI. The JI, he said, had already made it clear to the people that the ruling parties (the PML-N, the PPP and the PTI) were protectors of the status quo, having no interest in the welfare of the common man. The politicians' agenda, he said, was obvious as they only wanted to accumulate money and make properties for their generations and keep the masses to their service, he said, adding the rulers wanted to escape accountability to their deeds and pursuing their desire they clipped the wings of the NAB.



Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority
Government of Pakistan

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

MAY

May 03 / Poland	National Day
May 06 / Bulgaria	Armed Forces Day
May 06 / UAE	Armed Forces Day
May 07 / Kazakhstan	Armed Forces Day
May 08 / Czech Republic	National Day
May 09 / European Union	National Day
May 17 / Norway	Constitution Day
May 21 / Hungary	Armed Forces Day
May 22 / Yemen Republic	Re-unification Day (National Day)
May 24 / Eritrea	National Day
May 25 / Lebanon	Liberation and Resistance Day
May 25 / Argentina	National Day
May 25 / Jordan	Independence Day
May 28 / Azerbaijan	Republic Day
May 28 / Ethiopia	National Day
May 31 / Brunei	Armed Forces Day



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& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



Departments

CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
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Pakistan's stance on Kashmir unwavering

“Pakistan had and will continue to extend diplomatic and moral support to its Kashmiri brethren for their struggle for self determination,” NA Speaker says

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday said the entire Pakistani nation was perturbed and strongly condemns the punishment of Yasin Malik by Indian courts. “Pakistan had and will continue to extend diplomatic and moral support to its Kashmiri brethren for their struggle for self determination,” he expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of visit to the residence of Mashal Malik to express solidarity with the wife and family of prominent Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik. He said the Parliament of Pakistan has unanimously passed a resolution condemning the conviction of Yasin Malik. The speaker said that, in this difficult time, he expresses his full solidarity with Mashal Malik and his family. He said Pakistani Parliament and people have always raised their voice for the right of Kashmiri people to self-determination. He assured that their plight and voice would be raised at all regional and international forums.



Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf said that unilateral decision of Indian court could not stifle the spirit of freedom of Yasin Malik and Kashmiri people. He further said that Yasin Malik has raised the banner of truth by enduring the hardships of imprisonment.

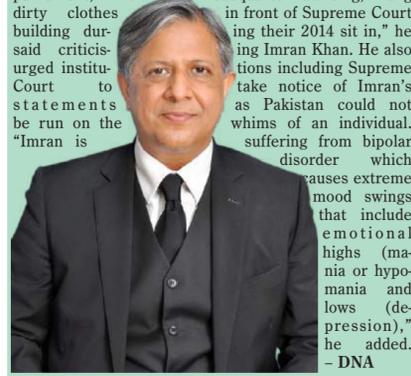
He said all political parties have a unanimity of views on Kashmir issue and support the right of Kashmiri people to self-determination. He stressed on the need for electronic, print and social media to play a full role in highlighting the Kashmir issue. The speaker said the Kashmir issue would be fully highlighted in the international forums on behalf of the Parliament of Pakistan. He expressed the hope that the sun of freedom would soon rise in the occupied Kashmir Valley just as the morning rises after every night. Wife of Hurriyat leader Mashal Malik said that the so-called court of India has strangled the justice system. She said that Modi-led Indian government has buried Gandhi's ideology of secular India and any minority in India is unsafe. She added that the families of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and Nelson Mandela were allowed to visit them but she and her daughter did not have this right. She said that a joint sitting of Parliament may be convened to express solidarity. He said that the Indian government was registering cases against herself and her daughter in India which was very regrettable and reprehensible. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Dr. Asjad Hameed The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad, Lt Gen Muhammad Haroon Aslam HI (M), SBT, (Retd), Chief Guest at 'World No Tobacco Day' celebrated at TDC. CEO TDC Mr Tahir M. Abbasi, HOD Marketing Mr Shahzad Lodhi and Executive Coordinator to CEO, Dr Sana Moazzam prior to beginning of event at TDC. — DNA

Tarar condemns Imran's statement

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Azam Nazir Tarar on Thursday strongly condemned Imran Khan's statement in which he (Imran) stated that the country would be divided into three parts if right decisions were not taken right now. “Imran Khan has lost his mind after losing the coveted post of prime minister,” Tarar said initiating a debate in the senate after suspension of agenda items. He said Pakistan would exist for ever. He accused Imran of violating his oath regarding the protection of national interests and country's secrets. “Imran Khan lost power following losing support of his allies. He was ousted from power after losing no confidence motion. The current government assumed powers in a legitimate and constitutional way after success of no confidence motion,” he said urging superior judiciary and institutions to take notice of Imran's statement as his utterances were creating unrest among general public. Senator Asif Kirmani said Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad was against the creation of Pakistan but after creation of Pakistan he urged country's leadership to work for betterment of Pakistan and strengthen it. “PTI invaded parliament, PTV headquarter building, hung dirty clothes building during their 2014 sit-in,” he said criticising Imran Khan. He also said that Supreme Court to take notice of Imran's statements as Pakistan could not be run on the whims of an individual. “Imran is suffering from bipolar disorder which causes extreme mood swings that include emotional highs (mania or hypomania) and lows (depression),” he added. — DNA



Govt to improve education sector, says Ahsan Iqbal

The future of the youth is in safe hands as empowering the youth

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that his government was committed to taking revolutionary steps for the bright future of the youth. Talking to PTV News Channel, he said that the present government would take all possible steps to ensure the massive promotion of education in the country in general and in the neglected rural areas of the country. The future of the youth is in safe hands as empowering the youth and creating employment opportunities for them were the top priorities of the present government. “The youths are the country's most important asset and aspiration,” he added. He said that in the forthcoming budget we would pay special attention to the neglected education sector and increase the funds allocated for higher education. — APP

Collective political will imperative to address challenges

The solution to some of the main governance challenges lied in developing people-centric policies and approaches instead of needless political point scoring

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Absence of collective political will was at the heart of governance challenges in South Asian countries, in particular Pakistan, asserted a panel of experts and academicians addressing an event titled Issues of Governance and Developments in South Asia with a Focus on Pakistan's Political and Social Developments. The event was held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Thursday. The panelists for the event included Ambassador Ghalib Iqbal, Dr Salma Malik, Assistant Professor Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Mr Taimur Shamil, renowned journalist and Mr Faisal Karim Kundi,

former Deputy Speaker. The event was moderated by Mr Farrukh Pitafi. Discussing various developments in Pakistan over the years, the panelists were of the opinion that while there were varying levels of improvements across various sectors, the pace of development in Pakistan had been painfully slow. This, they held, was predominantly due to issues including but not limited to persistent rise in corruption, maladministration, and misuse of resources by successive governments. All panelists shared the opinion that politics in Pakistan had turned into a contest of sloganeering and polemics against political opponents, overshadowing the actual aim of serving the people and developing policies

and frameworks to improve their livelihoods. The solution to some of the main governance challenges lied in developing people-centric policies and approaches instead of needless political point scoring. Considering that Pakistan had the world's fifth largest population, any reforms to governance infrastructure had to prioritize optimal utilization of the human resource, in particular, the youth, they added. Furthermore, given that the challenges to governance were spread across several sectors including poverty alleviation, development, education, and economy, all stakeholders in Pakistan needed to develop a collective political will in order to address the challenges troubling the country.

Applicants who register through HEC online registration process will download their Roll Number Slip through <http://etc.hec.gov.pk> a week before the test date. However, Email/SMS will be sent to registered applicants for test date, time and venue. HEC-Law GAT test will be conducted in the centers including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Sukkur, Abbottabad, Quetta, Multan, Hyderabad, Turbat, Bahawalpur, Peshawar, Muzaffarabad, Faisalabad, and Gilgit. Applicants may select any test centre from the list available in the application form. The said test will be held on any of above centres if minimum 250 applicants select that centre. Test centre once selected will not be changed after registration. The applicants are encouraged to visit the following link: <http://etc.hec.gov.pk> for online registration. — APP

HEC asks students to apply for Law-GAT till June 15

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced Law Graduate Assessment Test (Law-GAT) for eligibility to seek enrollment as an advocate with bar council. The test is being conducted on the directions of Supreme Court vide its Order dated March 6, 2018 has directed restoration of the Law Graduate Assessment Test (Law-GAT) by the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) through the Higher Education Commission (HEC). According to official sources from HEC, the objective of the Assessment Test is to ensure proper scrutiny and evaluation of a law graduate desirous to join the legal profession so that only competent individuals possessing necessary basic knowledge of law may enter the legal profession for practicing law. Therefore, a law graduate only becomes eli-

gible to apply to a Bar Council for enrollment as an Advocate if he/she qualifies the Assessment Test to be conducted by HEC, Pakistan having been so authorised by PBC, pursuant to the aforementioned Order of the Honourable Supreme Court, and read with Section 26 (cc) of Legal Practitioners and Bar Council's Act 1973 and rules of PBC. As per details, the persons having passed Bachelor's degree in Law or equivalent from a university recognized by



HEC/PBC are eligible to apply. The test will consist of Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs). The revised curriculum of Law-GAT can be downloaded from: <https://www.hec.gov.pk/english/HECAnnouncements/Pages/Syllabus-LGAT.aspx>. The last date to apply online for the test is June 15, 2022, while the Law-GAT will be tentatively held on July 3, 2022. Any change in test date will be communicated through <http://etc.hec.gov.pk>.

