



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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There is great interest in referendum abroad, says Kazakh President

Detailed News On Page-07

Kaira vows to expose Indian cruelties

Detailed News On Page-08

Janjua aims for fulfilling PM's vision

Detailed News On Page-07

Briefs

Don't want to legislate at gunpoint

DNA

ANKARA: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Wednesday that they do not want to legislate at gunpoint or under any pressure. In his interview to Turkish media outlet on Wednesday, he said, "We have started the first phase of electoral reforms which has been passed by the parliament." In an interview with Turkish media, the PM said that the people of Pakistan and Turkey have strong historical ties, the economic relations between the two countries has great potential. "The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Turkey is only \$1 billion," he said and adding that the incumbent Prime Minister wants to increase trade to \$5 billion.

PTI hints at return to NA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which resigned from the National Assembly after a successful no-confidence motion against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, hinted at a conditional return to the Lower House of the Parliament. In a statement on Wednesday, former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the return of PTI to the national assembly possible only if the election date is announced. He said that the PTI is ready to go to the House and talk about the election framework if government announces election date. He said that elections cannot be held under the Election Commission nominated by Raja Riaz.

Govt focused on promotion of exports

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail says government is fully focused on promotion of exports. He was talking to a delegation of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association led by its Chairman Sohail Mahmood Haral in Islamabad on Wednesday. The delegation apprised the Finance Minister of the importance of cotton in the growth of economy especially exports.

Inside...

EPA to monitor industrial units regularly: DC Gujrat - Page 02

PCI and SDPI launch 'Green CPEC Alliance' - Page 03

Experts see no hurdles in granting GB provisional status - Page 04

EU's oil embargo - Page 05

Turkey cannot say 'yes' to countries supporting terrorism - Page 06

There is great interest in referendum abroad - Page 07

Kaira vows to expose Indian cruelties in IIOJK at Int'l fora - Page 08

PM Shehbaz meets President Erdogan

Pak-Turkiye ties brotherly, historical

PM lauds Pak-Turkiye cooperation in defense sector, various MOUs signed between two countries

DNA

ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has invited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to visit Pakistan to benefit from the 'immense economic opportunities that the country has to offer'. The premier extended the invite during a joint press conference with the Turkish president in Ankara on Wednesday. PM Shehbaz is visiting Turkey on a three-day official trip, his first since assuming office. "The meeting with the Turkish president was very positive," Shehbaz said while lauding the Pak-Turkey cooperation in the defense sector. Shehbaz said the leadership of the two countries will next meet in September. "We will try to benefit from Turkey's experience in the fields of e-commerce, education and infrastructure." Speaking before Shehbaz, Turkey's Erdogan congratulated the Pakistani premier on assuming office. He said Turkey would extend all possible assistance to Pakistan in the development of large-scale shipping vessels. He also thanked Pakistan for supporting Turkey's stance on issues across international forums. Turkish President Erdogan appreciated Pakistan's efforts against terrorism and said Pakistan and Turkey have similar views on various forums. He also said that Turkey is fully cooperating

Continued on Page 06

PM urges to promote Pak-Turk trade ties

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has stressed the need to tap the huge potential and opportunities to promote trade relation between Pakistan and Turkey. Addressing the Turkey-Pakistan Business Council in Ankara on Wednesday, he said that both the countries have also immense opportunities of cooperation in Textile industry and a joint strategy in this regard will further boost the industry. The Prime Minister invited Turkish business community to invest in Pakistan and the government will provide all possible facilities in this regard. He said both the countries have supported each other in critical times especially during earthquake, flood and other natural

Continued on Page 06

'Won't allow Fasadi March in Islamabad'

Sana vows to crush 'subversive' elements

SHUJAAT HAMZA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said on Wednesday that the riot march will not be allowed to enter Islamabad under any circumstances as the country cannot be left at the mercy of riot groups and miscreants. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Interior Minister regarding enhancement of operational capacity of Islamabad Police and Frontier Constabulary. Home Secretary Yousuf Naseem Khokhar along with Commandant Frontier Constabulary Salahuddin Mehsood, IG Police Islamabad, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and others participated in the meeting. The Interior Minister told the meeting that the country could not be left at the mercy of 'Fasadi' groups and 'subversive elements' while vowing that the government would in no case allow the 'Fasadi March' to enter the federal capital. He said that the 'Evil Marchers' would be crushed and those who would try to take law into their own hands, they would be deal with an iron hand. Rana

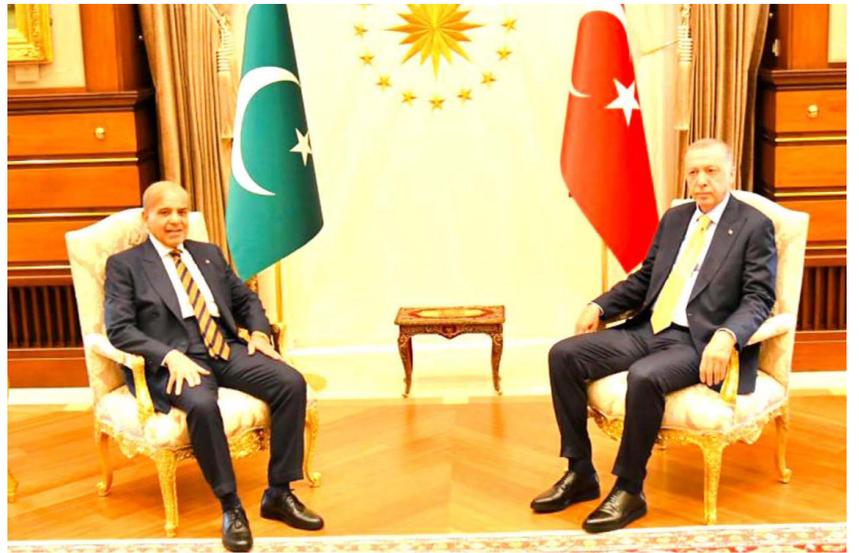
Continued on Page 06

Top Court disappointed over violence

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) said Wednesday it was "disappointed" to note that riots took place in the federal capital despite its order to create a balance between both sides - the PTI and the government. "We are disappointed to note that bona fide effort made by Court was disrespected," the Supreme Court said in a written order on the plea filed by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA) against the government's decision to block roads to stop PTI's "Azadi March". The top court had earlier disposed of the IHCBA's petition and issued a verbal order a day after PTI Chairman Imran Khan on May 26 had announced calling off the long march. The court said by acting upon assurances given on behalf of the top leadership of PTI and issuing directions to the government, its order created a balance between the mutual

Continued on Page 06



ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. - DNA

50-Member traditional Jirga left for Kabul

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: In a bid to further facilitate, the Afghan government brokered talks between Pakistan and banned TTP, a 50-member Jirga Wednesday left Islamabad for Kabul. The Jirga members are belonging to different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, affiliated with JUI(F), PPP and other parties. Before flying to Kabul, ex-governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Shaukat Ullah, "hopeful for fruitful outcomes of Jirga induction in negotiation process." Afghan government has already shown satisfaction over the negotiation process, process commenced indirectly in end of previous April and directly (with landing of Gen Faiz at Kabul) in mid of May. Though analysts believe, "Jirga's always playing key role in settling of terror like issues. However, analysts believe, " banned TTP demands for reversal of FATA status to merged districts and withdrawal of troops from these tribal districts are the main issues before inking of final truce.

PTI demands UN probe into march violence

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Wednesday demanded the United Nations (UN) to hold an "independent and impartial investigation" into the "state excesses and human rights violations" during the party's "Azadi March". The letter was written by former human rights minister Shireen Mazari to the relevant UN officials regarding the media

Continued on Page 06

Khan to announce next long march after SC ruling

Addressing social media workers, the former PM says the party wants protection from the court

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday said the party would announce its next march after the Supreme Court's ruling on the plea seeking clarity on whether the party can hold public gatherings. Addressing social media workers in Peshawar, the former prime minister said that the party wants protection from the court and its case is pending. "I ask the Supreme Court if we have the fundamental right to protest," said Khan. Khan said that he will announce the new dates for the long march after the top court's verdict. "Our planning was not right for the first march but this time the party will come prepared." Talking about the march, the former premier said: "The

Continued on Page 06

PTI files plea in SC for long march

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking permission for a second long march to Islamabad. The petition, filed by PTI Secretary-General Asad Umar, named the interior ministry, Islamabad inspector-general and

Continued on Page 06

Gandhis summoned in money laundering probe



MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: India's financial crime-fighting agency wants to question the two most senior members of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, who lead the main opposition Congress party, as it investigates a complaint of money laundering, the party said on Wednesday. The summons by the enforcement directorate is linked to a nine-year-old complaint by a lawmaker of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul, the party said. The lawmaker, Subramanian Swamy, had accused the Gandhis of forming a shell company and illegally gaining control of properties worth \$300 million. "A disgusting and cowardly conspiracy is being hatched against the leadership of the Indian National Congress to mislead the country," the Congress party said in a statement that condemned the notice sent to the Gandhis. "The entire party and every worker will stand shoulder to shoulder with them and we will fight and win this attack on the country's democracy." The assets in question had belonged to a firm that published the National Herald newspaper, founded in 1937 by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, who was Rahul Gandhi's great grandfather. For his part, Swamy welcomed the action by the enforcement directorate and said he hoped they would be jailed, adding on Twitter, "From bail to jail as soon as possible."

Russian forces advance, US to send precision rockets

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Russian forces on Wednesday pressed closer to the centre of an industrial city in a drive to grab a swathe of eastern Ukraine, while the United States said it would supply advanced rockets to Kyiv to help push Moscow to negotiate an end to the war. Ukraine's General Staff said Russian forces, now 98 days into their invasion, pounded infrastructure in eastern and southern regions, including the city of Sievierodonetsk, which they entered on May 27 and is the main focus of their ground offensive in the eastern Donbas region. According to provincial governor Serhiy Gaidai, a Russian airstrike hit the Azot chemical factory in Sievierodonetsk on Tuesday, blowing up a tank of toxic nitric acid and releasing a plume of pink smoke. He urged residents to remain

Kremlin says talks with Zelenskiy possible

MOSCOW: Russia said on Wednesday that it did not rule out a meeting between President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskiy, but that any such talks needed to be prepared in advance. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in a call that work on a peace document with Ukraine had stopped a long time ago

inside. Reuters could not independently confirm the cause of the incident. U.S. President Joe Biden said Washington would supply precision rocket systems and munitions as part of a \$700

million weapons package expected to be formally announced on Wednesday. "We have moved quickly to send Ukraine a significant amount of weaponry and ammunition so it can fight on the battlefield

and be in the strongest possible position at the negotiating table," Biden wrote in the New York Times. A Biden administration official said the new supplies - which comes on top of billions of

dollars worth of equipment such as drones and anti-aircraft missiles - included the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), which Kyiv has said is "crucial" to counter Russian missile attacks. Addressing concerns that such weapons could draw the United States into direct conflict, Jonathan Finer, deputy White House national security adviser, said Washington had asked Ukraine for assurances the missiles would not strike inside Russia. Russia, however, warned of an increased risk of direct confrontation with the United States. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, speaking in Saudi Arabia, said the supply of the rocket launchers to Ukraine raised the risks of a "third country" being dragged into the conflict. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said such supplies would not encourage Ukraine's leadership to resume stalled peace talks. "We believe that the United States is purposefully and diligently adding fuel to the fire," Peskov said.

EPA to monitor industrial units regularly: DC Gujrat

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Public Health Department to complete the work on Jail Chowk Sewerage Project as soon as possible

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Deputy Commissioner Rana Rizwan Qadeer has directed the Environment Protection Agency Punjab to ensure monitoring of the industrial units and kilns regularly to control environmental pollution. He said Metropolitan Corporation authorities should take necessary steps to clean all the sewage drains and hand over the Jail Chowk drainage project to concerned department before the monsoon.

