



RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Ukrainian troops evacuate from Mariupol, ceding control to Russia

Ukrainian forces are advancing in the northeast. Flood saves Ukrainian village from Russian occupation.

Putin sees no threat from Nato expansion, warns against military build-up



KIEV: Ukraine says it has regained control of territory on the Russian border near the city of Kharkiv, as Moscow's military faces the prospect of a bigger NATO and a bogged-down conflict - now in its 82nd day.

More than 260 Ukrainian fighters, including some who are badly wounded, have been evacuated from a steel plant in the ruined city of Mariupol and taken to areas under Russia's control, the Ukrainian military said.

Similarly, the intentional flooding of a small village north of Kiev that created a quagmire and submerged cellars and fields, but prevented a Russian attack on the capital, was worth all the sacrifice, residents said.

Ukrainian forces opened a dam early in the war in Demydiv, causing the Irpin River to flood the village and thousands of acres around.

The move has since been credited with stopping Russian soldiers and tanks from breaking through Ukraine's lines. "Of course, it was good," said Volodymyr Artemchuk, a 60-year-old resident of Demydiv.

"What would have happened if they (Russian forces) were able to cross the little river and then went onto Kyiv?" More than a third of some fields have been flooded, said Oleksandr Rybalko, 39.

Some two months later, people in the village were still dealing with the aftermath of the flooding, using inflatable boats to move around and planting whatever dry swaths of lands were left with flowers and vegetables.

Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that there was no threat to Russia if Sweden and Finland joined NATO but cautioned that Moscow

would respond if the U.S.-led alliance bolstered military infrastructure in the new Nordic members. Putin, Russia's paramount leader since 1999, has repeatedly cited the post-Soviet enlargement of the NATO alliance eastwards toward Russia's borders as a reason for the conflict of Ukraine.

But Putin, who has in recent months rattled Russia's nuclear sabre at the West over Ukraine, made an unusually calm response to Finland and Sweden's bids to join NATO, the biggest strategic consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to date.

Ukrainian soldiers are advancing to the north and northeast of Kharkiv, according to the head of the northeastern city's regional military administration, as a weeks-long counter-attack gathers pace. Oleh Syniehubov told Ukrainian television Tuesday that fighting was underway northeast of Ukraine's second-largest city, toward the town of Vovchansk, along the Russia-Ukraine border.

The town has become a resupply route for Russian forces as they try to sustain their offensive into the Donetsk and Luhansk regions further south.

Disrupting that supply line could compromise the Russians' ability to reinforce their offensive towards Sloviansk and Kramatorsk.

"Active hostilities are taking place in settlements north of the region," Syniehubov said. "The enemy is focused on holding positions. Our troops have to repel (them on) every inch of our territory." (Agencies)

Turkey threatens to block Finland, Sweden Nato bids

Erdogan says Swedish, Finnish shouldn't bother coming to Turkey

ANKARA: Turkey's president has restated his opposition to Finland and Sweden joining Nato - just hours after they said they would seek membership.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the two Scandinavian nations need not send delegations to convince Turkey, a key Nato member, of their bids.

He is angered by what he sees as their willingness to host Kurdish militants. Earlier, Sweden said Europe was living in a dangerous new reality, referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the move by Finland and Sweden to join the 30-member military alliance did not threaten Moscow directly - but stressed that any expansion of military infrastructure would trigger a response from the Kremlin. At a news conference on Monday, Mr Erdogan said Turkey opposed the Finnish and the Swedish bids to join



Nato, describing Sweden as a "hatchery" for terrorist organisations.

"Neither of these countries have a clear, open attitude towards terrorist organisation. How can we trust them?" the Turkish president said. Turkey accuses the two Nordic nations of harbouring members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group it views as a terrorist organisation, and followers of Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara accuses of orchestrating a 2016 coup attempt. (Agencies)

Sri Lanka proposes privatizing national airline amid crisis

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's new prime minister has proposed privatizing the country's loss-making national airline as part of reforms aimed at solving the country worst economic crisis in decades.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a message to the people that he plans to propose a special relief budget that will take the place of the development-oriented budget earlier approved for this year. He said it would channel funds previously allocated for infrastructure development to public welfare.

He said the country's financial health is so poor that the government has been forced to print money to pay the salaries of government workers and buy other goods and services.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed Wickremesinghe as prime minister last Thursday in a bid to quell the island nation's political and economic crisis.

The president's brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, stepped down as prime minister on May 9 amid violence that left nine people dead and more than 200 wounded. Protesters have demanded the powerful Rajapaksa family resign to take responsibility for leading the country into the economic crisis.

For months, Sri Lankans have been forced to wait in long lines to purchase scarce imported essentials such as medicines, fuel, cooking gas and food because of a severe shortage of foreign currency. Government revenues have also plunged. (Agencies)

McDonald's to exit Russia after 30 years

MOSCOW: McDonald's Corp said on Monday it has started a process to sell all its restaurants in Russia, exiting the country after more than 30 years following its invasion of Ukraine.