FIA Cyber Wing disposed of 100,986 complaints

ISLAMABAD: Cyber Wing of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has disposed of 100,986 complaints during a period of January 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022. According to official data, around 110,938 new complaints were reported to Cyber Crime Wing during the said period. Out of total complaints, 17102 were converted into inquiries besides registering 1,332 cases. Similarly, complete Challan of 591 of the registered cases have been submitted in the court of law. Some 1411 criminals were arrested in the registered cases while 44 accused have been convicted in different cases during the said period. In the year of 2020, the Cyber Crime Wing received 94,227 complaints and 17,954 were brought forward from year 2019. Out of 112,181 complaints, 407 were disposed of during 2020, 9116 were converted into inquiries and 604 cases were registered. On January 1, 2021, 11658 complaints were brought forward from year 2020. — APP

IT Ministry directs timely completion of all projects

ISLAMABAD: Ministry for Information Technology and Telecommunication has directed the heads of the attached departments of the Information Ministry to complete all the ongoing projects speedily and on time. The official of the ministry said that the minister for IT and telecommunications had recently chaired a meeting to discuss the present status of the PSDP Projects FY-2021-2022 of the Ministry of IT and its attached departments. During the meeting, IT Minister Syed Amin Ullah was given a detailed briefing on the ongoing IT projects and funds allocated for these projects and their utilization. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Federal Minister for IT issued directions for the timely completion of all the projects. — APP

Court Notice

In The Court of Khuda Yar Civil Judge Gujrat
Title Sitara Jabeen, versus: Muhammad Asghar
Suit for Specific Relief with permanent Injunction

Notice to: Muhammad Asghar S/o. Muhammad Ashraf R/o. Lahorian P/o. Dolat Nagar Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 09-06-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex parte. Given under my hand seal of the court this 31st May 2022. Court Reporter Gujrat

Court Notice

In the court of Miss Mehwish shazadi Civil Judge Jhelum

Title of case: MUHAMMAD ALYAN BUTT etc VS REHAN UL'HAQ DAR

Respondent: Rehan ul'haq dar s/o Ahsaan ul'haq dar

R/o Dar house dar Colony near islamia high school jhelum

Claim: Suit for Declaration etc

In each case, the respondent are informed through advertisement As there is not possible to call the respondent through Summon in the instant case so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear or legal advisor in the court on 04-06-2022 at 8:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

Briefs

Istehkam-i-Pakistan rally today

RAWALPINDI: The Citizen Council Rawalpindi will bring out an Istehkam-i-Pakistan rally on Friday to express the resolve for the country's solidarity. Anjum Shayan, Rawalpindi President Sharif Mir on Thursday said the rally would start from Laiqat Bagh, Rawalpindi at 3 p.m. and culminate in Islamabad. The rally's objective was to make the young generation aware of the sacrifices of Muslims of the Sub-continent and how Pakistan was created under the dynamic leadership of forefathers like Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal. Mir urged the citizens to participate in the rally to show their love for the homeland. - APP

Mainly hot, dry weather expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and dry weather for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most plain areas of the country, while very hot in south Punjab and upper Sindh. However, rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected at a few places in Gilgit Baltistan and adjoining areas. During the last 24 hours, the weather remained hot and dry in most parts of the country, while very hot in plain areas. However, rain-thunderstorm occurred at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Pothohar region. The rainfall recorded during the period was Punjab: Rawalpindi (Shamsabad 04mm), Murree 02, Chakwal 01, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Pattan 03, Kalam, Dir (Upper) 01, Gilgit Baltistan: Bagrote 02, Babusar, Gilgit 01mm. The highest temperatures recorded during the period were Dadu, Jacobabad 47C, Shaheed Benazirabad, Rohri, Khairpur and Bahawalpur 46 C. - APP

Nomination on PTI's reserved seats in PA after by-polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that the nomination of candidates for five reserved seats of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the Punjab Assembly will be done after by-elections. The electoral body announced the reserved verdict on Thursday evening which a five-member headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja had reserved earlier. The decision has been announced in light of the Lahore High Court's order to the ECP which had ordered the electoral body to dispose of the matter by June 2. The seats had fallen vacant after de-seating of 25 PTI lawmakers who had swayed from the party line and voted for Hamza Shehbaz in the election of the chief minister. Among 25 defectors, three lawmakers were elected on reserved seats for women while two were elected on reserved seats for minorities. Following the delay in notifying new members of the reserved seats, PTI had moved to the high court on May 28 and maintained that the ECP was deliberately delaying the matter.

51 professional beggars held

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police on Thursday launched a crackdown on professional beggars, and arrested 51 beggars from different areas of the city. The action was taken under the directions of Incharge Beggar Squad to discourage the menace of begging and avoid risk of road accidents due to jaywalking of tramps, said Rawalpindi Police spokesman. - APP

Dr Pasha urges opposition to shun politics on economy

"Pakistan has not endured such a tough time. PTI and other governments were responsible for this anomaly," she said adding that structural reforms were not possible without cooperation of opposition

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha on Thursday urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to sign a charter of economy with government, setting aside political differences for sustainable economic growth on long term basis. Responding to Calling Attention Motion moved by former Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin in Senate, she said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should shun politicking on economy and help government to make tough decisions for reviving the economy. As without introducing reforms country's economy could not be put on right track. She said the interests of the country should be kept supreme instead of political point scoring.

"Pakistan has not endured such a tough time. PTI and other governments were responsible for this anomaly," she said adding that structural reforms were not possible without cooperation of opposition. She said the benefits of painful decisions would be reaped by low income people in future. Dr Pasha said the government wanted to introduce structural reforms and time was appropriate to put the country on right path instead of politicking. She lamented that the people nothing knew about economy criticise government's economic policies without having know how about actual situation. The government has already started taking tough decisions as we have to save the mar-

ginalised section of the people, she added. She said the government has increased petroleum product prices and also sanctioned subsidy of Rs 2,000 per month to over 14 million low income people to save them from impacts of inflation. She said positive impacts of tough decision have already started pouring in. Economy, Stock market was on recovery path. Value of rupee has also started appreciating as comparing to US dollar. Wheat and sugar prices have been curtailed in the Utility Stores. She said that due to the deteriorating economic crisis, the government has left only option to hold talks with IMF. The lost of credibility was being re-established, adding that

the talks with IMF were going in right direction and expressed the hope that both would reach to the decision. About buying cheap Russian Oil, she said PTI has not provided any evidence of talks with Russia for oil. Government was weighing option how to make headway in this regard. She said PTI government has doled out its subsidy on petroleum product prices, which triggered unbearable burden on national exchequer - unprecedented in history. PTI had also violated agreements inked with IMF. Power sector circular debt was touching Rs 4 trillion mark. The house was adjourned till Friday morning due to lack of quorum pointed out by Senator Mohsin Aziz. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A man is carrying dry branches on his cycle for domestic use at F-6 road. - APP

ANF Force Commanders conference held at ANF Headquarters

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The 30th Force Commanders Conference was held here on Thursday at ANF Headquarters under the chairmanship of Director General (DG) ANF, Major General, Ghulam Shaheed Narejo, HI (M). The conference was attended by all Commanders from Regional Directorates and Senior Staff Officers of ANF HQ.

In opening remarks, the DG ANF appreciated performance of the Force especially focused campaign against drug sellers affecting the youth and students in educational institutions. The DG also highlighted the magnitude and importance of the operations and the emerging trends of use of synthetic drugs, underlying it as a grave threat requiring special measures. He directed to

accelerate the ongoing countrywide counter narcotics operations, with a continued special focus on apprehension of elements involved in drug smuggling to the students of academic institutions. The DG also directed to take measures for apprehension of absconders and proclaimed offenders and reviewed the progress of counter narcotics operations besides stressing proactive and innovative steps for curbing drug trafficking and apprehension of drug supply sources. In addition, the DG ANF issued special instructions that the pilgrims should be checked properly without humiliating their self-esteem at all airports during upcoming Hajj Operation. During the meeting, all preparations were reviewed for the 26th June i.e world day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

IRSA releases 153184 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Thursday released 153184 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 152980 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1070.55 feet, which was 20.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 30824 and 31828 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 102152, 82005 and 48745 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 25200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 23256 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - DNA

Rana Tanveer lauds WFP in addressing issues

Welcoming the country director of World Food Programme (WFP) Mr Chris Kaye in his office, Rana Tanveer appreciated the work being done by WFP in Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of FE & PT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday acknowledged the contribution of WFP in enabling Pakistan to address numerous social issues primarily related to nutrition in women and children. Welcoming the country director of World Food Programme (WFP) Mr Chris Kaye in his office, Rana Tanveer appreciated the work being done by WFP in Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of FE & PT. He said that the government of Pakistan is committed to eliminate malnutrition and stunting especially in children and students. Rana Tanveer discussed in detail

the issue of out of school children. He said that there are approximately 22 million out of school children, rectification of which is amongst the top priorities of the government. He said that once admitted retention of students is also a big challenge that needs to be overcome. Federal Minister said that special programmes need to be introduced to enhance the overall learning capacity of students as well. Federal Minister was briefed about the School Meals Programme. Rana Tanveer was informed that the program is aimed at supporting appropriate nutrition and encouraging attendance of students especially young girls. Federal Minister said that both



mental and physical growth of students is of utmost importance. He said that a pilot project of the School Meals Programme should be launched in the Federal Terri-

tory. He welcomed any support which can lead to healthy students who are ready to learn. Federal Minister said that a large-scale school and ration programme should be developed for the entire country. He said that WFP and Ministry of FE & PT should work together to develop a proposal which will be placed before and deliberated upon in the Interprovincial Education Ministers Conference headed by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training. Rana Tanveer emphasized that the meal and ration programme will lead to reduction in school children's issues. Rana Tanveer said that with the support of WFP a database should be put to-

gether that projects the ground reality of students in each Tehsil of Pakistan in order to develop effective interventions. He said that the global learning experience and technical expertise of WFP can highly contribute towards this objective. Rana Tanveer said that the students are the future of this country and that we have put highest priority on their physical and mental needs. At the end he thanked Chris Kaye and WFP for their contribution towards resolving social issues in Pakistan and reiterated his resolve towards working together with WFP to address the challenges of the public education system. - APP

25,346 inspections conducted in May to check profiteering

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration conducted 25,346 inspections in seven tehsils of the district to check profiteering during May and imposed over Rs. 4 million fines on the violators. According to a district administration spokesman, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Noor ul Amin Mengal while chairing a meeting reviewed performance of price control magistrates. The Commissioner was informed that strict action in accordance with the law was taken against profiteers and hoarders as 162 violators were sent behind the bars during the month of May. The meeting was informed that 25,346 raids were conducted in different areas of seven tehsils while 33 FIRs were also lodged against the violators. Raids were also conducted in Kallar Syedan, Kotli Sattian, Murree, Taxila, Rwp Cantt, Rawalpindi City and Rwp Saddar division areas and the teams took action against the profiteers. The Commissioner had directed the officers concerned to visit different markets on daily basis and take strict action in accordance with the law against profiteers to provide relief to the citizens. - APP

Development work started in Sector I-12

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The management of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is paying special attention to the construction and development of the city, especially the sector development. In this regard, the Chairman Capital Development Authority on Thursday inaugurated the launch of development works in Sector I-12. Officers of relevant departments including board members were also present on this occasion.