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting in which Assistant Commissioner Umer Draz Gondal, Assistant Director Environment Maratab Ali and other officers were also present. Deputy Commissioner Capt. (R) Rizwan Qadeer said that the Environment Department should compile data of industrial units, kilns in the district, inspect these units regularly and ensure that all business centers fully comply with government rules. Industrial waste should not be allowed to be dumped on sewerage lines and

roadsides. Strict action should be taken against the violating industrial units in accordance with the law. The Deputy Commissioner directed that challans of smoke emitting vehicles should be issued and court cases should be pursued effectively. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Public Health Department to complete the work on Jail Chowk Sewerage Project as soon as possible. The process of handing over the sewerage scheme to the Metropolitan Corporation should be completed expeditiously, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Korean Ambassador to Pakistan Suh Sangpyo called on Minister for Power Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan and Minister of state Hashin Notezai. – DNA

Sindh govt introduces reforms to bring investment: CM Sindh

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that he was working hard to make his province investment-friendly so that investment could be attracted to improve the economy, create employment opportunities, and bring in prosperity. This he said while talking to a 28-member under training delegation of National Command Authority led by Dr. Ansar Pervez. The participants were senior most officers and were either head of strategic institutions or their important wings. Syed Murad Ali Shah said

that he created an Investment department with broad-based responsibilities of promotion of investment in all sectors in Sindh. "This department has continuously been developing smooth platform of investment opportunities, incentives, SME diaspora, social sector investments, technical & subsidy assistance and ease of doing business for smooth environment of local and foreign investment," he said and added the different units have been established at Investment Department for policy formation, create climate of investment with ease, e-gov-

ernance, bridge between public and private sector, one-window-operations, market Sindh investment opportunities and new ventures according to international standards. The chief minister said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have either been established or in the process of establishment. Dhabeji SEZ is being developed under PPP mode and it would bring in around \$5 billion investment apart from generating 200,000 direct and indirect job opportunities. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that Dhabeji Industrial Zone was a flagship project of his

government and one of the priority projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Talking about Khairpur SEZ, the CM Sindh said that it was the first SEZ registered under SEZ Act 2012 in February 2014. "Five industries have started production there and 13 others [Industries] would start production in Sept/Oct 2022," he said. The CM Sindh said that Marble City SEZ, a state-of-the-art Industrial Estate was being established in Karachi under PPP mode to uplift marble, granite, and construction sectors in Pakistan. – APP

FESCO issues shutdown programme

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown programme for Thursday for necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the programme, power supply from Meeranwala, Bahaduraywala, Mansooran, Industrial Estate-1, Industrial Estate-2, Industrial Estate-3, Boraywala, STS and Fazal-e-Rabbi feeders emanating from 132-KV Industrial Estate grid station will remain suspended from 7 a.m. to 12 noon on June 2, 2022. – APP

419 criminals arrested

FAISALABAD: The Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) police arrested 419 criminals in the region during the last month. A spokesperson for the PHP said on Wednesday that patrolling police recovered 17 pistols, seven guns and 123 cartridges besides recovering 990-kg hashish and 205-litre of liquor. – APP

Court Notice

In the court of miss Misbah Hussain sahib family Judge Jhelum

Title of case: IRAM SADIA VS JAVED AKHTER etc

Respondent: Javed Akhter s/o Akhter Hussain R/o Mohlanaiabadi fazalabad Kashmir Colony Tehsil & District Jhelum permanent address: oyksedderthope street ad-ford.bd39jx UK claim: Suit for Maintenance 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 03-06-2022 at 8:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

Poster competition on 'Smoking hazards' held

FAISALABAD: A poster competition titled 'Smoking hazards' was held for students of various educational institutes, in connection with the World Smoking Day, observed on Wednesday. Students of different schools, colleges and universities participated in the contests held under the aegis of the district administration. In this connection, a ceremony was held at Metropolitan Corporation hall which was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue/Finance) Abid Hussain Bhatti, Deputy Director Colleges Imdadullah Bhatti, Chief Executive Officer Education Authority Ali Ahmed Sian, officers and a large number of students participated. The first five position-holder students were awarded prizes. In the school category, Rumesa Abdul Khaliq secured the first position, Um-e-Roman second, Mah Noor Rasheed stood third. In college and University category, Maryam Khalil of Government Graduate College of Samanabad first, Waris Ali of Punjab College second, Maryam Aleem of Agriculture University stood third. The ADC appreciated the art work of the students and said that the district administration was taking measures to save the youth from the menace of smoking. He said that such types of competitions were very useful for creating awareness among youth about health issues caused due to smoking. District Coordinator for Tobacco Control Sadiq-ul-Hassan said that over 160,000 people die of smoking related diseases annually in Pakistan which is a matter of concern for a developing state. – APP

Pak-Turk economic co-op to touch new height after PM visit

PESHAWAR: Economics and diplomatic experts here Wednesday said that economic and bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey would touch a new height after the historic visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Muhammad Naem, Professor Economics Department, University of Swabi told APP that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visit to Turkey would further deepen the bilateral and economic relations besides increasing bilateral trade. He said there was about \$ 1.1-billion bilateral trade between the two countries, which is low compared to its potential and expressed the hope that it would enhance to over five billion under the leadership of Prime Minister of Pakistan and Turkish President.

Dr Naem said there was a vast scope of expanding multi-dimensional cooperation between the two countries especially in defence, social and economic sectors, foreign policy and public welfare. He said Turkish companies should be persuaded to invest in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) established under CPEC especially in oil, petroleum and energy sectors. Besides Pakistan Turkey free trade agreement (FTA) initiative, he said

the resumption of Pakistan Iran Turkey cargo train service help facilitate the movement of trade goods between these neighbours.

ManzoorulHaq, former Ambassador of Pakistan told APP that historic relations between the two-brotherly countries was based on mutual respect, strong bonds and was deep-rooted. Turkey has helped Pakistan in developing robust in-



stitutions like Karachi Shipyard, which has been transformed into a profit-earning organization. Manzoor who served as Pakistan ambassador at Egypt and Saudia Arabia said the strategic cooperation between Islamabad-Ankara in all fields including shipbuilding, engineering, petroleum, solid waste management, social service, energy

and transport would be enhanced. He said Pakistan and Turkey's relations had significantly improved under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "Pakistan is very close to the heart of the Turkish President, who became the only foreign head of state to have addressed our parliament for fourth time, which emphasized

the history of enduring bilateral relationship and love for Pakistan." During President Erdogan visit to Pakistan in February 2021, he said the two countries had signed a strategic economic framework agreement covering a broad spectrum of cooperation in science and technology, defense, tourism, education and health. "There is a common-

ality of views among leadership of both countries on all regional and international issues and Turkey's support for the Kashmir issue was commendable. He suggested an exchange of people to people contact and cultural visits besides increasing students visas to bring people of both countries further closer. Dr Khurshid Ahmad, Professor International Relations Department, University of Peshawar said Turkey had always supported Pakistan in disasters whether it was 2005 devastating earthquake or 2010 flood. "Turkey was the first country whose medical teams reached to quake hit Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2005 and has provided prompt medical assistance to the quake victims." He said both states were founded by great political leaders, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Mustafa Kamal Atatürk, who advocated for constitutionalism, people political empowerment, constitutional rights and democracy for good governance etc. He said the successful completion of ongoing projects with Turkey such as Trans-Afghan Railway project, CASA-1000, and Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan gas pipeline could significantly help improve Pakistan connectivity with Western Asia, Gulf and Europe. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs meets Qatari ambassador, Sheikh Saoud Abdul Rahman Al-Thani. – DNA

Qaiser, Hammad approaches IHC for bails

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser and ex-federal minister Hammad Azhar on Wednesday approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for protective bails. Asad Qaiser, in his petition, stated that he participated in the recent long march on the call of his party head Imran Khan, and for that cases were registered against him by the police and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in various cities.

He prayed the court to issue directives for provision of complete details and list of registered cases against him across the country, and stop the police and FIA from arresting him. He named Secretary Interior, inspectors general of police Islamabad, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FIA Director General as respondents in the case. Hammad Azhar, in his plea, adopted the stance that "illegal cases" had been registered against him in different police stations, and he and his family were being harassed. He said he wanted to join the investigation against him and prayed the court to stop the police from arresting him. The petitioner had named the Federation, IGP Punjab, SSP Operations Lahore and others as respondents in the case. – APP

Police officers' delegation visits PSCA

LAHORE: A delegation of 70 DSPs of junior command course from training college visited Punjab Safe Cities Authority here on Wednesday. The delegation was briefed about the working of the PSCA by Chief Operating Officer PSCA Kamran Khan. On this occasion, PPIC-3 DSP Coordination's Shahid Chaddar also took the officers to various departments of the Authority and briefed about the sections. Among the participants in the training course, 70 DSP's from all over Punjab were given training in the operation and monitoring center, 15 call center, PUCAR 15 Center. In addition, the trainees were also briefed on advanced traffic management, e-challan systems and data analysis center. – APP

Court orders registration of case against Sanaullah

DNA

LAHORE: A Lahore district and sessions court on Wednesday ordered the registration of cases against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and others against police torture on PTI workers during party's recently held 'Azadi March' towards Islamabad.

Advocate HaiderMajeed had filed an application in the Lahore sessions court, seeking registration of cases against the interior minister and Punjab police officials under Section-166(1), 352 and 427 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). The learned judge after completing the hearing on the application announced the registration of criminal cases against Rana Sanaullah, CCPO Lahore and DIG Operations under Sec-

tion-166, 352 and 427. The order was issued by Additional Sessions Judge Mian Mudasar Umar. On May 25, a clash erupted between Lahore police and PTI workers marching to Islamabad for long march. Police resorted to tear gas shelling and baton-charged in an effort to disperse PTI activists. On the eve of the march, the government rounded up over 1,000 PTI leaders and workers in a crackdown designed to derail the party's plans for the march. Section 144 was imposed in Lahore, the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad and Karachi, as well as other major cities in the country, while the Punjab government sought the deployment of Rangers to control the law and order situation. According to a spokesperson of the Punjab Police, three policemen also died in clash-

es and raids on PTI workers' houses. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan against arrests and blockades during the long march led by party chairman Imran Khan and asked the apex court to provide protection against these tactics in future. The PTI in its plea asked the apex court to direct federal and provincial governments against violent measures against the peaceful marchers in future besides also issuing directives to the inspector generals of police (IGs) against the arrest of leaders and activists of the PTI. The party further sought the Supreme Court's intervention in ensuring that no containers are placed on the route of the march and also direct the government over the use of force against the marchers.

Two-day international conference concludes

MANSEHRA: The archeology department at Hazara University Mansehra Wednesday organized the first two-day international conference with the theme "British Period Archeology and Heritage in Pakistan" where archaeologists and historians from the United Kingdom, Italy, Korea, Egypt and Lebanon met in person, while experts from the United States, Turkey, Serbia and China participated online. The conference was organized with an objective to acquaint the world with the signs of British rule and the discovery of British-era ar-

cheology in the region and the steps being taken to preserve its cultural heritage. The chief guest of the inaugural session Vice Chancellor Hazara University Prof. Dr. Jamil Ahmed while addressing the conference said that the conference on the subject of British era archeology is of great importance, this conference will help to preserve these important archeological sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and will be of great advantage to archeological researchers. The VC Hazara University further said that after the Coronavirus epidemic, this

kind of face-to-face seminar and participation of international experts is a proof that the world has defeated this epidemic and continued direct educational and research activities while in the future more conferences would be organized in this regard. While addressing the concluding session of the conference chief guest Secretary Higher Education Dawood Khan praised the efforts of Hazara University Department of archeology, VC Dr. Jameel Ahmed and head of the department Dr. Shakir-Ullah for conducting such a good conference. – APP

IHC summons DAG in PMC case

To a court's query, the PMC's lawyer said the Federal Government would appoint new members of the PMC

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday summoned the deputy attorney general (DAG) in an intra-court appeal (ICA) filed by the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) challenging the decision for removal of its members. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Saman Raffat Intiaz heard the ICA. During the hearing, the PMC's lawyer requested the court to grant

permission to withdraw the ICA. At this the bench expressed annoyance over the counsel, observing whether he had authority to do so. To a court's query, the PMC's lawyer said the Federal Government would appoint new members of the PMC. Justice Farooq remarked that the court had the only concern that the single member bench had declared everything, including the appointments of PMC members, as illegal. There was a vacuum in the decision and the court had to view that. The court summoned the deputy attorney general and adjourned the case till June 14. It may be mentioned that the single member bench comprising Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani had declared the appointments of PMC members as illegal and ordered to immediately remove them from offices. – APP

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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



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway 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
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani hosted a reception to welcome the new General Manager of the Islamabad Serena Hotel Otto Kurzendorfer. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. – DNA

PCI and SDPI launch 'Green CPEC Alliance'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in collaboration with Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), hosted the launch event and the inception meeting of the first-of-its-kind "Green China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Alliance". The conference was attended by over 40 participants and featured 6 panelists including Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, Acting Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ms. Pang Chunxue, Zhang Jun, CEO, China Three Gorges (CTG) Corporation, Muhammad Aurangzeb, CEO, Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Senator Seemin Ezedi, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Climate Change, Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The event was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute.