The world's largest fast food chain had in March decided to close its 847 restaurants in Russia, taking a hit of \$50 million per month. It now expects to record a non-cash charge of about \$1.2 billion to \$1.4 billion following the sale.

The decision to sell its Russia assets, including the iconic Pushkin Square location in central Moscow, marks a major retreat by an iconic Western brand.

Once a symbol of flourishing American capitalism in the dying embers of the Soviet Union, the store was the first to be opened in the country in 1990. More than 5,000 people had attended the opening.

McDonald's said it was looking to sell all its restaurants in Russia to a local buyer, but will continue to retain the trademark. "The humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, and the precipitating



unpredictable operating environment, have led McDonald's to conclude that continued ownership of the business in Russia is no longer tenable," McDonald's said.

A slew of other Western companies have agreed to sell their Russian assets or hand them over to local managers as they scramble to comply with sanctions over the Ukraine conflict and deal with threats from the Kremlin that foreign-owned assets may be seized.

The company said it would ensure that its 62,000 employees in Russia continue to be paid until the close of any transaction and that they have future jobs with any potential buyer. (Agencies)

US air force test hypersonic weapon

WASHINGTON: The US air force said they have conducted a successful test of a hypersonic weapon, which flew at five times the speed of sound.

The test was conducted on Sunday off the coast of Southern California when a B-52 bomber released an Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW), the Air Force said in a statement.

"Following separation from the aircraft, the ARRW's booster ignited and burned for expected duration, achieving hypersonic speeds five times greater than the speed of sound," it said.

The US is not alone in developing hypersonic weapons, whose speed and manoeuvrability make them difficult to track and intercept. Russia has fired hypersonic missiles at targets in Ukraine and China has tested hypersonic weapons, US military officials have said. China's foreign ministry denied in October that it had conducted a weapons test. (Agencies)

Iran bus drivers stage strike to protest low salaries

TEHRAN: Dozens of bus drivers went on strike in the Iranian capital Monday to protest over their living conditions following demonstrations in other cities in past days, local media reported.

The drivers and workers of the Tehran Bus Company decried the failure to implement a decision by the Supreme Labour Council to introduce a 10 percent salary increase, reformist Shargh newspaper wrote on Twitter.

The strike comes days after Iranian media reported that a demonstrator had been killed in the southwestern Iranian city of Dezful during protests over rising food prices.

Demonstrators on Monday chanted slogans describing Tehran's mayor as "in-

competent" and calling on him to resign, as seen in a video of the protest tweeted by Shargh.

Tehran mayor Alireza Zakani attended a meeting with the striking workers and spoke with their representative, Mehr news agency reported.

The authorities announced last week a series of measures to tackle mounting economic challenges, such as changing a subsidy system and raising the prices of staple goods, including cooking oil and dairy products.

Hundreds took to the streets in a number of Iranian cities to protest the government's decision, including in Tehran province, state news agency IRNA reported. (Agencies)

Sandstorm closes schools, offices and halts flights in Iraq

BAGHDAD: A heavy sandstorm in Iraq, the latest of what Iraqis say is an unprecedented number to hit the country in recent weeks, closed some state schools and offices and halted flights at Baghdad International Airport on.

Authorities in Baghdad, including the Education Ministry, declared a day off for local government institutions, with the exception of health services. Hundreds of people across the capital and southern cities went to hospitals with breathing difficulties, medical officials said.

Baghdad International Airport said in a statement it was closing its airspace and halting all flights until further notice because of low visibility.



At least one sandstorm a week has hit Iraq in the past few weeks in what Iraqis say is the worst such spate in living memory.

"It's every three or four days now," said taxi driver Ahmed Zaman, 23. "It's clearly a result of climate change and lack of rain, whenever there's wind it just kicks

up dust and sand."

In Baghdad and southern Iraqi cities, a red haze of dust and sand reduced visibility to just a few hundred feet. "We've had 75 cases of people with respiratory problems," said Ihsan Mawlood, an accident and emergency doctor in a Baghdad hospital. "We're treating patients with oxygen machines if necessary."

Iraq is the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to the climate crisis, according to the United Nations.

Drought and extreme temperatures are drying up farmland and making large parts of Iraq barely habitable during the summer months. The country posted record temperatures of at least 52 degrees Celsius in recent years. (Agencies)

Taliban promise 'good news' on girls' education in Afghanistan

KABUL: Afghanistan's interior minister promised "very good news" soon on the return of girls to secondary schools, in a rare interview broadcast the other day.

At the end of March, the Taliban, who took power after US forces withdrew from the country last August, closed high schools and colleges for girls just hours after their reopening.

The unexpected reversal, ordered by Hibatullah Akhundzada, the supreme leader of the Taliban and of the country, outraged many Afghans and the international community.

"I would like to provide some clarification. There is no one who opposes education for women," said Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, long one of the most secretive Taliban leaders and who only

showed his face in public for the first time in March.

He argued that girls could already go to primary school. "Above that grade, the work is continuing on a mechanism" to allow girls to attend secondary school, he said in his first televised interview. "Very soon you will hear very good news about this issue," he said.