Commissioner stresses for Corona booster shot

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Noor ul Amin Mengal on Thursday stressed the residents to get themselves with the Covid-19 booster shot to strengthen the body's immune defences. The Commissioner, in a tweet, said that "your protection is in your hands, get the booster dose now". He further added that a booster dose recharged the body's immunity and provided prevention from the disease and hospitalization. Meanwhile, district surveillance coordinator, response unit Dr Waqar Ahmed told APP that as many as 6,880,015 people, including 44,790 health workers, had been vaccinated against the fatal disease in the district since the start of the vaccination drive from March 10, 2021. - APP

Senate body lauds military preparedness; thanks China for solid support

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Defence Committee met here today and received a comprehensive briefing from the Ministry of Defence on the causes and circumstances of the unprecedented intrusion of Indian projectile on March 19. The Committee also received briefing on the recent induction of highly sophisticated J-10C aircraft for the defence of Pakistan. The Committee expressed concern on the monumental incompetence as well as ill-intent of India when the failure of the Indian military system caused such an unprecedented intrusion with a projectile, which could have caused a very serious accident with civilian aircraft or other consequences. The committee also condemned the double standards of the international community, particularly the Western patrons of India, who kept quiet or looked the other way at this Indian action against Pakistan. The Committee also lauded the vigilance of the Pakistan armed forces in protecting the Motherland from any intrusion or aggression and recalled how Pakistan's armed forces gave a befitting response to Indian aggression at Balakot in February 2019. The Committee was fully briefed on the strategic importance of the highly sophisticated J-10C aircraft given by China for the defence of Pakistan. Noting that Pakistan was the first country that had received such aircraft, the Committee thanked the time-tested friend and strategic partner, China, for their resolute support to Pakistan at all time in all sectors be it CPEC or defence or diplomacy. With the induction of these aircrafts, the Defence Committee feels that India's aggressive designs will be foiled effectively given that Pakistan now has a strong, strategic conventional deterrence capability. The Committee was briefed by Lt. Gen. Hilal Hussain, Secretary and AVM Kazim, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence. - DNA

ANF recovers over 3 kg Ice at ISB Airport

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in its operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport recovered over three kg Ice from the possession of a passenger. According to ANF spokesman, ANF Rawalpindi foiled a bid to smuggle Ice from Islamabad to Bahrain and recovered 3054 grams Ice which was tactfully concealed in trolley bag of a passenger named Muhammad Khalid resident of Peshawar, going to Bahrain through flight no. GF-771. He informed that a case has been registered against the accused and further investigation was in progress. - APP

Tobacco use causes damage to human health: experts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tobacco use is heavily damaging our environment, and is a serious threat to human beings, therefore stringent measures are required to protect our environment and life, say experts at a Roundtable. The Roundtable discussion was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations here. Health expert Dr Minhaj-us-Siraj urged the environmental activists and the government to stop tobacco industry for its role in degrading the environment. He said that 2.8 tons of firewood is annually consumed in roasting tobacco alone while 30 million tree barks are consumed in producing the packaging of cigarettes alone. Dr Amina Khan lamented the tobacco industry for blindly focusing profit generation and using corporate social responsibility for positive image building irrespective of the environmental damage caused by this sector. She added that a cigarette butt takes 18 months to 2 years to degrade while the residue remains in the environment as second, third, and fourth-hand smoke. Dr Asif Iqbal, Executive Director SPDC, was of view that the cigarette companies are responsible for \$3.85 billion worth burden on health sector yet only 700 million of tax is generated from this sector. Ms Saba Amjad, COO, Heartfile, said that the tobacco industry is capturing bigger market by rebounding itself through innovations in nicotine products. Representing World Wide Fund, Dr Imran Khalid said that the aim of CSR activities has shifted to greenwashing the environmental damage caused by tobacco industry. Ms Mome Saleem, Executive Director, Institute of Urbanism, asserted that tobacco industry is challenging the traditional cash crops due to its land use and resource consumption. She further said that the sector should be viewed in terms of its greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint as cigarettes are not essential items.

NAB summons Wapda ex-chairman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore has summoned former chairman of the Wapda (Water & Power Development Authority) Lt-Gen (ret'd) Muzammil Hussain on June 6 in connection with the financial irregularities in mega power projects. The NAB has summoned the former chairman of Wapda for causing billions of rupees loss to the national exchequer by slowing the pace of the projects and corruption involved in these projects during the last three years. Muzammil has been facing allegations of Rs753 million corruption in the Tarbela-4 Extension Project. He has been accused of forcefully wrong payments to the contractors in these projects. The 1410 Tarbela-4 mega project has been nearing its completion but due to the slow pace, the per megawatt cost rose to 1410 (which is the highest cost).

US, EU moves likely to escalate Ukraine war

THE US and its allies have maintained in the past four months that Ukraine will only get defensive arms that help the embattled nation to defend itself. As the world looks for ways to end the Ukraine conflict, already in its fourth month, the past two days saw the United States and the European Union taking decisions, purportedly aimed at 'punishing' Russia, that will only escalate the conflict, and widen its scope. Just few days after he said Ukraine would not be provided with missiles that could be used to hit Russia, US President Joe Biden said Washington will in fact give Ukraine advanced rocket systems and other US weaponry "to better hit targets". According to US officials, the system includes missiles that will allow Ukrainians "to strike locations as far as 80 kilometres away." In other words, offensive rockets that can hit locations inside Russia. The US and its allies have maintained in the past four months that Ukraine will only get defensive arms that help the embattled nation to defend itself. The new US military aid is a serious shift in policy that will not sit very well in Moscow. Russia will likely interpret this move as an escalation that it would have no choice but to respond to – taking a harder attitude and potentially leading to further escalation in the conflict. According to the EU leaders' summit, they agreed "in principle to cut 90 per cent of oil imports from Russia by the end of 2022", thus ending weeks of speculations about the EU's toughest sanctions on Moscow since the war began in the last week of February. Imports of Russian crude will be phased out in over six months. The new Western moves are unfortunate. They go directly against the declared goal of seeking an end to the war that has left nearly 4,000 dead, according to the United Nations, and forced more than 14 million people to flee their homes. It is hoped that Russia, the US and the EU adopt a rational stance in a conflict that threatens to turn, because of these increasingly aggressive moves, into another global war.

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Economic future of Pakistan

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKAR

THE current economic situation is no less than a burden on the common man. The continuous rise in commodity prices is making life more challenging for those who are from the middle-lower and the lower class strata of the population. There needs to be a solution to this predicament. It seems that the IMF will not go easy on Pakistan. The bailout program will not resume any time soon. Perhaps, IMF will be keeping a close eye on the budget that will be presented later in June. The government's targets for expenditures and targets will be closely scrutinized. In essence, the common man is bearing the brunt of the economic instability. They are not able to meet their ends. Such economic insecurities also lead people to pursue immoral activities to earn an easy and fast income. Some opine that the previous IMF program was halted because of the previous government. IMF wanted Pakistan to accept all conditions. However, the former Prime Minister did not want to burden the people with such distress. Pakistan is standing at yet another turning point as far as its economic future is concerned. The present government should make a plan to ease the financial burden from the shoulders of the common man. The IMF plan will bring constraints resulting in even stringent policies for the public. This cycle is expected to continue until Pakistan remains economically weak as compared to the standards of the IMF. At this point, we must wait and see if the current government will follow the IMF's plans. The demands are tough and the government has accepted to tackle some pretty serious issues. In another scenario, the current government – in a desperate move – can call for elections where the economic matters will be handed over to the caretaker government that will eventually give it to the next government that is elected in the elections.

A new plan for Palestine that may just work

Daoud Kuttab

Segal's book calls for a UN General Assembly resolution endorsed by Palestine and submitted by respected member states (possibly Norway and Germany) reestablishing the UN Special Committee on Palestine. The original UNSCOP gave birth to the Partition Resolution of 1947, which became the basis for both the Israeli and the Palestinian declarations of independence. The new one, UNSCOP-2, would propose an end-of-conflict/end-of-claims plan based on the two-state solution, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination...