The goal of the establishment of the Green CPEC Alliance with members from both countries' governments, investors, as well as civil society, and environmental experts, is to support, accelerate and promote this transition within Pakistan and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Alliance aims to green and decarbonize CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) by supporting a re-direction of Chinese infrastructure investments away from emission-intensive investments and towards green infrastructure projects, e.g., from coal to renewable energy, like wind, solar and hydropower. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, in his welcome remarks expressed great pleasure in being part of the inception and thanked the presence of all esteemed guests. During his



speech, he felt it integral to press upon the urgency of the climate change situation in the world by arguing to prioritize the need for a green Pakistan, including redefining the notion of national security from a military-centric approach to Human Security, centering on climate change, population planning, food security and water scarcity. Senator Mushahid also shared his experiences from the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow. He acknowledged that some work was being done on an international level, however, not much progress was made on Green Finance. He made it clear that there was a need to accelerate the efforts required to mitigate the effects of climate change at the community level in Pakistan, referring to his initiatives to launch the first public hearings on environment and climate change in the Pakistan Parliament. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was followed by the Acting Ambassador of the

People's Republic of China in Pakistan Ms. Pang Chunxue. She expressed her delight to be part of the event. Her remarks revolved around the efforts of China to mitigate climate change threats available globally. She emphasized Chinese initiatives like the International Green Development Coalition which have to their roots the objective of ensuring that all Chinese investments that are part of the Belt and Road Initiative are made green. She talked about the various hydropower and solar power plants that have been built as alternatives to the coal power projects which are currently benefiting the people of Pakistan by addressing their energy needs. Lastly, she expressed China's desire to continue efforts that will help make the CPEC and the BRI green and sustainable for the country, adding that China has publicly declared the intention no longer to finance or build coal-fired plants overseas.

from the keynote speakers and the special guests, the Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute also presented the concept of the Green CPEC Alliance to the notables present at the conference. Dr Hina Aslam from the Sustainable Development Policy Institute was also present alongside him. They explained the objectives and aims of the Alliance. Mr. Mustafa Sayed emphasized that this alliance is a first-of-its-kind initiative that is bringing all stakeholders together to deliberate options that can make the CPEC green and sustainable. He explained that the focus was on making sure that the promises made by the two governments on international fora like COP 26 and COP 23 are materialized and given practicality. This Alliance will focus on producing research in the form of policy briefs, reports, and conferences that will push policymakers and other stakeholders to opt for greener options in development.

IESCO issues power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) Wednesday issued a power suspension programme for Thursday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 07:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Wanhar, Daroot, Khawan, Mail feeders, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 AM, Mecca Chowk, Gulistan Colony, MSF, Topi Pump, Murree Brewery, Bostan Road Feeder, From 07:00 AM to 01:00 PM, Kariala, Sanghoi, Nathwala, Safdar Shaheed, Machine Mohalla, Langarpur, Citi Housing Feeders and Surroundings. – APP

Sherry to underline climate issue at Stockholm +50

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman will highlight the country's rising climate vulnerability due to massive environmental degradation impacts at the international Stockholm +50 meeting to be jointly hosted by Sweden and Kenya. The Federal Minister for Climate Change was in Sweden to attend the Stockholm +50 meeting held under the theme "A healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our

responsibility, our opportunity", said a news release. The Federal Minister will attend the High Level Meeting on Climate Change at the United Nations from June 1 to June 3, 2022. Senator Sherry Rehman will present official position on behalf of the G77 and China in Stockholm +50 meeting. She will also meet representatives of various organizations, stakeholders, civil society and the private sector. Stockholm +50 meeting will discuss ways to ensure implementation of the +50 Conventions and tackle the current climate catastrophe. The meeting will also take steps to tackle environmental crisis, pollution, climate change and biodiversity. Senator Sherry Rehman will discuss the impacts of climate change on Pakistan and various other topics as Pakistan is one of the top 10 countries most affected due to climate change.



ECP's delimitations as total seats reduced

The number of general and women seats for Sindh remained unchanged

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday announced preliminary delimitations of the National Assembly and four provincial assemblies, as it gears up to hold the next general elections. Under the 25th constitutional amendment, the number of National Assembly seats has been reduced from 342 to 336 and provinces have been allocated NA seats as provided in Article 51 of the Constitution. The 25th constitutional amendment, which merged the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), was passed in May 2018 by the Parliament and modified the number of total NA seats and their allocation to the province as 12 FATA seats were abolished. However, this change for KP would apply only now as the amendment inserted a provision to Article 51, allowing twelve FATA MNAs to be elected in the 2018 general elections. In this context, the change in the number of seats and allocation was not unexpected. Under new delimitations, most of the erstwhile FATA districts form a single

ECP seeks timeframe from PTI lawyers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has ordered the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf to complete its arguments as soon as possible while demanding a timeframe for the completion of arguments. During the foreign funding case hearing at the Election Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday, financial expert Najam Shah gave a briefing on the PTI transactions. A three-member commission headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the case. The commission expressed its displeasure over the late arrival of the PTI financial expert at the commission. Besides PTI lawyer Anwar Maqsood and PTI financial expert Najam Shah, petitioner Akbar S Babar also appeared before the court.

The PTI financial expert told the commission that the PTI had nothing to do with seven accounts as mentioned by the State Bank of Pakistan. He said main transactions were occurred in only five bank accounts, the audit for which had already been done. He said in many accounts no transaction had been done. The party came to know about these accounts later on and then the party closed these accounts, he added. On this, the chief election commissioner remarked that by his explanation it appeared that the PTI had confessed to its mismanagement in the foreign funding affair. Najam Shah, however, pointed out that the scrutiny committee in its report showed transactions of one amount several times and also did the overstatement amounting to millions of rupees. "Because of the wrong calculation of the scrutiny committee in 2012-13, extra amount of Rs140.64 million was added to the transactions.

NA constituency each; however, Orakzai has been grouped with Hangu to form NA-36. It must be noted here that all of the erstwhile tribal districts, with the exception of Orakzai and Mohmand districts, were allocated two NA seats each. They will now be represented by one MNA each which effectively reduced the number of seats for the ex-Fata region from 12 to 6. The remaining constituencies in KP remained largely unchanged. With the number of women seats increased from 8 to 10, KP has a total of 55 seats in the National Assembly. This leaves the total number of seats for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the former tribal areas unchanged. If anything, it is the people of the erstwhile FATA region who have their representation in the National Assembly almost halved. The 25th amendment reduced the number of NA seats for Punjab from 183 to 173. General seats were cut from 148 to 141 and women seats from 35 to 32. The number of seats for Balochistan increased from 17 to 20 as the province was given two more general seats and one additional women seat. The number of general and women seats for Sindh remained unchanged.

'Promotion of inter-faith harmony crucial'

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Wednesday said that interfaith harmony was a pre-requisite for socio-economic development of the country. Pakistan was a country with diverse cultures and faiths and every citizen held equal status irrespective of their religion, cast or creed, he said while addressing the Conference "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" jointly organized by Freedom of Religion Leadership Network (FORB), IIU International Research Institute (IRI) and Paigham-e-Pakistan here. The speaker said that without inclusivity of all, the country could not be led to the path of progress. He said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the architect of the Constitution of Pakistan, focused on inclusion of provision of basic rights for all especially for the religious minorities. He said that country's constitution guaranteed freedom to every citizen to practice their religious beliefs. He said that the very presence of former MNA Ms. Asiya, an active member of Jamiat ulama Islam clearly indicated inclusiveness of minorities in the political process. He said that inter-faith harmony and tolerance was vital for progress and development of any society. Stressing upon the political leadership to play its positive role in propagating tolerance and peace in the society, the Speaker said that tolerance and peace could help people to live in co-existence. He also said that prejudice and hatred are antithesis to social cohesion and harmony. He also said that inculcating values of peace and tolerance was interlinked with mass education and literacy. The Speaker said that extremism was a global issue and its rise was a real threat to tolerant society across the world. – APP

RDA organizes dengue awareness walk

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General, RDA Capt. @ Tahir Zafar Abbasi here on Wednesday organized a dengue awareness walk. The DG RDA on the occasion urged the citizens to take special care of cleanliness and said that stagnant water should be removed. He said, the administration was creating awareness among people about the danger of dengue and all possible preventive measures were being taken to cope with this disease. He said, RDA was working in collaboration with the Rawalpindi District Administration as well as District Health Department to combat with dengue. The DG advised the general public to use mosquito repellent spray regularly. – APP

Capital police arrests five criminals

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Wednesday arrested five criminals from different areas of the city and recovered 260 gram hashish, two liquor canes and weapons from their possession. According to the police spokesman, a team of the Golra Police Station arrested an accused Muhammad Zahoor involved in drug peddling and recovered 260 gram hashish from his possession. Likewise, Industrial Area Police Station arrested two accused Kamran Masih and Javed and recovered two liquor canes from their possession. Nilore and Shamas Colony police teams arrested two accused Hammad Sadiq and Muhammad Imran for possessing illegal weapon and recovered one 9mm and 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. The cases against all the nominated accused have been registered and further investigation was underway, he added. – APP

Briefs

Miftah lauds
Pakistan
Navy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail here on Wednesday commended the efforts of Pakistan Navy in protecting the country's sea frontiers and maritime interests of Pakistan.

The minister was talking to Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Faisal Rasool Lodhi who called on him here at Finance Division, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. They discussed the prevailing economic and security situation of the country, the statement added. Miftah expressed confidence on the role of Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the maritime boundaries and extended present government's full support to Pakistan Navy. The Vice Chief of Naval Staff thanked the Finance Minister for his support and appreciation. - APP

No bar at
Hajj subsidy
in Shariah

ISLAMABAD: Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz on Wednesday said there was no bar at the subsidy being provided by the government on Hajj in Shariah. He said the religious affairs ministry's efforts for facilitating the Hajj and reducing its expenses were commendable. Declining the news on social media about the CII opposing the Hajj subsidy, he said the previous government inquired about it, to which it responded, "It is permissible for the government to subsidize Hajj in accordance with Shariah and this generous action does not contradict the ability of the pilgrims to afford it. Also, this subsidy should be given without any discrimination, whether one performs Hajj officially or privately, however, it is better if the government is careful to give subsidy from Zakat money." Dr. Qibla said the CII had already declared its position in the light of Shariah about Hajj subsidy three years ago. - APP

SECP
registers
1,906 new
companies

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 1,906 new companies in May 2022, raising the total number of registered companies to 169,919. This shows an increase of 19% as compared to corresponding period last year. Total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the current month stood at Rs3.5 billion, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. Foreign investment has been reported in 51 new companies from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Korea South, Norway, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the UK and the USA. In May, about 63 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 35 percent were registered as single member companies. Two percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not for profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). About 99.8 percent companies were registered online, while 195 foreign users were registered from overseas.

The real estate development & construction sector took the lead with incorporation of 334, trading with 282, information technology with 260, services with 172, tourism with 69, education with 65, e-commerce with 64, food, beverages, and textile with 56 each, marketing and advertisement with 54, corporate agricultural farming with 43, transport with 42, engineering with 41, pharmaceutical with 40, health-care and chemical with 31 each, mining and quarrying with 26, auto and allied with 23, power generation with 22, logging with 21, cables and electric goods with 20, cosmetics and toiletries with 17, communication with 14, broadcasting and telecasting with 13, fuel and energy with 12 and 98 companies were registered in other sectors. - APP

Experts see no hurdles in
granting GB provisional status

Discussing the socio-political dimensions of GB, Mr. Afzal Ali Shigri stated that given the constitutional limbo, there was lack of interest in GB's development and allocation of adequate resources

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Grant GB 'provisional province' status was the unanimous recommendation of the seminar on 'Gilgit-Baltistan in National Security Calculus' organised by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) in Islamabad. The discussion focused on the current political status of GB, its role in securing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), its linkage with the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and recommended a way forward according to the aspirations of the people of the region.

Eminent speakers included Major General Dr Ehsan Mehmood Khan, Director General, Institute for Strategic Studies, Research & Analysis (ISSRA); Mr. Afzal Ali Shigri, Former Inspector General, Police Service of Pakistan; Justice Syed Manzoor Gillani, former Chief Justice Supreme Court and High Court, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK); Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). The seminar was chaired by President CASS



Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), while Asadullah Khan, Senior Researcher at the Centre moderated the proceedings. While delivering the Opening Address, Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan highlighted that proximity with Afghanistan, China, IIOJK and AJK made GB strategically important. The President lamented that despite the seven-decade old desire of its populace and firm commitments by all three major political parties of Pakistan, GB was neither a

province of Pakistan nor part of the federation. The people of GB continue to be deprived of their basic fundamental rights granted to all citizens and were not stakeholders in any decision-making in the country. 'By ignoring the wishes of the people of GB, in this information age, the state of Pakistan unintentionally may be creating various fault lines, including alienation of its people, that could be exploited by the enemy and impact Pakistan's national security and security of

CPEC,' he warned. In his Keynote Address, Major General Dr Ehsan Mehmood Khan provided an in-depth assessment of national security, its various contours and linked it to the geographic, cultural, historical, and geostrategic significance of GB. He pointed out that GB was a heterogeneous region marked by ethnic, linguistic, and sectarian diversities rather than differences. According to him, geographically and culturally, the region was a natural part of Pakistan. Major

General Khan also discussed GB's role in national defence as the region is Pakistan's mountainous and glacial frontier with a history of belligerence from India. In his assessment, GB provided all-weather connectivity for CPEC and shared that Maqpon Das was a vital Special Economic Zone apart from other tourist and fruit processing zones.