Haqqani hinted that the "mechanism" was linked to school dress codes, explaining that education should be based on Afghan "culture" and "Islamic rules and principles," and referred "more broadly" to the issue of women wearing the hijab. After their return to power, the Taliban demanded that women wear at least a hijab, a scarf covering the head but revealing the face. (Agencies)

About Khyber Mail The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.

Peshawar Museum with 30,000 rare antiquities of Gandhara art attracts foreign tourists

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Museum, the only museum of Gandhara art in the world with around 30,000 rare antiquities has attracted domestic and foreign tourists besides archaeologists in droves.

The tourists took a keen interest in its Mughal-era architecture, artifacts, ancient weapons of the British army, and swords of freedom fighters.

Following completion of conservation and renovation work by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Peshawar Museums with a collection of about 30,000 rare antiquities and Gandhara artifacts is a center of attraction for foreign and domestic tourists, followers of Buddhism, monks, diplomats, the general public, archaeologists and architectural lovers these days as it was also opened for tourists at night.

Impressed by its architectural designs and Gandhara artifacts, a group of foreign tourists and diplomats has recently visited Peshawar Museum where they were briefed by Director Archaeology and Museums, Dr. Abdul Samad Khan, and other senior officers of the department about the completed conservation project, its history and Gandhara treasures housed in the facility.

Dr. Abdul Samad said the entire building of colonial-era including its exterior and



interior structure and designs have completely been rehabilitated and conserved by renowned experts without compromising on its original ancient architecture and designs.

The two-story building, an amalgamation of British and Mughal architectures, originally consisted of the main hall and two side aisles on the ground and first floor, surmounted by four elegant cupolas and a small pinnacle on all corners, has been rehabilitated and conserved leaving unerasable imprints on visitors' minds.

"It is the only museum in the world where the complete life story of the Founder of Buddhism, Lord Buddha was preserved in the form of panels and statues," Dr. Abdul Samad said.

The completed renovation and conservation work includes an ancient main hall constructed in 1906 in memory of Queen Victoria where the complete life story of Lord Buddha, Buddha Gallery with stat-

ues of Lord Buddha, and Buddha Savatta Gallery having princely life of Lord Buddha were attracting tourists from across the world.

The renovation work was necessitated after its exterior and interior structure was badly damaged by earthquakes, torrential rains, and harsh weather.

Peshawar Museum was constructed some 150 years back on Sher Suri Road opposite Governor House where over 30,000 rare antiques, artifacts, coins, swords, guns, and other antiquities including 16,000 were properly showcased and around 14,000 artifacts were lying in cupboards. Besides its colonial-era dorms and ceilings, all the outdated plastic pipes, as well as electrical wires, were replaced with imported electrification and other relevant materials to prevent water seepage and ensure uninterrupted power supply in a unique style of colorful lighting looks awesome at night. (APP)

Allied Bank's retired employees demand paying them pension dues forthwith

PESHAWAR: Retired employees of Allied Bank Limited (ABL) have asked the government to direct the management of the bank to pay them their pending pension dues immediately and halt creating hurdles and delaying tactics in this regard.

Talking to The Khyber Mail, Peshawar on Friday, Muhammad Irshad Tanoli, ex-vice president of the ABL on behalf of 2800 retired employees of the ABL said that despite knocking at apex court's door, as well as bringing this matter into the notice of government high ups, parliamentarians, but to no avail so far unfortunately.

Also, a petitioner & attorney on behalf of 2800 retired employees of the ABL, Irshad Tanoli, said that they have been fighting for their due right for over a decade, though Apex courts have decided in their favor, we have to get justice yet. He said that they are in extremely poor financial condition can hardly afford to engage services of a senior advocate, whereas banks purchase services of heavy weight lawyers who always manage to steer the court away from facts and merits of the case and waste years to resolve and settle issues like maintainability, jurisdiction, competence to file suit or issue orders etc.

Even courts do not question their non-appearance on given dates. He maintained that in this year so far almost 100 of our colleagues have died. Last year more than 300 expired.

The banks and their lawyers deliberately delay and procrastinate the hearings with the hope of demise of remaining voice raisers. Irshad Tanoli explained that a civil suit, filed by the 22 petitioners decided by PHC, on 22.01.2018, in favour of retired employees of ABL, after continues struggle of 10 years.

Allied Bank filed an appeal against the said judgment before SCP, during this period, when the Bank's appeal was

pending before the learned court for decision, 195 retirees having domicile of various cities, throughout Pakistan filed 10, CMAs before the August court requesting therein, to include their names as party, in the captioned case of 22 petitioners, who won their case from PHC, and appeal their against is pending before SCP.

The August Court, very kindly disposed off these CMAs petitions, with the directives that, at the current stage their name couldn't be included as a party but, they plus all others having the same grievances will be benefitted from the decision of the case, hence entire retired employees who have been mishandled by the Bank management became entitled from the judgment of PHC.

He continued that bank appeal against these 22 petitioners was decided in favour of Retired Employees on 25.09.2020. Later on Allied Bank Filed Review Appeal against the Judgment of SCP, which also dismissed on 17.01.2020, in favour of Employees, meanwhile the retirees filed Execution petition before Civil Court Peshawar, Allied Bank deposited unconditional surety Bond before the concerned court for the implementation of SCP judgment.