THE killing of Palestinian TV journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the appalling Israeli police assault on her funeral appear to have temporarily shifted attention back to the issue of Palestine and the Israeli occupation. Palestinian efforts to end the decades-long occupation in the context of a two-state solution appear to have international legal and popular support, but there has been no effective mechanism to implement it. Although the UN has been

a major theater of operations for Palestinians to pursue their cause, it has so far failed to deliver. However, a window of opportunity involving the UN may be available if the Palestinians agree to open it. The plan proposed in "The Olive Branch from Palestine," a new book by the American philosopher and conflict-resolution specialist Prof. Jerome M. Segal, would activate a UN mechanism that has been in the deep freeze for decades. Segal's book calls for a UN General Assembly resolution endorsed by Palestine and submitted by respected member states (possibly Norway and Germany) reestablishing the UN Special Committee on Palestine. The original UNSCOP gave birth to the Partition Resolution of 1947, which became the basis for both the Israeli and the Palestinian declarations of independence. The new one, UNSCOP-2, would propose an end-of-conflict/end-of-claims plan based on the two-state solution, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and maximum feasible respect for the rights of Palestinian refugees. Segal believes UNSCOP-2 would propose an independent Palestinian state with a shared Jerusalem, as envisioned by Bill Clinton's parameters – and, most importantly, would recommend the new approach to the refugee issue that he has developed in his book. Unlike the original UNSCOP, which the Palestinians boycotted in 1947, Segal expects UNSCOP-2 to be boycotted by the Israeli government. He views that as a good thing, since it would enable substantial Palestinian influence on its terms. Like its predecessor, however, UNSCOP-2, would not include any of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. It would report its proposals to the General Assembly, which would then call on Israel and Palestine to negotiate for three months to see if they could agree on any improvements to the peace plan, after which each country would put the plan to a referendum of its people. For the Palestinians, this would include all refugees, even those living outside Palestine. The UN would administer the Palestinian referendum. Segal's refugee idea, which he hopes UNSCOP-2 will consider, is based on John Kerry's endorse-

ment of the right of Palestinians to 100 percent of their land through land swaps. However, instead of land swaps with desert areas (as in the Trump/Kushner plan), Segal suggests the annexation to the Palestinian state of about 50 villages that were abandoned in 1948, the right of Palestinian refugees from the remaining 350 villages to have a veto on what happens in those villages, and the possibility of a Nakba memorial in Palestinian villages that remain in Israel. His plan also calls for \$400 billion in compensation to Palestinian refugees as part of an end-of-conflict settlement. Following the referendum, and hopefully with affirmations of respect for its results, the UN secretary-general would formally present the plan to the president of Israel as an offer of lasting peace from the Palestinian people to the Israeli people.

President Mahmoud Abbas told the UN in September 2021 that the Palestinians would change course if Israel did not withdraw from the Occupied Territories, but he gave no hint as to what the new direction would be.

The ideas presented by Segal represent what exists in the real diplomatic track to which Abbas is theoretically committed, but the president has done little to try to push the issue forward in innovative ways. No plan on its own will make much of a difference if not accompanied by a full strategy of liberation that must include genuine unity among Palestinians and a process that allows for new ideas and new personnel to implement them. Ideas alone will not move the dial unless there is a fully thought out, practical and doable plan that can get people excited. Palestinians can't be expected to live under occupation for ever while the rest of the world pays lip service to plans that they are not willing to support – but what the world will respond to are ideas that are serious, effective, and workable. The sad conclusion is that the Palestinian leadership has run out of new and creative ideas. Segal's plan maybe a good one, but what is needed today is not just innovative ideas. We need national unity, new blood, and a unified national strategy for liberation that the vast majority of Palestinians and friends of Palestine can support.

– Courtesy: Arab News

The Cave of Plato

Altaf Kumail



The people of our society are living in the allegorical cave of Plato. Their minds have lost the ability to think and question and they have succumbed to the fate of mental slavery imposed by the system

THE metaphor of the cave, also called the story of the cave, was presented by the ancient Greek philosopher Plato in his popular book "The Republic". It describes a fictional scenario that sheds light on the effects of intellectual slavery on the human mind.

In this parable, Plato mentions a cave in which some people are imprisoned from birth with their hands and feet tied. Their heads are also tied in such a way that they constantly look at only the inner wall of the cave. Behind them is a blazing fire inside the cave and behind this bonfire is the mouth of the cave between the flames of this fire and these bound human beings, some people or other animals pass by carrying some objects in their hands and their shadows fall on the wall of the cave which these prisoners have been seeing because of their special condition, these prisoners have acknowledged that these shadows are the only reality and this is the only truth because they have spent their lives just looking at these flickering shadows. They have never seen real life outside the cave.

Then one day one of his companions somehow frees himself from the chains. When he turns around, he realizes the flames of the fire and the people passing by, whose shadow he has seen all his life on the wall, then he walks toward the entrance of the cave and finally exits the cave to see the real truth. He thinks that it is now his responsibility to free the rest of his comrades from the chains and convince them that they have been fooled all their lives and that the real truth is out there. When he enters the cave and tries to convince them of the truth, the prisoners make fun of him and refuse to believe him. They have become so accustomed to the false reality of shadows that they ruthlessly deny the real truth, call their free companion insane, and refuse to change their condition. Plato's allegory of the cave is an excellent allegorical

statement that best reflects the social attitudes that grew up under the shadow of modern-day intellectual slavery. If this parable is applied to our society today, then the prisoners of the cave are like the majority of us who have been deprived of intellectual freedom, free thought, and social and political consciousness. The shadows of the cave reflect the false reality that has been instilled in the minds of our nation through the education system, the media, and other social institutions. Therefore, they believe only in what is stated in the official statement and do not try to reach the real truth by using reflection and free-thinking. They have become so accustomed to this artificial truth, outdated customs, and social customs that they cannot even feel the chains that have suffocated their minds. The freed prisoner of the cave represents one of today's curious, conscientious, and critically-minded people who, when questioning the current customs and trying to make people aware of the truth, our society shakes and silences.

The people of our society are living in the allegorical cave of Plato. Their minds have lost the ability to think and question and they have succumbed to the fate of mental slavery imposed by the system. It is now the responsibility of the awakened, conscious and critical people of the society to unite themselves under the banner of a common ideological struggle for political, social, and economic change. A change that can free people from the black cave of mental slavery, poverty, and injustice

Interview with Peter Mandaville, editor of Wahhabism and the World

James M. Dorsey

Interest in Saudi religious influence goes far beyond Middle East and Islam scholars and policymakers, journalists, and analysts, particularly given the dramatic social change in Saudi Arabia since King Salam ascended to the throne in 2015, and his son, Mohammed bin Salman, became the country's effective ruler. However, social liberalization, including enhanced professional and personal opportunity for women and the creation of a Western-influenced entertainment sector...

SAUDI global export of an ultra-conservative strand of Islam and its impact on Muslim countries and communities across the globe has been a hotly debated topic for more than two decades. The rise of jihadist groups like Al Qaeda and the Islamic State and their attacks in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Africa fuelled the debate, particularly since the September 11, 2001, strikes in New York and Washington. Critics of Saudi Arabia charge that Wahhabism and Salafism, the ultra-conservative interpretations of Islam associated with the kingdom, created the theological and ideological incubator and the breeding ground for jihadism. Wahhabism and the World constitutes one of the few, if not the first comprehensive, impassioned interrogations of the impact on the faith of Saudi financial and other support for the global spread of what Mr. Mandaville calls Saudi religious transnationalism and is more colloquially referred to with catchall phrases such as Saudi funding or support for ultra-conservatism. Mr. Mandaville's volume with chapters that provide fresh insights into the Saudi export drive and

a set of case studies illustrates that the reality of the campaign is far more complex and layered. Interest in Saudi religious influence goes far beyond Middle East and Islam scholars and policymakers, journalists, and analysts, particularly given the dramatic social change in Saudi Arabia since King Salam ascended to the throne in 2015, and his son, Mohammed bin Salman, became the country's effective ruler. However, social liberalization, including enhanced professional and personal opportunity for women and the creation of a Western-influenced entertainment sector has much to do with socio-political factors and little, if anything, to do with religious reform. As a result, understanding Saudi Islam and the impact of its export that outlives the Salmans' steep cutbacks in the funding of its global propagation coupled with their effort to alter its austere and puritan image and give it a more moderate, tolerant and outward-looking makeover remains key to understanding the geopolitics of the Middle East and the broader Muslim world. Mr. Mandaville's volume makes a ground-breaking contribution to that understanding.

Briefs

Govt drops petrol bomb on citizens

FROM PAGE 01
hopeful of reaching an agreement with the IMF in June, but noted that there were some reforms that the government still had to do. "The IMF wants to see our budget, so the reforms that we want to introduce will be introduced before the budget. However, we are speaking to the IMF on a daily basis," he said. Ismail said the price hike was inevitable as he had to strike a deal with the international money lender as ex-finance minister Shaukat Tarin had "tied the government's hands" due to the agreements he made with the IMF during his tenure. In a bid to ease the effect of inflation on the masses, the finance minister said the government would try its best to keep the price of sugar fixed at Rs70 per kg and wheat at Rs40 per kg at the utility stores.

The finance minister said the government was giving subsidies of Rs100 on cooking oil and Rs15 on rice and pulses at the utility stores across the country.

"The subsidies on cooking oil and ghee will continue for some time, but we will try to ensure - in line with PM Shehaz Sharif's directions - to keep the rates of sugar and wheat fixed." Meanwhile, Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has announced that China has agreed to refinance \$2.3 billion for Pakistan - the money it had earlier withdrawn from Pakistan. Miftah said that inflow was expected "shortly" as soon as the formal step had been taken.

"Good News: The terms and conditions for refinancing of RMB 15 billion deposit by Chinese banks (about US\$ 2.3 billion) have been agreed. Inflow is expected shortly after some routine approvals from both sides. This will help shore up our foreign exchange reserves," the finance minister said in a tweet. China was expected to roll over the loan in March when it matured but the money was withdrawn subsequently. The announcement about the Chinese loan comes in the wake of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Beijing. Officials from Pakistan and China held talks about the refinancing facility last week. Pakistan's total foreign exchange reserves fell to \$16.14 in the week that ended May 20, according to the data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan.

Out of these, the reserves with the central bank were \$10.08b, down from \$10.16b a week before. The commercial bank's reserves went up by \$63m from \$5.99b to \$6.06b. Pakistan is facing a balance of payment crisis with rising trade deficit and depleting reserves. The country is trying to secure funds from multilateral agencies and bilateral countries to shore up the reserves. Earlier this week, Saudi Arabia announced the extension of \$3 billion deposit to Pakistan.