The Keynote Speaker was of the view that the positive role of GB's youth in Pakistan's development should not be underestimated given its highest literacy rate as well as their emphatic denunciation of sectarianism and violence through educational activism.

The 'national security of Pakistan is inextricably linked with GB', he concluded. Discussing the socio-political dimensions of GB, Mr. Afzal Ali Shigri stated that given the constitutional limbo, there was lack of interest in GB's development and allocation of adequate resources. He stressed that although tourism had generated many employment opportunities, a lack of attention to environmental protection was destroying the region's natural beauty.

Experts call
to increase
minimum
20% FED
on SSBs

ISLAMABAD: The experts Wednesday called the Finance Minister and Federal Board of Revenue to increase a minimum 20 percent federal excise duty (FED) on sugar sweetened beverages to contain disease burden and generate healthy revenue amid financial crisis. A pre-budget seminar "Importance of Fiscal Policies to curb Sugar Sweet Beverages" was organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANA) in collaboration with Diabetic Association of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, General Secretary (PANA) Sanaullah Ghuman said that an increase in excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) could help Pakistan to fight non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and keep people healthy and alive.

"We are thankful to the International Diabetes Federation, Diabetic Association of Pakistan, National Commission on the Rights of Children, Federal Tax Ombudsman and all those who sent recommendations to the Finance Minister, Chairman FBR and other policy makers to increase excise tax on SSBs", he added. He urged Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Miftah Ismail to consider increasing tax on a wide range of SSBs including Sodas, Juices, energy drinks, flavored milk, iced teas and other sugary drinks. Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator Munawar Hussain said the fiscal policies have an important role in setting priorities for public health and nutrition. He said that increasing taxes on sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods was an evidence based strategy to reduce their consumption, obesity, diabetes and other NCDs.

"World Bank has recently concluded the impact modeling of SSB tax in Pakistan. The study indicates that progressively increased excise taxes on a wide range of SSBs will mainly reduce diabetes in the country. It also indicates that the government can collect significantly high tax for next 10 years if FED is progressively increased on SSBs". Secretary General Diabetic Association of Pakistan (DAP) Professor Abdul Basit said over 400,000 people were dying every year due to diabetes or its complications in Pakistan. "Our Pakistanis spent more than 2.64 billion USD on diabetes during the year 2021 which is a significant threat to our economy. - APP

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05 anti-social
elements
held; drugs,
liquors seized

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested 05 criminals from different areas of the city, a police spokesman said. He said that police teams also recovered 260 gram hashish, 02 liquor canes and weapons with ammunition from their possession. Following the directives of IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, spokesperson said that Islamabad police accelerated crackdown against criminal elements in order to reduce crime rate in the federal capital.

In this regard special police teams of different police stations were formed to take stern action against those involved in anti social activities. According to the details, one of the Golra police team arrested an accused involved in drug peddling namely Muhammad Zahoor and recovered 260 gram hashish from his possession. Similarly, Industrial Area police arrested two accused namely Kamran Masih and Javed and recovered two liquor canes from their possession. Likewise, Nilore and Shamas Colony police teams arrested two accused namely Hammad Sadiq and Muhammad Imran for possessing illegal weapon and recovered one 9mm and 30 bore pistols with ammunition from their possession. Cases against all the nominated accused have been registered and further investigations are underway. IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has appreciated this overall performance of the police teams and further ordered to intensify the crackdown. "Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard" he added.

Islamabad police get
Rs. 200m honorarium

ISLAMABAD: The employees of Islamabad police were granted an amount of Rs. 200 million during the last five years as honorarium for performing best in their respective divisions. Honorarium is granted to the employees on the basis of annual budget allocation and recommendations received from supervisory officers on the basis of good performance towards their assigned duties, police source told APP on Wednesday adding that an amount of Rs.200 million was granted as honorarium during the last five years. He said that 10 million honorarium was granted during the year 2017-18, Rs. 30 million during 2018-19, Rs. 50 million during 2019-20, Rs. 50 million again during 2020-21 and Rs. 60 million during 2021-22. The source said that special honorarium was announced for the personnel who performed duties during budget sessions 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. The same have not been paid yet due to non-availability of budget. Funds have already been demanded for the purpose by ICT Police through supplementary grant during CFY 2021-22. Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has also directed the Finance Ministry on May 25, 2022 to sort out the matter through supplementary grant and submit a compliance report within a week. He also referred this matter to the concerned standing committee. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Head of Chancery, Nigerian High Commission Oyedele Sheriff Olatunji visiting the stall during Environment Expo at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in Federal Capital. - DNA

Mayor Peshawar
Haji Ali visits FPCCI
Capital Office

ISLAMABAD: Haji Zubair Ali, Mayor Peshawar was discussing the problem faced by the business community of Peshawar during his visit to FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice President SAARC Chamber and Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination, FPCCI Capital Office were also present during a meeting at FPCCI Capital Office. He said Development of trade industry & the promotion of investment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially in Peshawar is very

essential. All participants agreed to take joint steps to provide facilities to the business community especially the small traders. All Participants mutually stated that the business community & Government and institutions need to work together to increase the economic condition of Pakistan. The government should provide special relief to the business community to promote trade and industrial activities. He said that government's cooperation with the private sector is essential step for strengthening

and development of the Pakistan's economy. The government should focus to facilitate the business community in the forthcoming budget to increase investment and to boost up economic growth. Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, VP SAARC CCI, Mr. Omar Masood-ur-Rehman, Vice President FPCCI & Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad added that the country's economic growth and the resolution of problems of traders and industrialists should be main focus of the stake holders. - PR

6,186
citizens get
fine tickets

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) issued 6,186 fine tickets to road users over violation of traffic signals during ongoing year, a police spokesman said. He said that special campaign was underway to check violations while various squads were performing duties at main roads of the city and taking action against the violators. During ongoing year, the police spokesman said that 6,186 road users were fined over violation of traffic signals. Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Mustafa Tanveer said that efforts were underway to ensure disciplinary traffic system in the city. He said that ITP personnel were directed to ensure implementation of traffic rules and regulations irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users. He said that ITP was utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issued traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose was to ensure safe road environment in the Capital and secure the lives of the people. - APP

PTC demands enhanced
ED on tobacco green leaf

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC) on Wednesday demanded that Advanced Excise Duty on tobacco green leaf threshing should be increased to Rs. 300 per kg. The Company said that the increased Advance Excise Duty (ED) will help prevent tax evasion. "Illegal cigarette trade rises and the market share reaches 40 percent" the PTC said. According to various investigative reports, the illicit trade in cigarettes in Pakistan has increased alarmingly, causing a loss of Rs 70-80 billion annually to the exchequer, Noor Aftab, Senior Manager for Regulatory Affairs, PTC said while sharing the data with media persons here. He said that the mafia involved in illegal trade of cigarettes was harming the national exchequer due to non-implementation of laws. Those who work legally have also become a threat to the cigarette industry, he added. Noor Aftab said that illicit cigarettes by evading both Excise and Sales Taxes become affordable compared to legal, tax-paid alternatives causing the consumers to down the trade. Multiple laws already exist and if enforced rigorously, it can bring down the incidence of the illicit segment and help the government in raising more revenue as well as save youth from smoking hazards. At present almost 13 law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction over laws pertaining to controlling illegal activities in the cigarette trade, he said. PTC officials urged the policymakers to come up with a long-term strategy with stern actions against wrongdoers. If the upward trend of illicit market share continues, it will pose a serious threat to business sustainability of the legitimate industry and continue to keep compromising the government's fiscal and regulatory agendas, he said. Different reports launched by the world's reputed research organizations during last few years which highlighted the unprecedented growth in share of illicit cigarettes in Pakistani market. According to a report by PWC 2021, the share of illicit cigarettes market is nearly 37.6 percent that is causing almost 78 billion of rupees loss to the national exchequer. The IPSOS's report regarding tax evasion in Pakistan in five major industries quoted that almost 40 percent market share has been captured by the illegal cigarettes mafia by violating minimum tax and minimum price criteria. Shopkeepers in major markets of cities and towns across Pakistan are openly selling illegal cigarette packs with a price of around Rs15 to 35 which is far below than the minimum price of 20 cigarettes packs. - APP

Political instability root cause of all problems: Experts

Pakistan is nearing the milestone of 75 years of its existence. The common thread during these years regarding the Constitution, public representation and governance system is a constant struggle

RAWALPINDI: The experts at a seminar on Wednesday said the Constitution of Pakistan was the embodiment of national consensus since the time of its inception and has also served as a binding factor during times of political instability and turmoil. The vision, comprehensiveness, and balance of power provided in the Constitution have enabled it to steer the nation through military rules and political challenges. These observations were made by speakers at a seminar titled '75 years of Pakistan: Constitution, Public Representation and Governance System', which was organized by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad in collaboration with the Department of Law, Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) at the latter's campus in Rawalpindi. The seminar was co-chaired by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, and Prof DrAzra Yasmin, dean Faculty of Law, Commerce Management and Administrative Sciences FJWU and moderated by Dr Nadia Khadam, assistant professor/in-charge, Department of Law.

The speakers included Dr. IjazShafi Gilani, chairman Gallup Pakistan and Gilani Research Foundation Pakistan, Dr. Aziz Ur Rahman, director, School of Law, Quaid-i-Azam University, and Dr. Shahzad Iqbal Sham, senior research fellow at IPS and author of recently published book 'Aa'een-e-Pakistan 1973 aur Islam: Martial Law, AdalyaaurParlimankaKirdar'. Another recently published work based on the Senate speeches and academic writings of IPS' founder Professor Khurshid Ahmad, 'Aa'een - IkhtiyaratkaTawazunaur-Taraz-e-Hukmran' was also screened on the occasion and was introduced to the audience by the IPS Chairman. The speakers observed that Pakistan is making constant progress in ensuring supremacy of the Constitution and the crises that sometimes hamper smooth movement on this path are temporary obstructions faced by all nations of the world at one time or another. This should not be a matter of apprehension, however, introspection is es-

sential in order to pinpoint where the nation has gone wrong and a system needs to be put in place to respond to the issue in an appropriate manner. It was suggested that a part of this initiative could be in the form of a center for study of constitutional issues that would help in generating expert opinions and fulfill the need for unbiased debate and research on the Constitution. Pakistan is nearing the milestone of 75 years of its existence. The common thread during these years regarding the Constitution, public representation and governance system is a constant struggle, right from the creation of Pakistan to the formulation of the Constitution. The Constitution of 1973 has undergone various changes in the form of amendments which have, in fact, improved its subject matter. The speakers said that the Parliament upheld and restored the original spirit of the Constitution with another act of national consensus through the 18th constitutional amendment and keeps on emphasizing it

through important amendments. Most of the unpopular changes brought about in the Constitution by military regimes have been done away with. The role of the higher judiciary, however, needs careful calibration as it has evidently expanded its reach beyond its desired responsibility through its powers to interpret the supreme law. A constitutionalism debate is vital to review the role of the judiciary, they added. They were of the view that political instability has been the root cause of all the issues that the country has been facing. The country can progress unhindered if stability is brought into this domain. In this regard, they suggested striking a balance among the legislative, executive and judiciary. The Constitution has been suspended and amended many times but it faces no threat as long as trust is placed in the Parliament to fulfill its role. The concept of Riasat-e-Madinah was part of the recent political debate though how sincere were the motivators of this deliberation is a moot point. - APP

through important amendments. Most of the unpopular changes brought about in the Constitution by military regimes have been done away with. The role of the higher judiciary, however, needs careful calibration as it has evidently expanded its reach beyond its desired responsibility through its powers to interpret the supreme law. A constitutionalism debate is vital to review the role of the judiciary, they added. They were of the view that political instability has been the root cause of all the issues that the country has been facing. The country can progress unhindered if stability is brought into this domain. In this regard, they suggested striking a balance among the legislative, executive and judiciary. The Constitution has been suspended and amended many times but it faces no threat as long as trust is placed in the Parliament to fulfill its role. The concept of Riasat-e-Madinah was part of the recent political debate though how sincere were the motivators of this deliberation is a moot point. - APP

EU's oil embargo

In the lead-up to this week's European Union summit in Brussels, Germany's economy minister and deputy chancellor, Robert Habeck, warned that unity over sanctions on Russia was "starting to crumble". If that assessment was intended to galvanise EU leaders at a crucial moment, it appears to have just about done its job. The partial embargo on Russian oil imports agreed at the summit on Monday night constitutes a significant, if belated, ratcheting up of economic pressure on Vladimir Putin's regime. After a month of negotiations between member states, objections from Hungary were finally overcome through a temporary exemption for oil transported through a Soviet-era pipeline to central Europe. Given that Germany and Poland will forgo imports from this source, by the end of the year the embargo should cover over 90% of Russian oil supplies to Europe. The EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, was therefore justified in describing the oil embargo as a show of unity and a "landmark" agreement. An announcement of 9bn in economic aid to Ukraine was also welcome, although it should only be seen as a start. However, financing that colossal challenge is tomorrow's task. In the shorter term – as it attempts to intensify the financial squeeze on Mr Putin – the west must give Ukraine the military assistance it needs to resist Russian forces, while continuing to avoid moves that risk escalating and widening the war. In May, Washington committed to a \$40bn package to aid Ukraine's war effort, and the supply of US weapons is accelerating – including vital artillery capability. European countries need to up the pace of their own contributions, as the Kremlin attempts to concentrate overwhelming force in the east and annex new territory. But the US president, Joe Biden, was right this week to rule out sending long-range missile systems to Ukraine which could be deployed to hit targets inside Russia. The goal, as Mr Putin's appalling war of choice continues, must be that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people are enabled to negotiate its end from a position of strength and dignity. If this is to be achieved, it will be through a combination of economic pressure on Moscow and military resistance. Russia's armed forces are being steadily and damagingly depleted, even as incremental territorial gains are made. Thus far, Mr Putin has shown total disregard for the human cost of his invasion, now measured in tens of thousands of lost lives. But the cumulative impact of sanctions can set logistical limits to his brutal revanchist ambitions. This week's oil embargo is an important step in that direction.