The Decree holders, got issued orders, for the attachment of Allied Bank, properties & Accounts being maintained with SBP, Peshawar, for the payment of decreed amount, Allied Bank filed Objection Petition before Civil Court, which was dismissed in favour of Employees. Later on Allied Bank Filed an appeal before D&SJ, against the Implementation of SCP orders, which was also dismissed in favour of Employees, and now Allied Bank is waiting the result of its appeal pending before PHC, and creating hurdles, and applying delaying tactics, so that the old retirees should die one by one and their right should not be paid in their lifetimes.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Organization	Phone No
Rescue 1122 HQrs	091-2264224-25
Rescue 1122 Mardan	0937-9230770
Fire Brigade Cantt:	091-9212534
Fire Brigade City	091-2566666
Police Emergency	091-9212222
Edhi Ambulance	091-2214575
Red Crescent Ambulance	091-2210836
Emergency Ambulance	091-2590846
Civil Defence, Peshawar	091-9212176
Lady Reading Hospital	091-9211430
HMC Peshawar	091-9217140-46
KTH Peshawar	091-9216340-8
Irnam Hospital	091-9216115
Mission Hospital	091-2212371
Al-Khidmat Hospital	091-2215945
Fauji Foundation Hospital	091-9212771-4
Frontier Foundation Blood Services	091-5703463
Hamza Foundation, Peshawar	091-5841632
Sui Gas, Peshawar	091-9213016
Wapda Complaint Peshawar	091-9212041
PIA, Peshawar	091-9213351
Airport Inquiry	114
Railway Inquiry	117

Students donate blood for cancer patients

PESHAWAR: The Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Management (CDPM), University of Peshawar and Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) organised a blood donation camp for the cancer patients of Shaukat Khanam Hospital.

Around 45-50 bags of blood were donated by the students in the camp which was inaugurated by Director CDPM Prof Dr Zulfikar Ali, accompanied by SKMCH&RC Medical Oncologist Dr Asad Ali Shah, Assistant Manager Ms Najmul Sahar, Deputy Manager Fundraising Asad Ali and faculty members and students of the CDPM. Speaking on the occasion, the Director CDPM Dr Zulfikar Ali said that blood donation is a selfless act that helps save lives. It is one of the most positive ways to help someone in need. By donating blood, you are donating an irreplaceable gift that will save someone's life. (APP)

UNICEF, WSSP willing to work on infrastructure development

PESHAWAR: Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Wednesday received applause and recognition from a visiting UNICEF delegation for successfully implementing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects.

Project Department of WSSP, in a very short time, replaced old pumping machinery at 40 tube-wells, 22000 ft water supply lines in several union councils that is supplying clean drinking water to over 4000 households.

WSSP also installed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system on 46 tube-wells to measure water quantity. WSSP carrying out an awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) drive throughout the city.

Pleased with quality and speed with which the projects were completed, the delegation expressed willingness to continue working with WSSP on infrastructure development side.

The delegation visited tube-wells in Gulberg locality and inspected operation and performance of the new machinery installed. They also inspected SCADA system installed on 46 tube-wells on ex-

perimental basis, branding of tube-wells, where Engr Haleem Khan and Engr Wakeelzada gave briefing on SCADA importance.

The delegation led by Scott Whoolery, Chief of field operation for unicef, also visited a school where Citizens Liaison Cell teams have conducted awareness drives on water and sanitation.

Scott interacted with students shared thoughts on importance of water, sanitation and hygiene and children's role in clean environment. General Manager (ops) Engr Riaz Ahmad Khan briefed the guests on overall phases of projects that are completed and benefiting the local community.

Khan explained that Project Department of WSSP has completed all projects before stipulated timeframe and thousands of households have no access to clean drinking water. "Installation of SCADA is a step towards automation from manual," said Haleem. He said that the projects is time-consuming, the company would install it on all of 550 tube-wells gradually after evaluation and success of the existing system. (APP)

SCCI, CBP agree to work jointly for resolving traders' issues

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Cantonment Board Peshawar have agreed to work jointly for amicable resolution of trading community issues.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between traders delegation led by SCCI president Hasnain Khurshid Ahmad with Chief Executive Aamir Rasheed here at cantonment board office, according to a statement issued here on Friday.

The traders' representative delegation consisted of Muejeb Ur Rehman, Waqar Zaki, Siraj Afridi, Zahoor Khan, Nisar Ahmad and others. Officials concerned were present during the meeting.

Hasnain Khurshid on the occasion lauded the Cantonment board Peshawar initiatives and ongoing development projects and beautification plan.

The delegation apprised the CEO Cantt Board Peshawar regarding issues of the trading community of Saddar Bazar Peshawar. On which, the CEO has assured the delegation for their amicable resolution and also issued instructions on spot in this regard.