Promotion of foreign... investment top priority: PM

FROM PAGE 01
stressed on enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey in the health sector. Talking to Turkish Health Minister Dr Fahrettin Koca, he said that several joint initiatives undertaken by the Turkish government in Pakistan helped improving the health services, pharmaceuticals, digital health and training and capacity building of medical professionals. The Prime Minister also lauded the efforts of Turkish leadership for transforming the health system in Turkey in the last two decades.

He greatly admired Turkish generosity witnessed during the 2005 Earthquake and 2010 floods. He particularly appreciated the establishment of Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital in Muzaffargarh following massive floods in Pakistan. While congratulating the commendable handling of COVID-19 by Turkey, the Prime Minister said the two countries should continue to address health and economic challenges arising from the pandemic and step-up cooperation in vaccine development.

Depp celebrates defamation verdict, Heard 'heartbroken'

"The jury gave me my life back," he said. "From the very beginning, the goal of bringing this case was to reveal the truth, regardless of the outcome"

FAIRFAX: A jubilant Johnny Depp said Wednesday that a US jury "gave me my life back" by overwhelmingly taking his side in a bitter defamation battle with his ex-wife Amber Heard over mutual allegations of domestic abuse. The jury, after a six-week trial, found that Depp and Heard had defamed each other, but weighed in far more strongly with the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star. The 58-year-old Depp, who lost a libel case against The Sun tabloid in London in 2020 for calling him a "wife-beater," celebrated the split verdict in the case as a victory while Heard said she was "heartbroken."

The five-man, two-woman jury, after deliberating over three days, unani-

mously found Heard liable for all three counts of defamation against Depp and awarded him \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$5 million in punitive damages. Virginia law caps punitive damages at \$350,000 meaning the total award is \$10.35 million. The 36-year-old Heard prevailed on just one of the three counterclaims she made against Depp and the jury awarded her compensatory damages - but a much lower amount of \$2 million. A somber Heard, her eyes downcast, listened impassively as the verdict was read out in Fairfax County Circuit Court near the US capital. "The disappointment I feel today is beyond words," she said in a statement. "I'm heartbroken that



the mountain of evidence still was not enough to stand up to the disproportionate power, influence, and sway of my ex-husband. "I'm even more disappointed with what this verdict means for other women," she said. "It is a setback. It sets back the clock to a time when a woman who spoke up and spoke out could be publicly shamed and humiliated."

"It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously." Depp, who has been in England for the past few days, was not in court for the verdict in the high-profile trial that hinged on lurid claims and counterclaims of domestic abuse between the Hollywood celebrities. But he welcomed the ver-

dict in a statement posted on Instagram which quickly received millions of "likes." "Six years ago, my life, the life of my children, the lives of those closest to me, and also, the lives of the people, who for many, many years have supported and believed in me were forever changed," Depp said.

"The jury gave me my life back," he said. "From the very beginning, the goal of bringing this case was to reveal the truth, regardless of the outcome. "The best is yet to come and a new chapter has finally begun." A few dozen onlookers and Depp supporters waited outside the courthouse in sweltering heat for the verdict, including a man sporting a Captain Jack Sparrow pirate hat. A Depp fan held

a sign reading: "No matter what happens today, Johnny, you are a winner!!!" And the whole world knows the TRUTH!!!" Depp filed suit against Heard over an article she wrote for The Washington Post in December 2018 in which she described herself as a "public figure representing domestic abuse."

The Texas-born Heard, who had a starring role in "Aquamani," did not name Depp in the piece, but he sued her for implying he was a domestic abuser and sought \$50 million in damages. Heard countersued for \$100 million, saying she was defamed by statements made by Depp's lawyer, Adam Waldman, who told the Daily Mail her abuse claims were a "hoax." - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan calls on President Arif Alvi. - DNA

Key Facebook force Sheryl Sandberg steps down

SAN FRANCISCO: Meta's second most powerful executive Sheryl Sandberg made the shock announcement Wednesday she will leave after a 14-year tenure that included helping steer scandal-prone Facebook to advertising dominance. Sandberg, 52, has been one of the most influential women in Silicon Valley and her departure comes as the social media juggernaut faces an uncertain future and fierce competition. Her exit from Facebook parent Meta will be effective in the fall, she wrote

on the platform, adding she planned to remain on the firm's board. A Harvard-educated executive, Sandberg joined Facebook in 2008 when it was still just a startup, playing a formative role in its development into a multi-billion dollar advertising empire. "Fourteen years later, it is time for me to write the next chapter of my life," Sandberg said. "I am not entirely sure what the future will bring - I have learned no one ever is." Her job made her not just a recognizable face in tech

but also a household name, particularly thanks to her 2013 book "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead." The best seller encouraged women to "lean in" to their careers in order to reach their full potential and overcome workforce obstacles. It has drawn applause from admirers for articulating a new modern feminist vision and sharp criticism from detractors who say her lofty position has made her out-of-touch with the grueling personal cost of combining career and family. The social network has re-

cently rebranded itself in a pivot toward a belief the internet is headed towards becoming an immersive virtual world, referred to as the metaverse. The Silicon Valley colossus has seen its image tainted by accusations it has put profit over user privacy and even the good of society. "Sandberg leaves Meta, and the social media environment that Facebook helped create, in a far worse place than she found it," said Media Matters for America president Angelo Caru-sone. - APP

Stokes backs McCullum to make England feel '10 feet tall'

LONDON: Ben Stokes has said Brendon McCullum was already making England's players "feel 10 feet tall" ahead of the first Test against the coach's native New Zealand at Lord's starting Thursday. The series opener of a three-match contest will be England's first since new Test captain Stokes, himself born in New Zealand but brought up in Cumbria, in England's northwest, succeeded Joe Root as skipper. It will also be England's first game following the appointment of former New Zealand captain McCullum

as their Test coach, with the new leadership duo bidding to revive the fortunes of a team who have won just one of their last 17 matches at this level and gone over 12 months without a red-ball series victory. They now face a New Zealand side that under Kane Williamson, McCullum's successor as captain, became the inaugural World Test champions by defeating India in the final at Southampton last year, shortly after they completed a 1-0 campaign triumph away to England. For all the talk of a fresh start, England had just one debutant in fast bowler Matthew Potts when they named a familiar-looking XI on Wednesday. Nevertheless, dynamic all-rounder Stokes's influence has led to the recall of veteran new-ball duo James Anderson and Stuart Broad. The pair, England's two most successful bowlers at this level, with 1,177 Test wickets between them, were controversially omitted from a recent 1-0 series loss in the Caribbean. Stokes has also been a prime mover in the decision to promote Ollie Pope to number three, despite the Surrey batsman's modest Test record, with star batsman Root now back in his favoured position of number four, and to retain struggling opener Zak Crawley. - APP

Arslan Ash remains on top with another victory at Combo Breaker

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan's Tekken prodigy Arslan Ash adds another feather to his now-huge, feathery cap after winning Combo Breaker last Sunday in Chicago, USA. Ash participated and went through the brackets with ease, finally facing the 21-year-old Genki "Gen" Kumisaka from Japan in the grand finals. The Tekken master defeated Gen 3-0 with his signature character Zafina and was ecstatic about his victory at such a platform. "I had heard others say it was expected that I would face Gen in the finals and it came true," said Ash. "I had a crazy experience. I had been gaming all the time for the last two weeks and practicing all the time. It paid off so, I'm extremely happy." He said he was happy to meet all the players from around the world. "The thing is the players had been studying me and preparing for me. It's nothing new, we all do. But things are getting difficult now and so, I had to up my game as well. In all, it was a great experience and I'd love to go participate again."

Ash last participated in an international tournament back in December 2021 when he won the CEO 2021 in Florida by defeating a fellow Red Bull esports athlete from North America, Anakin. Ash returned after nearly six months and continued his reign on the top without missing a beat. The Lahore-based e-athlete first became an overnight sensation when he won EVO Japan and EVO USA consecutively in the same year in 2019. He was then declared the ESPN Esports Player of the Year 2019 and since hasn't looked back, earning victory after victory in Tekken competitions around the world.

France investigating Champions League final chaos: UK

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, who has faced accusations of lying after he blamed the chaos on massive ticket scams, admitted that the organisation could "clearly" have been better

PARIS: France is investigating the chaos at last weekend's Champions League final between Liverpool and Real Madrid, Britain's top diplomat said on Wednesday, as pressure on the French interior minister grew over the police's handling. The mayhem outside the Stade de France stadium ahead of the showpiece event, which saw thousands of Liverpool supporters with tickets struggle to enter and police respond with tear gas, raised questions over the capacity of Paris to host the Olympic Games in 2024.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, who has faced accusations of lying after he blamed the chaos on massive ticket scams, admitted that the organisation could "clearly" have been better. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss held a telephone call with her French counterpart Catherine Colonna and said an investigation had been launched.

"I raised concerns at appalling treatment of @liverpoolfc fans in Paris last weekend. I have been assured investigation now launched," she wrote on Twitter on Wednesday evening. French government spokeswoman Olivia Gregoire said that the matter had been briefly discussed at Wednesday's regular cabinet meeting chaired by President Emmanuel Macron, who has yet to comment publicly. "What the president wants... is that light is shone on what really happened, in full transparency, and very quickly," she told reporters, while emphasising Darmanin had Macron's "full confidence". She said Macron also expected action from the government to ensure that this "never happens again". - APP

Queen Elizabeth II: The record breaker

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II has notched up a number of landmarks in her record-breaking 70 years on the throne.

- Longevity - Elizabeth has reigned for 70 years and nearly four months - longer than any other monarch in British history. The previous record was held by her great-great-grandmother queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years, seven months and two days until 1901.