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New cold war must not come to S. Pacific

From May 26 to June 4, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi is paying official visits to eight countries in the Pacific region upon invitation. He will also pay a virtual visit to the Federated States of Micronesia, hold a video conference with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Cook Islands and Premier and Foreign Minister of Niue, and host the second China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Fiji. This is the first time that the Chinese foreign minister will visit all Pacific island countries that have diplomatic relations with China and also the first time that a meeting under the Foreign Ministers' Meeting mechanism will be held in a Pacific island country. This normal interaction between sovereign states, however, has made Washington and Canberra extremely anxious. Since May, the US has accelerated the promotion of its so-called Indo-Pacific Strategy, and launched a diplomatic offensive around China. The South Pacific region has been unilaterally listed by the US in its Indo-Pacific Strategy as a key part. In the joint statement from Quad leaders released in Tokyo on May 24, there is a separate paragraph emphasizing the Quad countries will further enhance cooperation with Pacific island countries. Taking the US and Australia's words and deeds over the past few months into consideration, we can easily decipher their diplomatic rhetoric and grasp the unspoken message: The US and Australia have declared that they will "confront China" and "compete for influence" with China. For Washington, the South Pacific region has long been synonymous with "nuclear weapons testing grounds" and "nuclear waste dumping grounds," while Australia blatantly calls the region its "backyard." In February, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Fiji in a rushed manner. Acting Fijian Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum bluntly said there was a general feeling in Pacific island countries that "Washington is talking about us, not talking to us." Everyone knows that if it weren't for China, the US and Australia would probably not have bent over to look at those South Pacific island countries. Climate change is the very issue that South Pacific island countries most care about. In November, when former Australian prime minister Scott Morrison spoke at the UN Climate Summit, he even referred to "tackling climate change" as "tackling China." He spoke his mind. The people of South Pacific island countries hope to be respected and live a good life. At an international conference, some Australian scholars shared their experience of visiting these countries in recent years: When they got off the plane, they saw that the airport runway and terminal building were renovated; everything was different from 10 years ago. The local people have made money by working in Chinese enterprises, and their living standards have improved significantly. They asked themselves: What did we do in the island countries before?

What if Biden chooses not to run in 2024?

Ashok Swain

Most of presidential politics has boiled down to the ability to deliver in the moment that the national audience tunes in. Voters want to see clear leadership under pressure, so they can have some confidence of their choice in a real crisis. That's what made Bill Clinton and Barack Obama two-term presidents, the only Democratic presidents to be reelected since FDR

Surveying the Republican field for 2024, I found a clear front-runner in former president Donald Trump and plenty of bench strength. There's a front-runner on the Democratic side, too – if President Joe Biden wants another run, it is hard to imagine anyone taking him on, no matter their personal misgivings. If Biden doesn't run, Vice President Kamala Harris is as prohibitive a favourite as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is in a Trump-less GOP field. But leading a pack is never an enviable position. Everything gets thrown at the leader. Third or fourth is fine at this stage. So who could seize the nomination from her if the president retires – as seems likely to many. Start with senators: Vermont's Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts's Elizabeth Warren, Minnesota's Amy Klobuchar, New Jersey's Cory Booker, New York's Kirsten Gillibrand, and Colorado's Michael F. Bennet and John Hickenlooper have all displayed the Oval Office itch before; it never goes away. Sanders running at 81 or 82, much less winning at 83, seems at best improbable. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg hasn't distinguished himself in the Cabinet – yet – but unsmiling ports and supply chains could still turn out to be his calling card. Democrats will find it hard to deny the stage to anyone who has run

perhaps even if she does not. That leaves open the billionaire lane. No, not Mike Bloomberg. Did anyone else notice Jeff Bezos's recent tweets about inflation? Inflation is a career killer for incumbents at the federal level, and even sitting governors get splattered with its mud. But not executives of unquestioned success, especially someone like the Amazon founder who not only can speak to supply chains but who has built them. He has so far has been nimble in his public appearances, and while he is no longer chief executive, his company has proved that it can deliver for people. Amazon's response to the draft decision in the pending Mississippi abortion case – it will pay travel costs for employees seeking abortions – is going to become a progressive "must have" from corporate America. There are other billionaires, of course, but cash must come with charisma. Bring the voters a story, and a back story, and even more besides: known achievement. Bring us what made Buttigieg plausible in 2020: brains and a fluid delivery. Most of presidential politics has boiled down to the ability to deliver in the moment that the national audience tunes in. Voters want to see clear leadership under pressure, so they can have some confidence of their choice in a real crisis. That's what made Bill Clinton and Barack Obama two-term presidents, the only Democratic

presidents to be reelected since FDR. Some Republicans and not a few pundits are obsessed with the possibility that Hillary Clinton could run again – in part because they have always over-estimated her and because she triggers the Never Hillary wing of the GOP in 50 ways. More than one television executive drools over a Trump-Clinton rematch for one reason: ratings. It's all about the ratings. But all that misses how exhausted and impatient Democrats are with the gang from Chappaqua, N.Y., and Little Rock – and have been for years. It's not my tribe though, and I thought Ted Kennedy was going to take down President Jimmy Carter in the 1980 primaries. I thought Clinton was going to best Obama in 2008, and I assumed that Harris would clear the field in 2020. It's a strange business, presidential campaigning, and the leftward migration of the party has older Democratic operatives such as James Carville warning that the drift has gone too far. That's a sign that it is unlikely to stop now. Exactly 50 years ago, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment took place in Stockholm. This was the first UN conference of world leaders to make the environment a major global issue. On 2-3 June 2022, world leaders are coming together again in Stockholm to mark its 50th anniversary. They are expected to talk about the state of the climate and the environment under the theme "A healthy planet for everyone's prosperity – Our responsibility, our opportunity". The UN General Assembly, in a Resolution on May 24, 2021, had decided to convene this Stockholm+50 to organise leadership dialogues on the actions for a healthy planet and prosperity for all, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and faster implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. These leadership dialogues involving all relevant stakeholders are expected to contribute at the Stockholm+50 to some clear and concrete recommendations on strengthening international cooperation and messages for action. Just a few days before the Stockholm+50, as part of the preparation, Sweden also hosted the environmental ministers meeting of the G20 countries. This UN Con-

ference in Stockholm hopes to increase the pace of the countries' transition to a sustainable future for the planet. This week's planned deliberations highlight the importance of global cooperation and multilateralism to address the triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution. All UN member states are invited to attend the Stockholm+50 as all have a shared responsibility for the global environmental challenges. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the US climate envoy John Kerry are expected to attend, among other world leaders. However, it is important to ask, what are these rounds of deliberations among world leaders to deliver in concrete to face the global environmental crisis? In 1972, 114 global leaders met in Stockholm under the slogan 'Only one Earth' to agree on the future environmental work on the planet. The Stockholm Declaration then aimed to inspire and guide the world in preserving and improving the human environment. The 1972 Stockholm Conference became iconic for the modern environmental movement and aroused widespread interest and civic participation worldwide. Not only the global leaders but activists from all over the world also had gathered in Stockholm in a never-before-seen global movement for the environment. But what has happened during these five decades? Unfortunately, not so much that world leaders or environmental activists can be proud of. The Stockholm Conference in 1972 had emphasised the need for a planned and careful transition from the unsighted economic growth to sustainability. In the last five decades, many parts of the world have witnessed rapid economic growth and a reduction in extreme poverty. However, several countries have also faced financial crises that have pushed millions of families into poverty. The debt burden of developing countries has multiplied. More than 800 million people go to sleep without food every day. The gap between the developed and developing countries has widened further. The number of poor and unemployed people is at its highest level ever. Many regions and societies have been left behind and struggling for survival. The quest for economic growth and, in some cases, even providing food and shel-

ter to a rapidly expanding world population has led to the widespread devastation of renewable natural resources like land, air, water, forest, and biodiversity. The decline in the availability of these resources already threatens the life and survival of present and future generations. Climate change has brought further uncertainties over the availability of these critical resources and even threatens the survival of this planet. There is no doubt that climate change has now become a serious concern. In 1972, the Stockholm Declaration had clearly warned, "A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference, we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment on which our life and well-being depend." Instead of heeding this warning, we continue to overexploit nature, destroy the soil, pollute the water, cut down the forests and do very little to control the carbon emission filling the atmosphere. We continue to ignore that environmental degradation and climate change take away our basic human security. After 50 years of the 1972 Stockholm Conference, the world is still far from transitioning to a sustainable and just economy with green policies and institutions. It will be naive to expect much from the gathering and deliberations of world leaders this week in Stockholm to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UN Conference on Human Environment. There is no usual diplomatic buzz and very little expectation over any decisions coming out of the Conference. It is very likely to be another occasion for deliberations over the world's environmental crises without taking any decision on how to address them. Being occupied with the Ukraine crisis and its Nato membership issues, the host, Sweden, does not look well prepared for this important Conference. The global focus on war and refugee issues has forced the critical environment and climate issues into the background. With the Stockholm+50, unfortunately, the world is going to miss another opportunity to save the planet. *Courtesy: Gulf News*

Why West must try harder on case for Ukraine

Chris Doyle

Mediating an outcome to this disastrous war has proved tough for European powers. They know this has upended the post-Second World War security architecture. The challenge is how to end this swiftly but to ensure that this is permanent, not just a cease-fire, where war can begin again at some point in the future. European powers do not want to live in the shadow of Russian threats and aggression

What is clear from the YouGov poll published in Arab News today is that NATO and European powers have to work harder in various areas of the world, including the Middle East, to explain their actions and put their case. Many respondents felt

noncommittal but craved an end to the conflict as soon as possible. Ignoring the region as the EU and the US have done on so many issues recently is so short-sighted. The poll shows why a skeptical audience in the Middle East does not understand the Western position on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Trust in Western powers has not exactly been high in the Middle East. This is understandable given the colonial and imperial records of powers such as Britain, France and latterly the US. Everyone in the region knows about the betrayals of Sykes-Picot and the Balfour Declaration. Everyone knows how the poorly conceived US and UK war on Iraq in 2003 turned out, a disaster Iraq

has yet to recover from. Russia does not have quite the same legacy to contend with. In contrast, if you go to eastern European and Baltic states who lived under the yolk of the Soviet Union, you find an entirely different picture. They feel threatened, as clearly now do Finland and Sweden who are on the path to joining NATO. The Russian invasion has united NATO powers and Europe at a time when divisions had been rampant. The poll highlights the perception that this is a European war and not something of direct concern to the region. It has extremely serious knock-on effects, but it is not a conflict to take sides on. Most countries want to see this ended and to maintain relations with both Russia and the US. Mediating an outcome to this disastrous war has proved tough for European powers. They know this has upended the post-Second World War security architecture. The challenge is how to end this swiftly but to ensure that this is permanent, not just a cease-fire, where war can begin again at some point in the future. European powers do not want to live in the shadow of Russian threats and aggression. Russian leaders clearly do not want to feel threatened by NATO. The challenge is how to provide an exit for Putin from Ukraine. Russian forces have

not fared well and the "three day war" has continued for three months and counting, with Russia being forced back both from the edge of Kyiv and also Kharkiv. Ukrainian forces could actually win, but that also poses a problem in how dangerous the wounded Russian bear would be. Is it wise to humiliate Russia? Aiming for an all-out victory could end up as an all-out loss. Many have criticized the likes of President Macron of France for continuing a dialogue with President Putin. They cannot see the point. They may be right in that the Russian president seems very determined and unlikely to just withdraw. Many argue that the likes of Macron and Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany may privately believe that Ukraine should lose some territory for the sake of a broader peace, something Ukrainians would oppose. Scholz has called for "a cease-fire in Ukraine as quickly as possible." However, the recently elected German chancellor has faced major criticisms within the German parliament over dragging his feet on Ukraine. Italian leaders have also been reluctant to be as forthright as some of their NATO partners. Hungary under President Orbán is barely in the European camp on this, and is blocking any further sanctions on Russia even though this has

caused major ructions with its neighbors, especially Poland. The counter argument to this is powerful. Russia occupied and annexed Crimea in 2014 and started a war in eastern Ukraine. It reinvaded Ukraine in 2022, had invaded Georgia in the past and pumelled Chechnya. How does one ensure that Russia would be content with just some additional territory in Ukraine and stop? Would this also not reward aggression? What sort of security guarantees would be sufficient for vulnerable states and indeed Ukraine itself? Russia is on the back foot militarily so is this the time perhaps to push for a deal? It may have to be bold but would have to include the withdrawal of Russian forces to the pre-Feb. 24 front lines minimum. Russia will want to see lifting of sanctions and guarantees for ethnic Russians in eastern Ukraine. It will not be easy. Trust is non-existent. Neutral brokers trusted by all parties are not readily available. China could play a role but is closer to Russia. Israel and Turkey tried to mediate but failed. Without a viable political process then things could deteriorate rapidly. The fear is that by the time of any future poll of Arab opinion, the crisis will have engulfed the Middle East, just as it has Europe, as this conflict goes truly global. *Courtesy: Arab News*