The participants demanded the reduction in the ratio of professional tax in Peshawar saddar while removing the concrete block near Imambargah (Husainia Hall) Saddar to ensure smooth traffic flow on the interior Saddar road. The traders asked the Cantonment Board Peshawar to take measures for functionalizing CCTV cameras, effective actions against encroachment and parking mafia, besides cleanliness and sprinkling water on roads.

The delegation urged expansion of the entry point/route near United Plaza and identification of two separate locations for motorbike parking lots.

The CEO was informed that the issue of Deans Centre Saddar Peshawar was under consideration with cantonment board Peshawar so efforts should be expedited to resolve the issues immediately.

CEO Aamir Rasheed agreed with proposals of SCCI chief and rest member of the delegation and said the Cantonment Board Peshawar is fully committed to facilitate the trading community at every level. (APP)

Book on culture comes out

PESHAWAR: A book titled "Tehzeeb Ka Safar", authored by a Peshawar-based journalist, has come out.

The book by journalist and columnist Muhammad Daud sheds light on the issues facing the region as well as Pakistan-Iran cultures. The book is considered a good addition to the list of travelogues. The book is available at

University Book Agency and other major bookstores of the city.

The 210-page book also discusses the enhancement of trade between Pakistan and Iran and the need for an open trade agreement between the two countries for the overall improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of people. (PR)

Public financial management act will become law this year: Jhagra

PESHAWAR: Minister Finance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Taimur Khan Jhagra on Saturday said that Public Financial Management Act (PFM) is aimed for improving officials' performance in public financial management, budgeting, accounting and auditing sectors.

In a statement, he said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continues on the most aspirational reform journey in the country. He said that new Public Financial Management Act is ready and will be law by this year's budget, adding it will be the best of its kind in the country.

He said that PFM Act will not just codify existing budget procedures into law. The Act will improve budgeting, financial management and transparency, and be bold and innovative at the same time, he added.

The Finance Minister said the officials in the government sectors would have to



work hard to increase their competence in the financial management matters to improve the level of good governance and eliminate corruption.

He said the KP government was utilizing all available resources to ensure transparency in financial matters and undoing corrupt practices. The PTI government would setup better governance in the province through its reforms agenda, he added. (APP)

Fake mineral water factory sealed

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar Friday sealed a plant of a fake mineral water factory in Kohat and arrested its manager.

On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Shafiullah Khan, Assistant Commissioner (AC), Nadia Nawaz Doggar inspected a mineral water factory in Qamardin Ghari wherein the water of the tube-well was being filled in bottle in a very unhygienic conditions.

Labels of the mineral water were being pasted on the bottles while the plant was out of order.

Expressing anguish over the situation, the Assistant Commissioner sealed the factory and arrested its manager.

According to the Assistant Commissioner the factory was being operated without registration and no objective certificate (NoC) and cleanliness conditions were very poor.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Shafiullah Khan has directed the inspection of all mineral water factories across the district and legal action those operating factories without registration and violating the principles of hygiene. (APP)



PESHAWAR: Vendor is preparing traditional snow ice locally called "Gola Baraf" to attract the customer at Faqirabad Area. APP photo.



Editor-in-Chief: Rizwan Inayat

Editor: Omer Rizwan

First Floor, Town Heights, Old Bara Road, University Town Peshawar
 Website: www.thekhybermail.com
 E-mail: khybermail@gmail.com
 Phone: 091-7081579

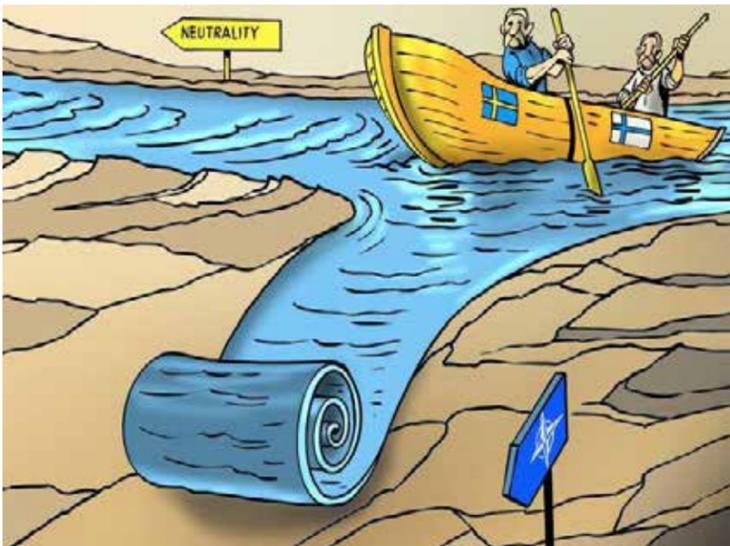
Tribal districts need more attention

The government and security forces are working on various projects for the youth of the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to make them skilled so that they can get decent jobs by working in different fields. In this connection, in the tribal districts of Bajaur, Mohmand and Khyber, important steps are being taken by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Information Technology Board Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Frontier Corps North to impart skills to the youth.

It's true and no one denying the fact that the people of ex-tribal belt have been totally deprived of the basic life facilities and that's why they suffered a lot. Now it is a right time to equip tribesmen with all kind of skills.