At 96, Elizabeth is the oldest current monarch and head of state in the world. Only two kings have ruled for longer: France's Louis XIV - more than 72 years between 1643 and 1715 - and Thailand's Bhumibol Adulyadej - 70 years and four months, until his death in October 2016.

- Globetrotter - The queen has travelled to more than 100 countries since 1952 - another record for a British monarch - and made more than 150 visits to Commonwealth nations. She has been to Canada 22 times - more than any other country. In Europe, she has visited France the most - 13 times - and speaks the language. The Daily Telegraph calculated that she travelled the equivalent of 42 times around the world before stopping overseas trips in November 2015 aged 89. Her longest foreign trip lasted 168 days from November 1953 to May

1954 during which she visited 13 countries.

- Busy - As a 21-year-old princess, Elizabeth pledged her life to the service of the Commonwealth. As queen, she has carried out some 21,000 engagements, given royal assent to 4,000 pieces of legislation, and hosted 112 state visits of foreign heads of state. Among those she hosted were emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia (1954), Japan's emperor Hirohito (1971), president Lech Walesa of Poland (1991) and US president Barack Obama (2011). More than 180 garden parties have been hosted at Buckingham Palace, attended by more than 1.5 million people.

- Politics and religion - A total of 14 British prime ministers have served under the queen. Her first was

Winston Churchill (1952-1955) and the latest is Boris Johnson, since 2019.

She holds regular private meetings with her prime minister of the day, usually at Buckingham Palace on a weekly basis. Elizabeth II has met 13 out of the last 14 US presidents with the exception of Lyndon B Johnson. Her last visitor from the White House was Joe Biden in 2021. The queen is the supreme governor of the Church of England, a position dating back to the creation of the church under Henry VIII in the 16th century. She has met four popes on official visits - John XXIII (1961), John Paul II (1980, 1982 and 2000), Benedict XVI (2010) and Francis I (2014).

- Cards - The queen has sent some 300,000 cards of congratulation to centenarians and more than

900,000 to couples celebrating 60 years of marriage. She was married for 73 years - another record for a British monarch. Her husband, Prince Philip, died aged 99 in April last year.

- Portraits -

The queen has posed for more than 200 portraits since the age of seven. Most were painted in a traditional style. But Lucien Freud's in 2001 proved controversial: one critic said it made her majesty look like one of her corgi dogs.

- Pioneer -

In 1996, the queen became the first British monarch to visit mainland China in 1991. She was also the first to address the House of Representatives in Washington. She sent her first email on March 26, 1976 during a visit to a Ministry of Defence research facility. In 1997, she launched the Buckingham Palace website and in 2014 sent her first tweet. Three years ago, she made her debut on Instagram.

- 007 -

The queen is the only monarch to have jumped out of a helicopter with James Bond and parachuted into the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Kind of. She and her beloved corgis made a cameo appearance at the 2012 London Games with 007 actor Daniel Craig, before a stuntman made the leap. - APP

Imran Khan vows to remain...

FROM PAGE 01

but it was overturned with the help of a regime change scheme," the ousted premier said. He said that the "puppets" of the US were now running the country after he was ousted through a "foreign conspiracy" and the "government is imposing Israel and India's agenda" on the nation.

However, in a conversation with CNN, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said that importing oil from Moscow is "impossible due to Western sanctions" despite the government's request to buy wheat from Russia and Ukraine. "Russia has not offered us any oil either. It is difficult for me to imagine buying Russian oil," Miftah said in a conversation with the United States-based media outlet. The finance minister said that Russia hasn't responded to the previous government's letter seeking imports as it is facing sanctions. Regardless of this, the incumbent government has again asked both Moscow and Ukraine, whoever can, to export wheat to Pakistan. "We would be happy to buy wheat from them," he added. Talking about the Pakistani-American delegation that recently visited Israel, the ex-PM said that it included a "government servant." He said that his party does not recognise Israel and will not until justice is served to the Palestinians. Earlier this month, a delegation, which included Pakistanis and Pakistani Americans, travelled to Israel to promote interfaith harmony which received sharp criticism from the Opposition. However, Pakistan's Foreign Office quickly rubbished reports of involvement, explaining that the trip was arranged by a foreign NGO and not Pakistan.

PTI to face abrupt...

FROM PAGE 01

and questioned on whose agenda he was up to. She said the statement was tantamount to disgracing the sacrifices rendered by Muslims for an independent state, Pakistan. With the Grace of Allah Almighty no damage could be done to Pakistan as the country was in safe hands. Not Pakistan, rather it was the PTI which would eventually be disintegrated into three hundred pieces. She said political parties including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Awami Party did face hardships but they always raised the slogan of "Pakistan Zindabad and Pakistan Khatayab".

Maryam Nawaz said former Prime Minister Imran Khan had lust for power and had now resorted to dirty politics to get in the government again. The PML-N leader said it was hallmark of mainstream politicians that they always worked for the greater national unity, not for the division.

She also berated Imran Khan for negative remarks about the rollback of strategic programme of the country. She said Imran Khan in a previous interview with foreign media outlet had said that Pakistan did not need the strategic capability. The PML-N Vice President said Imran Khan had been issuing such statements since his party contributed nothing in making Pakistan a nuclear power.

Maryam Nawaz also criticized Imran Khan for not duly recognizing services of Armed Forces and said security departments were performing their duties in line with the Constitution.

She said the PTI chairman was desperate to regain the powers despite the fact that his mandate in 2018-election was bogus, adding Imran Khan betrayed everyone whosoever reposed confidence in him. She said the past regime of PTI, under Imran Khan, had ruined the national economy with his sheer incompetence and flawed policies.

She called upon citizens, regardless of political affiliation, to play their due part to steer the country out of the present crisis, and asked students, young generation, opinion makers and analysts to stand with Pakistan. "You are not required to support PML-N or the government but need to stand with Pakistan," she added.

The previous PTI government, she said, did nothing for the welfare of the common people, except resorting to political victimization and misuse of official resources for political gains.

Briefs

Profit rates on national saving certificates rise

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Ministry on Thursday notified meager increase in profit rates on national saving certificates. As per the notification, the profit margin on regular income certificates has been increased from 12 percent to 12.36 percent. The profit margin on saving certificates has been increased from 10.75 percent to 12.25 percent. However, the 12.40 percent profit on the defence saving certificates remained unchanged. The profit margin on the pensioners, martyrs, and welfare certificates have also not been changed which stayed at 14.16 percent. The finance ministry has notified the nominal increase on long-term national saving certificates. Earlier, the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Monday increased profit rates on all national savings schemes amid higher policy rate of the central bank's and recent surge in cut-off yields of secondary market coupons.

CNG stations closed in Sindh for 72 hours

DNA

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) announced on Thursday the closure of all Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across Sindh for 72 hours. A spokesperson for the gas utility said that all the CNG stations will stay closed for 72 hours from 8 am on June 3, till 8 am on June 6, Monday. According to SSGC, the gas supply to industrial units will also remain closed on Sunday. The spokesperson said CNG stations are being closed as per the gas load management plan to meet gas shortfall. "In compliance with sectoral priority order in force for gas load management, all CNG Stations in Sindh (including those being operated on RLNG), will remain closed," the statement read. "Keeping in view the short supply of gas in SSGCL system, the availability of gas has decreased resulting in depletion of line pack / low pressure in the system," the statement added.

Pakistani rupee's rise plummets value of US dollar further

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The winning streak of the Pakistani rupee has continued to maintain its momentum on Thursday also as it was pushing the US dollar down towards Rs197 mark in intrabank trading. The US dollar lost 47 paise in its value and reached Rs197.40 at the start of the interbank trading on the second-last day of the current business week. On Wednesday, the Pakistani currency roared hard all day along by rocketing up by nearly one rupee but settled at 59 paise up as the business closed. The US dollar plummeted to Rs197.87 in the intrabank trading, the forex dealers said. The rupee, which had been struggling against the US dollar for the last three weeks, gained strength when the government in order to revive its loan programme with the IMF started implementing its directives and heavily increased the prices of petroleum products on Thursday last. The government announced a whopping increase of Rs30 per litre in the prices of petroleum products. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had delayed the revival of the stalled \$6-billion programme under the External Financing Facility (EFF) for Pakistan. The Fund, in a statement, emphasised the abolition of subsidies on petroleum products and electricity, among other conditions, as a prerequisite for the programme's revival.



NUR SULTAN: Media people being briefed about the culture and history of Kazakhstan during their visit to the National Museum. – DNA

Kazakh President stresses enhanced ties with Poland

"Bilateral trade last year has been increased by 12%, reaching \$ 760 million. I think that we have good opportunities to increase mutual trade," the leader of Kazakhstan believes

NEWS DESK

NUR SULTAN: Welcoming Zbigniew Rau, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev noted that his visit is important for strengthening Kazakhstan's cooperation with Poland and the OSCE. The Head of State spoke about the preparations for the upcoming national referendum and welcomed the deployment of an ODIHR Referendum Assessment Mission. "The referendum is the beginning of a process of important political transformations in our country. The work to promote democracy in Kazakhstan will be continuously carried out," the President noted. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Zbigniew Rau reviewed in detail cooperation in all three areas of the OSCE: in military-political, economic-environmental and human dimensions. Speaking about bilateral cooperation with Poland, the President noted that he regards Poland as an important partner in Central Europe. "Bilateral trade last year has been increased by 12%, reaching \$ 760 million. I think that



we have good opportunities to increase mutual trade," the leader of Kazakhstan believes. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office commended the efforts made under Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's leadership in implementing large-scale political and economic reforms. "In my understanding, the upcoming referendum is a real breakthrough in terms of your Constitutional amendments and your approach to social structure and promotion of market oriented reforms. The referendum is a very important sign on political will to change things for the better. I must say that the constitutional reforms in your country are aimed at strengthening the principles of democracy, freedom and the rule of law," the Polish diplomat believes. Zbigniew Rau informed about his meetings with representatives of religious communities and civil society of our country. He highly valued the Kazakh model of interethnic and interfaith harmony and expressed gratitude to President Tokayev for the constant support of the Polish diaspora living in our country.