Briefs

Pak-Turkiye ties brotherly, historical

FROM PAGE 01

with Pakistan in the manufacturing of ships. Erdogan said during their meeting, that they had discussed the regional and international issues in detail. Turkish President said they have reaffirmed to enhance the scope of bilateral ties, adding the high-level meeting would be held in Islamabad in September which would further provide an opportunity for both countries to further foster their brotherly ties. President Erdogan resolved that the close friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened. Earlier, the two leaders also witnessed the signing of various agreements and MoUs for enhanced cooperation in diverse areas of mutual interests. Prior to the joint press conference, the prime minister was welcomed by the Turkish president welcoming him upon his arrival at the Presidential Palace. PM Shehbaz, who is on a three-day official visit, was presented with a guard of honour while the national anthem of the two countries was also performed upon his arrival. The prime minister is accompanied by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif along with the premier's special aides including Fahad Hussain.

PM urges to promote Pak-Turk trade ties

FROM PAGE 01

disasters. He said through a joint adventure, the two countries can rapidly move to the path of development and prosperity. Shehbaz Sharif said the government is taking effective steps to meet the current economic challenges being faced by Pakistan. The Prime Minister also invited Turkish investors to invest in Pakistan in the fields of hydro, solar and wind power projects. He lauded the Turkish investment in solar parks projects in Pakistan as well. Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan will be capable to produce 40,000 megawatt hydroelectricity after construction of dams in the country. He said Pakistan wants to take the benefits from Turkish capabilities in diverse sectors as it has immense experience in construction of dams, production of cheaper electricity and manufacturing vehicles. The Prime Minister said that Turkish investments in the country will also lead to profit to their business community besides development of Pakistan.

PTI demands UN probe into march violence

FROM PAGE 01

ensorship and violence during the "Azadi March" on May 24-25. In the letter, Mazari told the UN officials that Pakistan has been engulfed in a "political crisis" since the ouster of Imran Khan from the prime minister's office. She added that there has been public anger "reflected in huge rallies" after the Imran Khan-led government was ousted through a "regime change scheme". The former human rights minister also shared that the PTI government was replaced by a politician who is "involved in multiple money laundering cases and is out on bail". PTI demands UN to probe state excesses, human rights violations during Azadi March. The letter stated that the government "backed by the establishment" had taken "repressive measures" against the "Azadi March". The UN was also told that the federal government began a crackdown against the PTI workers and leaders in Sindh and Punjab that were "supported by rangers". Talking about the raids by the government, the former minister wrote that the government violated human rights and "used force against unarmed and peaceful civilians in Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad".



ISLAMABAD: Tomas Smetanka, Ambassador of Czech Republic to Pakistan calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ayaz Sadiq at Ministry of Economic Affairs. – DNA

Pakistan women beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets

KARACHI: Leg-spinner Ghulam Fatima produced her career-best while seasoned opener Sidra Amin and captain Bismah Maroof stroked half-centuries as Pakistan recorded a crushing eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ICC Women's Championship ODI series at the Southend Club, Karachi on Wednesday. This was the first match in the 10-team ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 cycle, the top six sides at the end of the cycle (including the tournament hosts) will qualify for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. Set a 170-run target, Pakistan coasted him courtesy a 143-run alliance between Sidra and Bismah – Pakistan record for the second-wicket in ODIs. The previous best was an unbeaten 133-run partnership between Javeria Khan and Nahida Khan against Ireland at Colombo in 2017. On Wednesday afternoon, Sidra and Bismah came together after the early loss of Muneeba Ali (14), the left-hander was dismissed with the total at 28 in the 8th over. The pair produced a series of impressive strokes while rotating the strike with great proficiency as Pakistan made light work of the paltry target. The right-handed Sidra reached the fourth fifty of her career on the 82nd ball of her innings. Bismah registered her 16th fifty on the 84th ball of her innings. Sidra was bowled by Oshadi Ranasinghe for



76 with Pakistan mere two runs away from the target. Sidra scored 76 off 119 balls (seven fours) while Bismah contributed 62 off 101 balls (five fours). Achini Kulasuriya and Oshadi Ranasinghe took the wickets to fall in the Pakistan innings. Pakistan chased down the target in the 42nd over with 49 balls to spare, Omaima Sohail hit the winning run and returned unbeaten on one. Earlier, Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu won the toss for the fourth consecutive time on the tour and like the T20Is, decided to bat first again. Athapaththu lost her opening partner Hasi Perera (4) to a run out with the score at seven. The left-handed Sri Lankan captain was the second wicket to fall as she perished attempting a big hit against left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal. Athapaththu scored 25. From 96 for three in the 30th over, Sri Lanka endured a mid-innings slump as they crashed to 96 for six in a space of four balls with Ghulam Fatima accounting for two wickets off successive balls. The first two go was Prasadani Weerakkody (30 off 44 balls, three fours), Oshadi Ranasinghe was bowled the next ball without offering a shot. Sri Lanka only reached 169 due to a fighting unbeaten 49 off 50 balls (five fours, one six) by Kavisha Dilhari. Ghulam Fatima produced the best spell of her ODI career finishing with hugely impressive figures of 10-2-21-4. – APP

Swiatek into French Open semi final

AGENCIES

PARIS: World number one Iga Swiatek shook off some early nerves to extend her winning series to a staggering 33 as she beat American Jessica Peguila 6-3 6-2 to book her spot in the French Open semi-final on Wednesday. Swiatek, who turned 21 on Tuesday, is on the longest women's tour since bagged 34 victories in 2013. The Polish player, gunning for a second title in Roland Garros, shaky in the initialing past the 11th place in Saturday's final. The 2020 champion is bidding to become the fourth player since 2000 to lift the Suzanne Lenglet Cup after Justine Williams and Maria Sharapova.



US official hopes to boost Pak-US economic ties

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs, Dilawar Syed, spoke of strengthening Washington-Islamabad economic relations when he met Pakistan's Ambassador Sardar Masood Khan here on Thursday, according to a Pakistani embassy press release. Special Representative Dilawar Syed said a Pakistani-American, brings to his office a strong background in business and entrepreneurship, having built global enterprises in the fields of technology, healthcare and business services. Dilawar Syed immigrated to the United States from Pakistan as a college student to attend the College of Wooster in Ohio. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in economics and computer science from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Welcoming Special Representative Dilawar Syed at his residence, Ambassador Masood Khan congratulated him on his appointment to the high office in which he would help transform global economic agenda around new technologies and the tech sector. "We applaud your leadership," the Pakistani envoy said. On his part, Special Representative Dilawar Syed said that there was a huge potential to partnership and that Pakistan and the United States entrance in Silicon



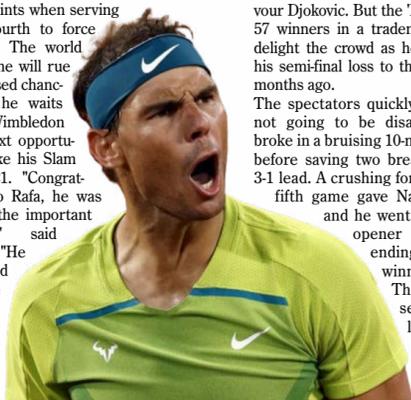
Valley would play a key role in growing bilateral commercial ties. Ambassador Masood Khan, according to the press release, expressed gratitude to the US government for building confidence about investment opportunities in Pakistan. In response, Dilawar Syed he was looking forward to strengthening US-Pak economic partnership.

Nadal downs Djokovic to reach French Open semis

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Rafael Nadal edged a late-night classic against old rival Novak Djokovic in the early hours of Wednesday in four sets to reach his 15th French Open semi-final. The 13-time Roland Garros champion won the pair's 59th career meeting 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) after a four-hour-and-12-minute quarter-final on a raucous Court Philippe Chatrier. Nadal sealed his eighth victory in 10 French Open matches against last year's winner Djokovic at 1:16 am local time (2316 GMT Tuesday) to set up a last-four clash with third seed Alexander Zverev on Friday. "I'm very emotional. For me it's incredible to play here," said Nadal. "Playing against him is always an amazing challenge... to win against Novak, there is only one way, to play your best from the first point until the last." The 35-year-old has lost just three of his 113 matches on the Paris clay since his 2005 title-winning debut and now only trails Djokovic 30-29 in their career head-to-head. The Spaniard, seeded fifth, remains on course for a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title after lifting this year's Australian Open, which Djokovic missed after being deported from the country over his Covid vaccination status.

Djokovic overturned a double-break deficit to take an 88-minute second set and missed two set points when serving for the fourth to force a decider. The world number one will rue those missed chances while he waits until Wimbledon for his next opportunity to take his Slam tally to 21. "Congratulations to Rafa, he was better in the important moments," said Djokovic. "He showed why he was a great champion. Well done to him and his team, he deserves it." Nadal was a slight underdog heading into the match after being taken five sets in the previous round by Felix Auger-Aliassime and he had even hinted it could be his last appearance in Paris due to a persis-



tent foot injury. The colder, slower conditions of the night session were also expected to favour Djokovic. But the 'King of clay' smashed 57 winners in a trademark performance to delight the crowd as he gained revenge for his semi-final loss to the same opponent 12 months ago. The spectators quickly realised they were not going to be disappointed, as Nadal broke in a bruising 10-minute opening game before saving two break points to open a 3-1 lead. A crushing forehand winner in the fifth game gave Nadal a double break and he went on to serve out the opener with relative ease, ending his opponent's winning run of 22 sets. The first game of the second set was even longer than the first, but the result was the same as Nadal took his sixth break point. A string of unforced errors from Djokovic and Nadal's cute winner at the net saw the reigning champion a double break behind again. Djokovic finally took a break point for the first time when Nadal netted a drop shot, before winning another

gruelling return game – in which Nadal was given a warning for a time violation – on his fifth break point to level the set. Opportunities came and went for both players, but Nadal fired long as Djokovic took his second set point in the 10th game. Nadal came out fighting though and broke, to love, in the first game for the third successive set. Djokovic saw another break point come and go before giving up his own serve again to slip 4-1 adrift. Nadal served out for a two-sets-to-one lead in game eight as Djokovic blazed wide on the second set point, with the clock ticking past midnight and shivering fans reaching for blankets to keep warm. Djokovic missed a simple shot early in the fourth set and lashed out at the net in frustration, drawing deafening boos from the crowd. The top seed immediately refocused though and broke serve for a 2-0 lead when a hotly-contested line call went in his favour. Djokovic had the chance to send the match into a decider on his own serve. But Nadal saved two set points before gobbling up a second break point with a trademark forehand winner. Nadal made a rapid start to the crucial tie-break to race into a 6-1 advantage. Djokovic managed to save three of the match points, but Nadal got over the line at the fourth time of asking.

Won't allow Fasadi March in Islamabad

FROM PAGE 01

Sanaullah said that for maintaining law and order, it has been decided to provide more financial, technical resources and legal support to Islamabad Police and Frontier Constabulary while salaries and allowances of police will be made equal to those of Punjab Police. He said the government has decided to immediately pay the arrears of Rs 1 billion of the Police Martyrs Package while the Frontier Constabulary will also be provided necessary training to use it as an anti-riot force. He went on to say that for the foolproof security of the federal capital the government intends to modernize Islamabad Safe City in the style of Lahore, and to ensure law and order as well as street crime the coverage of cameras in Islamabad are being increased to 100 percent. The minister said the federal cabinet has strongly condemned the violence and attacks on police, Rangers and FC personnel by the miscreants of the riot march. He also paid rich tributes to the police, Rangers and FC for handling them professionally and ensuring law and order.