Development of infrastructure as well as establishment of educational institutions in the merged districts in collaboration with the security forces in the form of cadet colleges and schools and other vocational training centers is a good omen. However, it should not be dealt like that of the rehabilitation of the educational institutions affected by the earthquake in 2005 are still incomplete.

Every department should be aware of its responsibilities anyway. Though, the KP government has not yet received 3pc funds in the NFC in this regard. However it is prime duty of the government to provide accurate funds for the purpose at accurate time as the completion of these projects would bring a new era of progress and development in the ever neglected ex-tribal areas.



The Future of Pakistan

By Ayesha Ehtesham

The future of Pakistan seems bleak due to prevalent economic and political conditions. The power game has become a norm in politics. Public service delivery by the government seems to be the least priority.

The skyrocketing inflation, increasing trade deficit and depleting financial reserves of the state are a clear testament to the poor state of Pakistan. The present scenario depicts serious repercussions on the governance, national security, and society of Pakistan.

The governance crisis has become the fate of Pakistan.

The socio-economic development, provision of accountability, rule of law and meritocracy are all in shambles. The inflation is surging above 11 per cent as per the reports of the Economic Survey of Pakistan, resultantly pushing people into the menace of poverty. The accountability and transparency of institutions seem to be a political hunt other than serving the state's interest. The rule of law depicts a grim picture due to the lack of social justice.

There are 2159655 pending cases across various Pakistani courts. Out of these in several cases, the parties to a case have passed away and now the descendants are seeking a remedy. The meritocracy is yet to be promoted unless promotions based on clanship and dynastic politics are prevented. Moreover, the present political circumstances have further rendered poor governance in the country.

National security is once again entrapped with terrorism and non-traditional security threats. The surging suicide attacks at Peshawar Mosque and Karachi university elucidate the existence of terrorist networks funded by external sources to promote instability and chaos in the country.

The political fights and instability have provided an opportunity for terrorist agents to further enhance the plethora of problems for the nation.

Moreover, Pakistani society has also become a victim of this political chaos. There is increasing disunity among the population over political parties.

The polarized society is further promoting hatred and intolerance among people. Pakistan is already struggling over the divide between class and ethnicities and now thanks to the current dilemma one other factor has also become part of it. The economic problems are creating a situation of anomie in society, according to sociologist Ibn-e-Durkheim anomie promotes individualism that deteriorates the stability of society giving rise to social crimes.

It is quite evident that if the same condition prevails the people would certainly deviate from the norms of society to earn livelihoods through theft bribery and other illegitimate ways.

There is an increasing threat to the national integration of states. It is also breeding elements of hybrid warfare in society.

Hence it is high time to foresee in which direction the country is heading.

The only panacea to all these problems is the promotion of true democracy in letters and spirits. The nation needs to awake from its slumber of slavery and unawareness to save Pakistan.

The economic problems are creating a situation of anomie in society, according to sociologist Ibn-e-Durkheim anomie promotes individualism that deteriorates the stability of society giving rise to social crimes.

- The writer is a part of the Civil Service of Pakistan.

The elusive dream of national integration

By Naghmana A Hashmi

"National integration implies the avoidance of divisive movements that will balance the presence of attitudes in the nation and society that distinguish national and public interest from parochial interest".

—Myron Weiner NATIONAL integration is not made by bricks and mortar, mould and hammer, but it quietly grows in people's hearts and minds through concerted efforts by society.

It is a feeling of oneness that raises a nation above all narrow and divisive tendencies and makes for genuine patriotism and progress.

It is a socio-psychological and educational process that inculcates this feeling of unity and harmony and develops a sense of common citizenship and loyalty to the nation.

The region that constitutes Pakistan today has for centuries been a melting pot of civilizations and center of interaction of different religions, cultures, languages, political systems and thought processes.

Each enriching the other and eventually evolving into what we today relate to as Pakistani culture and identity.

The importance of national integration cannot be overemphasized in Pakistan which has a varied society and culture and a large population.

Being different, we still feel that we somehow are all one nation sharing same flag and same national anthem.

Ironically despite this underlying feeling of a nation, the conviction of being a sin-

gle nation has never really taken roots in our society.

Although created on the basis of two-nation theory, we, in Pakistan have throughout struggled to curb ideological, parochial, linguistic and sectarian differences resulting in unending grievances against the state.

Stabilization and continuation of democracy, maintenance of sustainable economic growth, dispensation of justice and provision of equal rights to all depend on prevalence of a strong sense of national integration.

Pakistan faced copious problems of language and ethnicity right from inception. Ethnic nationalism came in direct conflict with religion and language in many parts of Pakistan. The clash of religion and ethnicity created political instability and adversely affected the process of national integration particularly in East Pakistan with disastrous consequences.

If we were cognizant of the extent of the sensitivities of our Bengali brethren, paid heed to their genuine demands and tried to inculcate that feeling of national integration and commonality of national interest, maybe we would not have had to face the tragedy of fall of Dhaka.

Unfortunately we are slow at learning from history and have short memories.

Claims of enhancing and strengthening national integration have been made by successive governments since 1971, but actual progress on ground is nothing

much to write about.