7th CPEC Media Forum eyes fruitful results

DNA

BEIJING: The 7th China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum was held both offline and online, along with the Book Presentation Ceremony of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Stories Behind and the awarding ceremony of the annual "CPEC Communication Award", with high-spirit and enthusiasm. According to China Economic Net (CEN), Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute made a welcoming remark, saying that in

the last few years, the first phase of CPEC has been completed; 75,000 Pakistanis got jobs; about 10,000 megawatts electricity was added to the national grid... CPEC has united Pakistan through infrastructure development and industrial development and it also led to women's empowerment and changed the lives of marginalized people of the poorest area, he added. Nevertheless, he noted that there are certain voices coming from some western countries which talk of containment of China. "We reject such talks and mindsets. Journalists in both

countries and other journalists should unite to promote the truth about CPEC." Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Pakistani Foreign Minister, conveyed a video message to the forum to wish it a big success, adding that Pakistan-China relationship is indeed a special relationship that has no parallel in contemporary international relations. He also expressed his sincere thanks to the participants and all the friends in China and Pakistan for their efforts and contribution to promote China-Pakistan relations and CPEC. Addressing the meeting, Raja Pervez Ashraf, Speaker

National Assembly and Chief Guest of the forum, emphasized the resilience of CPEC despite the COVID-19 pandemic. As CPEC moves forward, the exchange of news and journalists' interaction between Pakistan and China will be the need of the hour, he added. Pang Chunxue, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, noted that under the strategic planning of Chinese President Xi Jinping and with joint efforts of the two governments, enterprises and all sectors of society, CPEC has achieved fruitful results and entered a new stage of enrichment and expansion.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the participants of 7th CPEC Forum. – DNA

Pakistan's rice export to China crossing \$ 225 million

China imported more than 601,574.052 tons of different varieties of rice (worth more than \$225.52) from Pakistan, up 12.45% by volume while last year in the same period it was 534,946.42 tons, sources told Gwadar Pro

BEIJING: Pakistan's rice export to China crossed \$ 225.52 million in the first four months of this year, while Broken rice witnessed an increase of 40.27% as compared with last year in the same period, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the months of April and May, bilateral trade has increased significantly during the first four months of 2022. China imported more than 601,574.052 tons of different varieties of rice (worth more than \$225.52) from Pakistan, up 12.45% by volume while last year in the same period it was 534,946.42 tons, sources told Gwadar Pro. Michael (Gao), sales manager of Hefei Meyer Optoelectronic Technology International told Gwadar Pro that Chinese technology helped Pakistan increase yield in rice processing and maintain high quality. "To date, nearly 1,000 Meyer color sorters are in operation in Pakistan. Our sales volume has been rising every year", Michael added. He further said that almost all main Pakistani rice exporters to China used their sorter machines and showed satisfaction by using their products, added that this also indicates the export of rice to China is increasing every year. "We have authorized agents in Pakistan; they have a professional service team. Meanwhile, the machine can be connected by WIFI, and we offer remote service, we can even check problems on computers in China," Gao mentioned. Pakistani enterprises also said that they are getting the best quality raw rice and installing the latest milling machines to get the best output recoveries; Chinese technologies help them get upright results. It is worth mentioning that 53 Pakistani rice enterprises are on the approval list of the General Administration of Customs P.R.C. – DNA

Pakistan-Canada trade will be promoted: Envoy

Private sector to be encouraged in a push to boost trade ties, says Ambassador Zaheer Aslam Janjua

DNA

VANCOUVER: The High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada Zaheer Aslam Janjua has said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada will be increased and private sector would be encouraged in a push to boost trade ties. Pakistani business community should focus on Canada for exports which offer excellent business opportunities, he said. High Commissioner Zaheer Aslam Janjua said this while speaking at a ceremony held in connection with the inauguration of the new premises of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver. Consul General Janbaz Khan, President of the Pakistan-Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA) Bushra Rehman, former Chairman of POF Wah Lt. Gen (Retd) Farooq Durrani, leading businessmen and Secretary-General of the US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce (USPICC) Malik Sohail Hussain were also present at the occasion. He said that the political leadership of Pakistan want to capitalize on the

trade potential between Pakistan and Canada and we will extend cooperation to the private sector of both the countries in this regard. Zaheer Aslam Janjua said that both countries enjoy exemplary ties but the bilateral trade needs to be increased for which

linkages, information, exchange of trade delegations and holding exhibitions are of vital importance. Pakistan-Canada relationship is robust and underpinned by strong people-to-people ties, he said, adding that Pakistan was the

fourth-largest source of immigration to Canada, with more than 250,000 Pakistanis living in this country, he added. Malik Sohail Hussain said that the Pakistani business community should explore opportunities in Canada and students should try to get higher education in Canadian universities with world-class education in various subjects. He said that USPICC will hold a food and cultural festival in Western Canada which will go a long way in improving ties between both the countries as a sizable number of Pakistani expatriates are living there and playing important role in the development of Canada. Malik Sohail said that different Pakistani associations in Canada will be brought together so that they can serve in a better way. The Ambassador also inaugurated the official website of the Consulate General and PWCTA and hoped that the trade association will try its best to promote the cause of Pakistan. He also gave away a certificate of appreciation to Ms Bushra Rehman, founder and first President of PWCTA who is a dynamic businesswoman with a lot of experience and is well known in business circles.



Shanghai Covid curbs drag on despite declaring victory

SHANGHAI: Locked in their homes as neighbours celebrate freedom, hundreds of thousands of Shanghai residents are finding the path out of lockdown more complicated than the victory trumpeted by Chinese state media. The metropolis of 25 million people was closed in sections from late March after becoming the epicentre of China's worst Covid outbreak in two years. After gradually relaxing some rules over the past few weeks, authorities on Wednesday began allowing residents in areas deemed low-risk to move around freely again. But while many celebrated with boozing street parties and shopping sprees, swathes of the city remained dormant with multiple neighbourhoods returning to lockdown on Thursday over new infections. Liu, a 29-year-old woman in Shanghai's Minhang district, told AFP her apartment compound had been hastily resealed on Thursday morning after a man in one of the buildings returned an "abnormal" Covid test result. She said shocked neighbours bombarded the compound's group chats with complaints that the lockdown was "never-ending", while many waited at the gate for couriers to deliver laptops they had left at offices on Wednesday – the first day back at their desks. – APP

2 killed, 4 missing after landslides in central China

CHANGSHA: Two people were killed and four remain missing after heavy rain triggered two landslides early Thursday in the city of Huaihua in central China's Hunan Province, local authorities said. One landslide occurred at around 3 a.m. Thursday at Tonglingxi Village in Mayang Miao Autonomous County. The landslide caused two houses to collapse and left four people missing. The other landslide happened at around 4 a.m. at Dahuaping Village in the county, claiming the lives of two victims. Rescue work is still underway. – APP

Over 12,000 Sri Lankans affected by bad weather

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Center said that one person was killed with over 12,000 others affected by heavy rains and gale-force winds in many parts of the country by Thursday morning. The affected people belong to 2,672 families in Ratnapura, Kandy, Kalutara, Gampaha, Colombo and Matara districts. The worst affected district was Gampaha, where 8,517 people from 2,448 families had been affected, said Assistant Director at the Disaster Management Center Pradeep Kodippili. The deceased was a disaster relief officer who died when he was carried away by strong currents. Heavy rains were reported in many parts of the South Asian country in the past week. The Department of Meteorology announced that showers or thunderstorms will occur through this week in the country and warned that the threat of floods will continue. – APP

Texas town mourns teacher killed in school shooting

UVALDE: The Texas town of Uvalde on Wednesday laid to rest one of the two teachers gunned down in last week's elementary school massacre, along with her husband who died days later, leaving their four children orphaned. Irma Linda Garcia, 48, was killed when a teenaged gunman went on a rampage at Robb Elementary in an attack that left 19 young children dead and convulsed the United States with shock and grief. Compounding the tragedy, Garcia's 50-year-old husband, Joe, died two days later. They had been married for more than 24 years. – APP

Briefs

ECP announces schedule for Islamabad LG polls

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the schedule for local body polls in the capital territory of Islamabad. According to a statement issued by a spokesperson of the ECP, the LG polls in Islamabad would be held on July 31, 2022. The date for submission of nominations would be from June 13 to 16, he added. The ECP would scrutinize the nomination papers from June 20 to 22. A ban has been implicated over posting and transfers after the announcement of the schedule of the local bodies' polls. Earlier in May, the Islamabad High Court had ordered to postpone the LG polls in Islamabad. The federal cabinet had presented its summary to the court pleading that the government has decided to form 101 union councils in the city and that the ECP should be asked to implement it. Earlier, the ECP retracted the schedule for the LG polls in the capital city. According to a statement issued by the ECP, the schedule had been retracted due to some technical reasons and the new schedule will be issued on Monday. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had announced the schedule on Friday, according to which, polling will take place on July 17, 2022.

PHC approves three-week transit bail of Imran Khan

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Thursday approved the transit bail of former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan until June 25. The court ordered Imran Khan to submit Rs50,000 surety bonds for the three-week transit bail. PHC Chief Justice Qaiser Rashid heard the former prime minister's application for transit bail. Imran Khan's counsel Babar Awan informed the court that there were 14 FIRs lodged against his client in which it was written "on the instigation of Imran Khan." The chief justice approved bail for three weeks. "You can come back to the court again if you want," the chief judge remarked. The PHC chief justice also directed Imran Khan not to deliver any speech on the high court's premises. "It's okay, Sir," Imran Khan assured the court. Earlier, the Peshawar High Court admitted for immediate hearing the petition filed by Imran Khan for transit bail.