He told the meeting that yesterday the federal cabinet strongly condemned the long marchers' torture on the officials of police, Rangers and FC. It was decided in the meeting that technical and legal support would be provided to Islamabad police and FC for improving law and order situation in the federal capital. The meeting also agreed to bring Islamabad police's salaries and allowances at par with their counterparts in Punjab. The meeting decided to use the Frontier Constabulary as anti-riot police for the help of Islamabad police. The meeting participants were also agreed to make Islamabad security foolproof by modernizing the Islamabad Safe City project on the pattern of Lahore; and street crimes would be curbed and security and law and order would be maintained after installing CCTV cameras in streets.

Top Court disappointed over violence

FROM PAGE 01

rights and obligations of the protesting people, the ordinary public and the duties of the state. "This balance was recorded in good faith by the Court whilst trusting the representations made on behalf of the two opposing parties before it. We are disappointed to note that the bona fide effort made by the Court was disrespected," the apex court said. The SC said it passed the order – by trusting the representations made and assurances given to the court – to create harmony between the two opposing sides for the sake of protecting the public interest and the constitutional rights of the people. "In the present case, to say the least, the moral high ground held by the parties has diminished because public rights, interests, and property of the disinterested public have been breached and damaged badly," the SC said.

Khan to...

FROM PAGE 01

media coverage of the whole march was carried out under difficult circumstances and people were shelled brutally," adding that "shells that are thrown at the terrorists were thrown at the protesters." He said that the country is going through a crucial time. "I am fighting this war for the future generations. If we fail, your children will have to fight this war."

PTI files...

FROM PAGE 01

others as respondents. PTI Chairman Imran Khan had abruptly announced the end of his 'Azadi March' on March 26 and had given the PML-N government a six-day ultimatum to announce a date for a general election. He had later said he called the march off due to fear of bloodshed. The petition filed in court today argued that the court should order that PTI be allowed to hold peaceful protests and gatherings in Islamabad and no obstacles should be put in the way of PTI protests in any city.

Briefs

BTS
'devastated'
by US hate
crimes

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: South Korean K-pop sensations BTS didn't sing a word but in a White House visit Tuesday to meet President Joe Biden the supergroup's message against anti-Asian racism came loud and clear. The seven stars, dressed in matching dark suits and ties, with white shirts, joined White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre at the briefing room podium - a tiny, but powerful stage. The singer Park Ji-min, better known as Jimin, said through a translator that the group is "devastated by the recent surge of hate crimes" in the United States. Another member, Suga, appealed for tolerance, saying, "It's not wrong to be different. I think equality begins when we open up and embrace all of our differences." Group members did not take questions from reporters before going into a meeting with Biden and, according to the White House, recording "digital content." Outside the mansion's grounds on the other side of a tall black fence, fans who dub themselves the "Army" gathered in hopes of a glimpse. The brief appearance before journalists itself reportedly garnered more than 300,000 viewers on the White House's YouTube channel, more than 10 times the traffic on a day when the only people watching events in the briefing room are mostly media or political professionals.

Mexico bans
sales of
e-cigarettes

FOREIGN DESK

MEXICO CITY: Mexico banned sales of electronic cigarettes and other vaping devices on Tuesday because of concerns about their health effects, the government announced. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said it was a "lie" to claim that e-cigarettes are a safe alternative to inhaling tobacco smoke. "The vapors are also harmful for health," added Lopez Obrador, who signed a decree introducing the ban on World No Tobacco Day. He showed a pink vaping device to illustrate how the products are intended to appeal to young people. "Look at the color, the design," Lopez Obrador said. Mexico City authorities meanwhile announced that smoking of any kind would be prohibited in the capital's main square, the Zocalo, and surrounding areas in the busy historic district. City Hall said the move was aimed at raising awareness of the health risks.

Brazil storm
death toll
rises to 106

RECIFE: Flooding and landslides triggered by torrential rain have now killed at least 106 people in northeastern Brazil, officials said Tuesday as emergency workers continued a desperate search. The force of the landslides ripped apart houses in neighborhoods including Jardim Monteverde, a poor community just outside the city of Recife. Locals have likened the roaring surge of mud to a tsunami. "It was a tragedy. I lost a lot of friends," 49-year-old resident Maria Heronize told AFP on the verge of tears. Rescue teams have found dozens of bodies buried after floodwater tore through the neighborhood on Saturday. Six more bodies - the last of those reported missing in the neighborhood - were recovered Friday, bringing the search there to an end, the Pernambuco state government said. Elsewhere, at least eight people remain missing, said disaster management officials for the state, scene of the latest in a series of deadly weather disasters to hit Brazil in recent months. Crews are using dogs trained to sniff for people and planes to locate the missing. At least 24 municipalities in Pernambuco have declared a state of emergency and more than 6,000 people have lost their homes or been forced to flee. - Agencies



ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing Turkish Investors and Pakistani Businessmen at Pakistan Turkish Business Council (Deik- Foreign Economic Relations Board). Ankara. - DNA

There is great interest
in referendum abroad

DNA

NUR-SULTAN: Kazakhstan is to hold a national referendum to introduce changes to the Constitution for the first time, Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said, Kazinform cites the press service of the Kazakh President. «In Kazakhstan, a national referendum on changes to the Constitution is to take place for the first time. The event will be an important step toward strengthening democratic traditions in our country. The citizens of our country know in general the importance of the constitutional transformations,» said the President. The Head of State also noted that there is great interest in the referendum within the society and abroad. «This shows the wide social demand for public and political changes



and the faith of people in the reality of the ongoing changes, which is natural because reforms are held in interests of the entire society and not to increase the privileges of some people, including President's,» said Tokayev. The Kazakh Head of State also said that he had and will have no intention to extend the terms of his presidency with the use of the referendum - the question, according to him, he is asked within the country and abroad. In his words, the present ed program of political modernization is very extensive in its content, with the main emphasis placed on strengthening the system of protection of rights and freedoms of people, greater participation of citizens in state government, increasing transparency and efficiency of government institutions.

Polish FM calls
reforms ambitious

NEWS DESK

NUR-SULTAN: OSCE Head, Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau called the political reforms of Kazakhstan ambitious while meeting with Speaker of the Kazakh Majilis of Parliament Yerlan Koshanov, Kazinform cites the press service of the lower chamber of the Kazakh Parliament. Rau said that the agenda being realized by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in terms of the reform to introduce changes to the Constitution of Kazakhstan will allow strengthening of the Parliament. «We want to call Kazakhstan to make full use of everything our Organization and OSCE Program Office can provide - the resources and knowledge in implementing your ambitious political reform,» said the

OSCE Chairman. Rau is paying a visit to Kazakhstan as part of the familiarization tour of the region as the newly elected OSCE Chairman. He is to visit Uzbekistan and Mongolia as well. Koshanov noted that the visit of the OSCE Chairman takes place ahead of the important political event for Kazakhstan - the referendum. The Majilis speaker believes that it serves as the support for the cause of reforms of the Head of State and the national plebiscite. During the meeting, the sides discussed the current state of and prospects for interaction between Kazakhstan and OSCE, and bilateral Kazakhstan-Poland relations, including parliamentary ones. Rau thanked the Kazakh people for accepting and supporting tens of thousands of Polish deported to Kazakhstan during the political repressions in the 30s of the last century.

Chinese scientist suggests
organic farming methods

WEB DESK

BEIJING: We must reduce the use of chemical fertilizers so organic farming methods such as fermented farmyard manure and returning straw to the field are worthy of promotion, by which can also effectively cope with the high price and shortage of local fertilizers. We are very willing to share our experience with the Pakistani friends in this connection " This was stated by Wang Yan, General Manager of China's Yangling Qingpita Garden Dragon fruit Demonstration Base, in an exclusive with China Economic Net (CEN). He noted that the harvest season for Pakistani mangoes already started. This kind of fruit famed for

strong flavor, high sweetness and fine fiber has long been favored by the world market. However, local farmers are worrying about the production reduction caused by various factors. According to an official of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan last year produced around 1.7 to 1.8 million tons of mango, but this year, he said mango production in the country might face a 30 percent reduction. Some professionals have given even less optimistic forecasts. "This year, mango production may be confined to 0.9 million tonnes from 1.8 million tonnes last year," according to All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters Association (PFVA) Patron in Chief Waheed Ahmed. So, what is the root cause? Pakistan

Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Chairman Dr Ghulam Ali indicated that the early arrival of summer and abnormal high temperature did not allow the crop to get the required time for the process of fruiting. Mid-March saw average temperatures between 37-42 degrees. In contrast, the average temperatures during the previous season were around 34 degrees. Besides, rupee depreciation, rising labor costs along with high tariff of electricity and gas have significantly multiplied the cost of processing mangoes. Given this, exporters have been forced to slash the export target by 25,000 tonnes to 125,000 tonnes for the current season. Facing plight of Pakistani mangoes, Chinese and Pakistani experts are trying to find opportunities for cooperation to change the status quo.

EU, C. Asia special
envoys discuss
Afghanistan

AGENCIES

NUR-SULTAN: The European Union (EU) and the Central Asian Special Representatives for Afghanistan convened in Almaty on May 31 for discussions on developments in Afghanistan, and recent policies affecting the rights and freedom of women and girls as well as solutions to challenges in the Afghan economy. Kazakhstan's delegation was headed by the Deputy Chief of Presidential Staff Kazakhstan - Special Representative of the President for International Cooperation - Erzhan Kazzykhan. EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Deborah Lyons, and EU Special Representative for Central Asia Terhi Hakala also attended the conference. Conference participants reaffirmed their shared aspirations for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan.

'Ukraine war
inflamed
global food
crisis'

WASHINGTON: The UN secretary-general on Wednesday said the ongoing war in Ukraine has inflamed the global food crisis. At a joint press conference with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, Antonio Guterres said the war has also worsened the energy and financial crises, hitting the most vulnerable countries and economies. He said urgent decisions are needed to ensure that Ukrainian grain and Russian fertilizers reach global markets. The UN chief thanked Sweden for its unwavering support to the UN and multilateralism. On Tuesday, Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin told journalists that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke to his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts over the phone about exporting Ukrainian agricultural products by sea. Andersson, for her part, slammed the Russian attack on Ukraine, terming it an "unjustified, clear violation of international law." Accusing Russia of committing war crimes against the civilian population, she added: "Russia must be held accountable for its actions." Asked about Ankara's stance over the country's NATO bid, Andersson said she looks forward to further constructive meetings with Türkiye. Sweden and Finland formally applied to join NATO on May 18, a decision spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24. - Agencies

No
monkeypox
cases in
Kazakhstan

FOREIGN DESK

NUR-SULTAN. KAZINFORM - No cases of monkeypox have been registered in Kazakhstan so far, Minister of Healthcare Azhar Giniyat confirmed Wednesday, Kazinform correspondent reports. While addressing the Government's meeting, Minister Giniyat assured that Kazakhstan has not registered any cases of monkeypox so far. In her words, the cases of this infectious viral disease are mostly registered in the Western Africa, including Congo and Nigeria. Despite all precautions, the fresh cases of monkeypox were reported in the UK, Portugal, and Spain. «The early symptoms of monkeypox are fever, headache, shivering, rash,» said Azhar Giniyat, adding that the ministry stands ready to diagnose the disease with special tests. According to her, all arriving travelers are screened at the border. Temperature measurements are taken in order to prevent the spread of monkeypox in Kazakhstan.

Shanghai
eases Covid
curbs

MONITORING DESK

SHANGHAI: Shanghai slowly whirled back to life Wednesday as a range of Covid-19 restrictions were eased after a two-month lockdown that confined residents to their homes and battered the Chinese economy. The commercial hub of 25 million people was closed down in sections from late March, when the Omicron virus variant fuelled China's worst outbreak in two years. After some rules were gradually relaxed over the past few weeks, authorities on Wednesday began allowing residents in areas deemed low-risk to move around the city freely. "This is a moment that we have been looking forward to for a long time," the Shanghai municipal government said in a statement on social media. "Because of the impact of the epidemic, Shanghai, a megacity, entered an unprecedented period of silence." On Wednesday morning, commuters trickled into subway stations and office buildings, scanning QR codes that certify they are virus-free. Some gathered in small groups to chat in a park, while staff at shopping centres and markets arranged products and cleaned in apparent preparation for customers. A day earlier, bright yellow barriers that had hemmed in buildings and city blocks for weeks were taken down in many areas. More than half a million remained under restrictions as of Wednesday, according to the authorities.