Today again we are failing to recognize the real issues impeding national integration and brewing discontent, deprivation, neglect, exploitation, alienation and even ortherisation in Balochistan, KP, Southern Punjab, Urban Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan. It is the duty of every person as a citizen to oppose the forces and ideas that weaken national unity and integrity.

"We are now all Pakistanis — not Balochis, Pathans, Sindhis, Bengalis, Punjabis and so on — and as Pakistanis we must feel, behave and act, and we should be proud to be known as Pakistanis and nothing else".

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah said in a reply to Civic Address presented by Quetta Municipality on 15 June 1948

Taking its cue from the Quaid, government needs to urgently focus on steering the process of national integration on priority as lack of internal cohesion, peace and stability is the biggest threat to national security.

History is full of stories of the fall of great civilizations as a result of implosion due to fissures and corrosion in the architecture of national integration.

National integration solidifies the foundation of nationhood, which is crucial for national security against internal and external challenges.

—The writer is former Ambassador, based in Islamabad.

Sri Lankan economic crisis and currency management

By Dr Atiq-ur-Rehman

THERE are lots of similarities between Pakistani and Sri Lankan economies and understanding the Sri Lankan economy can help us avoid similar crisis in Pakistan.

However, there are lots of misunderstandings about the causes of Sri Lankan crisis. Many economists believe that the root cause of Sri Lankan economic woes is the undue protection of the value of currency. They believe that keeping the value of the currency stable causes losses in international trade and to control the growing trade deficit and to keep the currency stable, it is necessary to spend foreign exchange, which reduces the exchange reserves, and finally, a situation like Sri Lanka arises.

In the opinion of these friends, Ishaq Dar also had the same policy during his tenure, so they satirically termed it as Daronomics.

In short, they believe that trying to keep the value of the currency stable leads to an increase in the trade deficit and a decrease in foreign exchange reserves.

The above point of view is consistent with the ideas taught in the textbooks but it has little to do with reality.

The data shows that keeping the value of the currency stable does not necessarily lead to a decrease in foreign exchange reserves nor does a decrease in the value of the currency improve the balance of trade. The value of the Pakistani currency remained stable during the four-year rule of Ishaq Dar, but its foreign exchange reserves continued to increase.

According to common perception, Ishaq Dar spent tens of billions of dollars just to keep the currency stable, while the fact is that under Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's public external debt increased by \$14 billion while its reserves increased by 10 billion, which implies that net addition in public debt was only 4 billion.

How can a subsidy of 40 billion be possible when the current account has been

permanently negative and net borrowing is only 4 billion?

Interestingly, the value of the Sri Lankan currency has been stable over the past year, while Pakistan has left the value of the currency at the mercy of the market, which has led to a decrease in the value of the Pakistani currency over the past year by about 30%, while the value of the Sri Lankan currency depreciated only 3% in one year.

According to the mainstream theory, Pakistan's performance in trade should be much better than that of Sri Lanka.

But the reality is quite the opposite. Sri Lanka's imports have increased by 32% in the last one year, while Pakistan's imports have increased by more than 52%.

Sri Lanka's trade deficit widened by 56% in one year, while Pakistan's trade deficit widened by 67% in the same period.

As a result, Pakistani international trade, despite the significant depreciation of the currency, performed poorer than the Sri Lankan trade.

So what happened to the Sri Lankan economy suddenly falling to its knees? There are two main reasons for this.

First, despite the widening trade deficit in Pakistan, the current account remains good because of steadily rising remittances from overseas Pakistanis.

Remittances in Pakistan have been growing at an impressive pace over the last two decades. Even during the Corona crisis, remittances did not slow down.

The situation is quite different in Sri Lanka, where remittances have dropped significantly in the last two years. The second major cause of Sri Lanka's economic crisis is the severe decline in tourism.

In 2018, tourism revenue in Sri Lanka was around \$ 4.8 billion, while in 2020 this revenue decreased to only \$ 0.6 billion and in 2021 this revenue decreased further For a country with an annual export of about \$10 billion, a loss of \$ 4 billion in revenue was a huge loss, causing

the balance of payments to deteriorate so much that the current situation arises.

For a small economy with total exports of about \$ 10 billion, if there is reduction of \$ 2 billion in remittances, 4 billion in tourism was lost, and \$ 2 billion is increase in import bill due to global price factors and the country has to pay \$ 3 billion as external debt, a crisis was inevitable.

In developing countries, depreciation of the currency hurts the local economy severely.

For industries that are involved in international trade, the devaluation of the currency may be somewhat meaningful, but the industry based on local needs is only negatively affected by the devaluation of the currency.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka import a large quantity of machinery and raw material for all local industries.

The devaluation of the currency makes raw material more expensive, which has serious negative effects on industries, and as a result, imports of goods that could have been produced locally also begin to increase.

Even with halving the value of currency it was impossible to cover the loss of balance of payments occurring from three different sources i.e. the remittances, tourism and oil prices and a crisis was inevitable. The solution of the problem both for Pakistan and Sri Lanka lies in replacement of imports with local substitutes.