KP Cabinet approves subsidized flour for public

Sales points and shops will be established and specified the province over to provide Atta to the public on subsidized rates and wheat supply to the Flour Mills too will be started during the current month

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cabinet in a meeting held here Thursday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair approved the provision of subsidized Atta to public at the rate of Rs.980 per 20kg bag and Rs.490 per 10kg bag during the current month, which will cost a sum of approximately Rs.30 billion as subsidy. Sales points and shops will be established and specified the province over to provide Atta to the public on subsidized rates and wheat supply to the Flour Mills too will be started during the current month. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Additional Chief Secretary and Administrative Secretaries of various Government Departments. Minister for Higher Education Kamran Khan Bangash while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at ITLA'A Cell informed that the cabinet also approved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Officers of Health Department (Regularization of Services) Bill, 2022 to

regularize as many as 675 contract doctors who have been serving in various health facilities of the province during Corona. The regularization of the contract medical officers will contribute towards improving further the health delivery services in the province and benefit the ailing humanity. The provincial cabinet, he said, also approved the regularization of remaining 210 project employees of the Livestock Department who were working in various projects in the erstwhile FATA. Similarly, the cabinet accorded approval to the creation of 34 IT-cadre posts in the Excise & Taxation Department which included the posts of Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director as well. The cabinet, he said, also approved regularization/adjustment of 296 employees of the community based CDLD project in Malakand against the vacant posts in Local Government Department. The employees include Engineers, Sub-Engineers and other staff. The Minister for Higher Education further informed that the cabinet also approved the absorption of 33 Khasadars and 77 levies of South Waziristan Tribal District and District Lakki Marwat respectively in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police as per provision of the

Khasadars Force (Absorption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police) Rules, 2019 and the Levies Force (Absorption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police) Rules, 2019. The cabinet, he further said, approved additional funds of Rs.265 million for the ongoing Greater Water Supply Schemes Mingora and Kohat under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project. Similarly, a sum of Rs.200 million as seed money was approved to set up fund for the development of Wildlife and National Parks, public awareness and research etc. in the Wildlife sector during the financial year 2022-23. He further informed that the cabinet approved a Grant-in-Aid of Rs.200 million for University of Chitral to enable the university, which is in an embryonic stage, meet its operational expenses. Kamran Bangash further said the cabinet expressed its deep concern over reducing the number of National Assembly seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as instead of reduction they were required to be enhanced further on the basis of population ratio. The cabinet, he said, also expressed its annoyance over the public complaints with regard to alleged alternation in the voters' lists, which may pave the way for rigging by the Federal Gov-

ernment and decided to take this matter up with the Election Commission of Pakistan. In case the alternations are not stopped, then the judiciary will be approached in this regard, he informed. The cabinet, he said, observed that the legislation carried out by the PTI-led Government could have paved the way for holding free, fair and transparent elections in the country had that not been abolished by the incumbent government. The cabinet, he further said, also approved the posting of Mr. Asad Ali, District & Sessions Judge as Judge, Anti-Terrorism Court, Swat as recommended by the Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court. Similarly, the cabinet approved taking the matter with regard to handing over the Pakistan Hunting and Sporting Development Company to the province and its merger in SMEIDA up with the relevant Division of the Federal Govt. It merits to mention that the arms business in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is as much old as 150 years and there are more than 300 arms manufacturing units in Peshawar and Dara Adam Khel where thousands of people are working. The transfer of the company to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will not only benefit thousands of people but also boost the industry.

Saudi Arabia introduces visit visa for Umrah in 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah on Thursday announced the launching of an electronic service to apply for Umrah visa for individual from outside Saudi Arabia. "The visit visa for Umrah will be issued now within 24 hours. Applications for Umrah visas can be submitted from outside Saudi Arabia, away from Umrah campaigns," he said. Al-Rabiah said the Kingdom's Vision 2030 aims to facilitate the reception of Umrah pilgrims in larger numbers, Saudi Gazette reported. The minister said one million people will perform Hajj this year. The pilgrims include 850,000 (85 percent) foreign pilgrims and 150,000 (15 percent) domestic pilgrims. He said the ministry and other related agencies are working to ensure the health of Hajj pilgrims. "The Hajj smart card will be implemented this year," he said while noting that digital technologies would help organize this year's Hajj in the perfect manner. - APP

French diplomats strike over plan for their 'extinction'

PARIS: French diplomats staged a one-day strike Thursday to protest a plan by President Emmanuel Macron to strip foreign envoys of their distinct status, a move they say will weaken Paris's influence abroad. France has the third-biggest foreign service in the world after China and the United States. And it is only the second time in the foreign ministry's history that the institution, which prizes discretion and compromise, has staged an open revolt over a government project. The decree calling for the diplomatic corps' "extinction" was unveiled in April by Macron, who wants to create a single pool of elite "state administrators" capable of transferring smoothly throughout the public sector. Diplomats say removing their special status fails to acknowledge their experience and expertise in defending French interests, by making posts available to all senior civil servants and not just those specifically trained for the foreign service. "The reform says that agents are, in a way, interchangeable," Olivier Da Silva, a diplomat and union chief, told media. - APP



ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif being presented a guard of honour upon departure after concluding his visit to Turkiye. - DNA

SC returns PTI's plea seeking protection for march

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan Thursday returned the PTI's plea seeking protection from the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) as the Imran Khan-led party planned on holding a second long march - after the first one ended abruptly last week. The Supreme Court's registrar raised objections to the petition, noting that the top court had already issued an order on the matter, and the PTI had not moved the relevant forum. "The petitioner (PTI) has not approached any other appropriate forum available under the law for the same relief and has also not provided any justification for not doing so," the SC's registrar said while raising the objection.

Zahir Shah becomes acting NAB chairman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zahir Shah becomes acting chairman of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as the extended tenure of chairman Justice (retired) Javed Iqbal ended on June 2. Zahir Shah is currently serving as NAB's deputy chairman, and now he would assume the additional charge till the appointment of the new head of the anti-graft watchdog. The retired judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan was in office since October 8, 2017 and appointed by then prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi for a four-year term.

Azerbaijan envoy, PIA CEO mull cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Amir Hayat, CEO of PIA. During the meeting they had a substantial exchange on

recently launched direct flights from Pakistan to Azerbaijan and its benefit for both countries in terms of further deepening of brotherly relations, esp. in trade & tourism. - DNA



Pak-born artist wins Fukuoka's Arts and Culture Prize

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On May 26, Japan's Fukuoka Prize Committee has announced the Fukuoka Prize 2022. Shazia Sikander, Pakistan-born miniature artist, has won this Fukuoka Prize in the category of Arts and Culture for introducing innovation in the traditional art forms using latest digital technology in the world of miniature painting, which follows conventions dating back to the Mughal Empire. This Fukuoka Prize was established in 1990 by Japanese Fukuoka city and Fukuoka City International Foundation and is given to individuals, groups or organizations for their splendid work in preserving Asian culture. The prize aims to increase awareness of Asian cultures and to institute a broad framework for exchange and mutual learning among the peoples of Asia. This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the inception of the Fukuoka Prize. Over the last 31 years, prize has been presented to 118 leading figures in their respective fields. Fukuoka Prize is awarded in three categories

that include Grand Prize, Academic Prize and Arts and Culture Prize. Besides Ms. Shazia Sikander, this year's Prize laureates include Japanese Taiko Drummer Mr. Hayashi Eitetsu for Grand Prize and Historian Prof. Timon Screech from U.K for Academic Prize. In September this year, the laureates will be invited to Fukuoka, Japan officially for receiving their respective award. There were three Pakistani recipient of the Fukuoka Prize in the past. Late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, the legendary qawwali maestro, Dr Uxi Mufti, specialist in the preservation of folk heritage and Ms. Yasmeen Lari, architect, architectural historian, heritage conservationist. Born in Lahore, Ms. Shazia Sikander earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1991 from the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore.



Pakistan heading towards civil war under global conspiracy

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid tweeted that Pakistan was heading towards a civil war under a global conspiracy. "Zardari himself has admitted in an interview that Biden (US President) is his personal friend," said Sheikh Rashid, adding that Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif were pushing people towards inflation. "Unemployment will increase; theft and robbery will be common; there will be suicides. All these things will create bad law and order situation and political fears in the country," he said. "Imran Khan had a plan to get gas, wheat and petrol from Russia at 30 per cent lower price," Sheikh Rashid claimed. "Today, India is purchasing gas and petrol at 30 per cent discount from Russia," he added. "The imperialist powers made the no-confidence motion plan against Imran Khan to spoil this project with Russia," he asserted. "They [imperialist powers] have installed their agents in power in Pakistan," he alleged. He also demanded that the Supreme Court should take suo motu notice of police's violence against procession in Islamabad on May 25. "It is very

dangerous that 'murderer' Rana Sanaulah wants centre and provinces to fight with each other," Sheikh Rashid flayed, adding that provincial chief ministers were being barred from entering the federal capital. "Only the Supreme Court can expose the forces that have plunged the country into chaos, disorder and economic crisis," he pointed out. "Who is behind the efforts for recognizing Israel? What are the goals behind that?" Sheikh Rashid questioned. "By betraying Kashmiris, trade with India is being started at the behest of whom?" Sheikh Rashid questioned further. "Who is spoiling relations with China and Iran?" he raised another question and asked: "Is there a conspiracy to make Pakistan a second Ukraine?" He said that Pakistan was an Islamic nuclear power, and therefore, its economy was being destroyed. "The pressure on our nuclear assets will increase in the days to come. Indian lobby will be behind this act," Sheikh Rashid claimed. "The current government has the support of the imperialist powers," he said. "Only media programmes are being aired in Islamabad. In actuality, the government is being run from London," he clearly hinted at Nawaz Sharif.

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