Denmark votes
on joining EU's
defence policy

COPENHAGEN: Traditionally eurosceptic Denmark votes Wednesday in a referendum on whether to overturn its opt-out on the EU's common defence policy after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The vote comes on the heels of neighbouring Finland's and Sweden's historic applications for NATO membership, as the Ukraine war forces countries in Europe to rethink their security policies. More than 65 percent of Denmark's 4.3 million eligible voters are expected to vote in favour of dropping the exemption, an opinion poll published on Sunday suggested. Analysts' predictions have, however, been cautious, given the low voter turnout expected in a country that has often said "no" to more EU integration, most recently in 2015. Polls open at 8:00 am (0600 GMT) and close at 8:00 pm. Final results are due around 11:00 pm. "We must always cast our ballots when there is a vote", Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen urged Danes in the final televised debate of the campaign on Sunday. "I believe with all my heart that we have to vote 'yes'. At a time when we need to fight for security in Europe, we need to be more united with our neighbours", she said. Denmark has been an EU member since 1973, but it put the brakes on transferring more power to Brussels in 1992 when 50.7 percent of Danes rejected the Maastricht Treaty, the EU's founding treaty. It needed to be ratified by all member states to enter into force. In order to persuade Danes to approve the treaty, Copenhagen negotiated a series of exemptions and Danes finally approved it the following year. - Agencies

Janjua aims for fulfilling
PM's vision in Canada

DNA

VANCOUVER: The High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Canada Ambassador Zaheer Aslam Janjua inaugurated the new premises of the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver, official website of the Consulate General and Pakistan-Western Canada Trade Association (PWC-TA) on May 31, 2022. This is in line with the vision of the political leadership's focus on economic diplomacy to capitalize on the trade potential between Pakistan and Western Canada. The High Commissioner also met and held deliberations with the community leaders with an emphasis on serving the Pakistani diaspora across Western Canada. Office bearers and members of various Associations that interacted with the High Commissioner included Pakistan Canada Association, Pakistani Canadian Cultural Association, Pakistani Canadian Women Society, Pakistan Canadian Community Association, Friends of Pakistan Canada Association and Pakistan-Western Canada Trade Association.



Briefs

PIA special flight to take 150 students to China

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain was apprised on Wednesday that a special charter flight of PIA will fly on June 7th to take Pakistani students to Xian, China. While chairing a meeting to resolve the issues of Pakistani students studying in China, the minister was informed that all formal approvals for a charter flight have been gained from the government of China. The flight will take approximately 150 students back to China, contingent on issue of Chinese visas to Pakistani students. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Federal Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HEC, PIA, and Aviation Division. Rana Tanveer said that we have to put top priority on resolving the issue of Pakistani students who are enrolled in Chinese Institutes.

Pak Navy personnel conferred military awards

DNA

KARACHI: In an impressive Investiture Ceremony held at Karachi, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi conferred military awards upon Pakistan Navy personnel. The recipients of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) were Cdre Muhammad Asad Iqbal, Cdre Rehan Ali, Cdre Muhammad Ashraf, Cdre Chaudhary Haroon Ali, Cdre Muhammad Mursaleen, Cdre Abid Hussain and Capt Zeeshan Ali. The recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) were Capt Hameed Sultan, Cdr Zafar Abbas Wahla, Cdr Jahanzaib Ali, Cdr Muhammad Abrar Younas, Lt Cdr Beenish Ejaz, Lt Cdr Muhammad Sumair Irshad and Lt Cdr Muhammad Fahim.

Pak, Iran sign MoU on bilateral cooperation

DNA

ZAHEDAN: The Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Bilateral Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan was signed at the end of the ninth meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee between the two border provinces of neighboring countries. According to the public relations section of the General Directorate of Industry, Mining and Trade of Sistan and Baluchistan, Iraj Hassanpour, head of the Sistan and Baluchistan General Directorate of Industry, Mines and Trade, and head of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mohammad Sadigh, head of the customs of Balochistan, Pakistan, signed a memorandum of understanding between the Joint Border Trade Committee in Zahedan after two days of continuous talks.

Kaira vows to expose Indian cruelties in IIOJK at Int'l fora

Inaugurating the All Parties Consultative Conference on Kashmir issue titled "The Way Forward" in Islamabad, he said the entire Pakistani nation is standing by their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for getting liberation from Indian clutches

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira Wednesday reiterated government's resolve to expose Indian aggression and cruelties in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) at all international fora. Inaugurating the All Parties Consultative Conference on Kashmir issue titled "The Way Forward" in Islamabad, he said the entire Pakistani nation is standing by their Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for getting liberation from Indian clutches. Qamar Zaman Kaira also paid rich tribute to the spirit of Kashmiri leadership of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir for its continuing struggle for achieving their inalienable right to self-determination

Azad Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood said that India had judicially assassinated Maqbool Butt and Afzal Guru. "India is trying to bring a Hindu Chief Minister by changing the proportion of the population," he added. The President of Azad Kashmir said that India was persecuting the minorities inside its country. He said that the situation was not normal in Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal occupation of India. Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas expressed the determination to stand by Kashmiri brothers. He said that the verdict of the court on Yasin Malik was a violation of interna-



national law, which speaks volumes of ineffectiveness of the UN. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas said that the conviction of Yasin Malik by an Indian court is a question mark for international human rights organizations. Kashmiris bury their martyrs under the green crescent flag. Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider Khan said that the sacrifices made in Kashmir are unforgettable. Indian oppression could not dampen the spirit of independence of Kashmiris, he said. Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Abdul Qayyum Niazi underlined the need to work out a plan of action on the Kash-

mir issue. Additional Foreign Secretary Mumtaz Zehra said that the number of forces is being increased to suppress the voice of Kashmiris, India is pretending to the world that the situation in Occupied Kashmir has returned to normal. "Change in population is a violation of international law. We rejected the report of the zoning commission on Occupied Kashmir," she said. She said Yasin Malik was punished illegally, India could not suppress Kashmiris by force. Kashmiri leaders including Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, Sardar Yaqub, former Opposition Leader Chaudhry Yasin, former President Raja Zulqarnain Khan, former Speaker Shah Ghulam Qadir, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Mirza Shafiq Jral, Sardar Hassan Ibrahim and Hurriyat leaders and political dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

ECP takes its decisions fearlessly: CEC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The chief election commissioner has asserted that the Election Commission of Pakistan takes its decisions fearlessly, proclaiming if someone gets upset by these decisions, it's his problem. While having an informal talk with media, CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja said on Wednesday that the Election Commission always took decisions according to the constitution and law "as everyone is our friend". He said that the ECP made its decisions without any fear vowing that it would continue doing so. "If somebody becomes angry with the ECP decisions, it's his problem," he added. The opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, is not happy with the election commissioner accusing him of always showing tilt towards the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. The party held nationwide protests against the ECP on the call of its chief Imran Khan on April 26 for not de-notifying membership of the party's dissident legislators. However, the ECP de-notified 25 dissident MPs of the PTI on May 23 after the verdict of the Supreme Court which rendered dissident members' votes invalid while giving its interpretation of Article 63-A. The PTI again filed a petition in the Lahore High Court against the ECP for delaying notification of five MPs on the reserved seats in Punjab Assembly. The court, however, yesterday directed the Election Commission of Pakistan to issue a ruling by June 2 with regard to the notification of five MPs on reserved seats in the Punjab Assembly.

China conducts 'readiness patrol' around Taiwan

BEIJING: The Chinese military said on Wednesday it had conducted a combat "readiness patrol" in the seas and airspace around Taiwan in recent days, saying it was a necessary action to respond to "collusion" between Washington and Taipei. China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has stepped up its military manoeuvres around the island over the past two years or so, as it seeks to pressure Taipei to accept its sovereignty claims. China has been particularly unhappy with U.S. support for Taiwan. U.S. President Joe Biden angered China last week by appearing to signal a change in an American policy of "strategic ambiguity" on Taiwan by saying the United States would become involved militarily if China were to attack the island. U.S. officials said there had been no change in policy. In a statement, the People's Liberation Army Eastern Theatre Command said the combat "readiness patrol" had happened around Taiwan in recent days and was "a necessary action against U.S.-Taiwan collusion". "Recently, the United States has frequently made moves on the Taiwan issue, saying one thing and doing another, instigating support for Taiwan independence forces, which will push Taiwan into a dangerous situation," the command added. Taiwan is part of China and Chinese troops continue to strengthen military training and preparations to "thwart" interference from external forces' and actions by those who support Taiwan independence, it said. While the statement did not give an exact date for when the drill happened, Taiwan on Monday reported the largest incursion since January by China's air force in its air defence zone. The island's defence ministry said Taiwanese fighters scrambled to warn away 30 aircraft. Taiwan has complained repeatedly of such missions in its Air Defence Identification Zone, or ADIZ. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov meets with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs. - DNA

Pak- Azerbaijan agree to enhance economic ties

The Minister acknowledged the brotherly relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan that established since the independence of Azerbaijan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Wednesday agreed to enhance business and economic relations between both sides. Both of the countries agreed to enhance cooperation in sectors including; business, banking, IT, tourism, energy, sports, health and transport sectors and decided to hold Joint Working Group meetings on them, said a press release issued. Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov to Pakistan calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ayaz Sadiq at Ministry

of Economic Affairs Islamabad. Ayaz Sadiq welcomed the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov. Matters of mutual interests were discussed in the meeting. The Minister acknowledged the brotherly relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan that established since the independence of Azerbaijan. He said that trade and cooperation have steadily grown between the two nations but both countries need to work more on it. The Ambassador acknowledged the same and mentioned the resumption of direct flights between Azerbaijan and Pakistan which will further promote trade and tourism.

Minister appreciated the effort and reiterated the importance of great economic relations between two countries. For which, he proposed to increase trade volume including initiation of import line between both nations that will mutually benefit them. Minister expressed his desire of greater collaboration in assistance of government-to-government deal in energy sector including; LNG, LPG and gas sector from Azerbaijan that will help mitigating the current oil shortage in the country. Deputy head of mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Tamerlan Khalilov and Senior officials of the Ministry attended the meeting.

Very hot weather likely in plain areas

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Thursday forecast rain-thunderstorm with gusty/dust raising winds for a few places in Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and upper Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. 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. 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, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Potohar region. The rainfall recorded during the last 24 hours was Punjab: Islamabad (Airport) 14 C, Jhelum 05, Attock 04, Murree 01, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Kakul 10, Malam Jabba 04, Balakot 03, Kalam 01, Gilgit Baltistan: Babusar, Bagrote 05, Astore 04, Hunza 03, Gilgit 01, Kashmir: Muzaffarabad 03 and Garhidupatta 02 mm. - APP

Texas town mourns teacher killed in school shooting

FOREIGN DESK

UVALDE: The Texas town of Uvalde will on Wednesday lay 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 teen-aged gunman went on a rampage at Robb Elementary on May 24, a massacre that also left another teacher and 19 young children dead. Adding to the tragedy, her 50-year-old husband Joe died two days later. They had been married for more than 24 years. "They began their relationship in high school and it flourished into a love that was beautiful and kind," obituaries for the two said. They are survived by two daughters and two sons. A GoFundMe set up for the Garcias said Joe died of a "medical emergency" on May 26. It sought to raise \$10,000, but more than \$2.78 million has been donated so far. "I truly believe Joe died of a broken heart and losing the love of his life," the page said. John Martinez, who identified himself as Joe's nephew, also tweeted that the father of four had "passed away due to grief." The first funerals for students killed in the attack were held Tuesday. As the community mourned, anger has seethed over the response of police. Officers have come under intense criticism over why it took well over an hour to neutralize the gunman, a move Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) director Steven McCraw has admitted was the "wrong decision."

Germany to send IRIS-T air defence system to Ukraine

BERLIN: Germany will supply Ukraine with the IRIS-T air defence system, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, following pleas from Kyiv and German opposition parties to step up heavy weapons deliveries. Scholz said Germany had been "delivering continuously since the beginning of the war", pointing to more than 15 million rounds of ammunition, 100,000 grenades and over 5,000 anti-tank mines sent to Ukraine since Russia invaded it on Feb. 24. "Most recently, the government has decided that we will deliver the most modern air defence system that Germany has in the form of the IRIS-T," Scholz told lawmakers in the Bundestag, without specifying the exact model. A security source told Reuters last month that Germany was considering supplying IRIS-T SLM medium-range surface-to-air defence systems to Ukraine.

Berlin's decision on the matter does not mean the air defence system will be delivered swiftly. "It will take a while, months," Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told lawmakers, adding the system, made by arms manufacturer Diehl, had initially been intended for "another country". Responding to critics who claim Berlin has not done enough to help Ukraine defend itself, Scholz told parliament his government had responded to the Russian attack with a "massive change of policy in Germany" by opting to send heavy weapons into a war zone. Ukraine's requests for heavy weapons intensified in recent weeks when Moscow turned its fiercest firepower on the country's east after failing to take the capital, Kyiv. Scholz said talks were continuing with Germany's partners on ways to further arm Ukraine against the Russian attack. - Agencies

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