The two countries need to replace fossil fuel with renewable biofuels. This is the only way to impose a sizable dent in mounting imports.

The economic solutions listed in the textbooks give rise to more problems than they solve. The economic theories must be reevaluated in local context before they are used for policy making

—The writer is Director, Kashmir Institute of Economics, Azad Jammu and Kashmir University.

Letters to the Editor

Menace of smoking

I would like to use your prestigious paper's column to draw the attention of higher authorities to the serious problems of smoking among adolescent students. Youth and adolescent smoking is a concern that affects countries all over the world.

Smoking addiction is on the rise, particularly among young people and students, and has become a popular pastime for many students. They eventually become addicted to it. Everyone is aware that smoking is harmful to one's health. Millions of people die each year from

smoking-related diseases such as cancer, tuberculosis, and heart attacks, all of which are on the rise.

Stress relief, pleasure, and friends who encourage them to try cigarettes and keep smoking are all reasons why people smoke.

They see smoking as a way of demonstrating independence, and finally, if their parents smoke, teen students are more likely to smoke.

I urge the respective authorities to enact legislation prohibiting such adolescent students from smoking. Tobacco cultivation and manufacturing should be pro-

hibited in industries. They may also act as a check and balance for the tobacco industry and sellers to ensure that drugs are not being sold to teenagers. Parents can also keep a close eye on their children to see who they spend their time with. I hope that both the authorities and parents will take drastic measures to curb this trend among adolescent students, and I am confident that my letter will inspire them to write about it.

Adnan Ahmad Khan
Peshawar

Naval Chief attends Indo Pacific sea power conference



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is on official visit to Australia. During the visit, Naval Chief attended Indo-Pacific 'Sea Power Conference' 2022 held at Sydney, Australia.

Theme of Indo Pacific Sea Power Conference for 2022 was 'The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain in the 21st Century - A Commonality of Purpose'. Under the theme, the aim of symposium explores cooperation and collaboration in maritime domain, highlighting maritime security and oceans ecosystem.

More than 40 international naval delegations and around 700 Defence industry companies participated in Indo-Pacific Conference 2022.

On the sidelines of conference, the Naval Chief had interactions with Naval Chiefs of Australia, France, Japan, Kuwait and Spain. It is expected that recent visit of Chief of the Naval Staff would greatly augment the bilateral cooperation with participating navies for enhancing regional and global maritime security. (APP)

Pakistan should take advantage of Chinese expertise in science, technology: Masood

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China Masood Khalid has said Pakistan should take advantage of Chinese expertise in science and technology to be on track with a knowledge economy. Addressing the seminar titled "71 years of Pak-China friendship" held in Islamabad, the Ambassador said Pak-China friendship is a unique account of unwavering mutual support, trust and respect. He said Pak-China relations are based on strong foundation and this relation has been turned into deep rooted strategic partnership between the two countries.

Vice Chancellor National Skills University, in his remarks, called for learning from Chinese to elevate our education system for sustainable development. He said Pak-China friendship provides us an

opportunity to promote skill development. Speaking to the audience, Associate Professor of Iqra University, Dr. Ejaz Hussain argued that Belt & Road Initiative is grounded in market connectivity, foreign investment, global trade and cultural and educational cooperation.

He said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a unique part of the BRI based on bilateralism. CPEC needs to be expanded like other economic corridors under the BRI.

CPEC can be expanded to Afghanistan within South Asia in order to realize durable peace in that country plus regional stability.

Moreover, since China has already invested \$400 billion in Iran. The latter can be encouraged by China to join CPEC too

- this would be another way to expand CPEC. UAE and Saudi Arabia also recently expressed interest to invest in CPEC.

Dr. Ejaz Hussain further stated that China & Pakistan need to encounter the said Gulf countries to take practical measures in this respect. He said one of BRI's lesson for Pakistan is to engage major economic stakeholders such as EU, ASEAN. Pakistan's survival lies in geoeconomics which must be promoted through media and economic diplomacy.

Political Scientist Dr. Shafiqat Munir was of the view that peace and stability is a prerequisite to bring business to the country. He said we should fight against extremism and terrorism. He said peace in Afghanistan is imperative for prosperity of Pakistan. (APP)

Federal Ombudsman warns delinquent officials of show cause notices



ISLAMABAD: Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, the Federal Ombudsman has said that show cause notice will be issued to the delinquent officers of the concerned Agency for non-implementation of findings regarding poor pensioners and workers.

He said that timely implementation of findings is of great importance, as a decision becomes meaningless if it is not implemented or its implementation is inordinately delayed. He was chairing a progress review meeting on implementation of findings at WMS at Islamabad.

The head of implementation wing, Mr. Muhammad Humair Kareem Additional Secretary gave a detailed briefing. He said that during the first four months of 2022, a total of 9,229 cases have been implemented. The Ombudsman directed the implementation Wing to give special attention to the cases of pensioners especially in EOBI cases, as the poor workers face great difficulties in getting their small amount of pension from EOBI. He also directed to place more focus on Postal Life Insurance cases. He emphasized upon Implementation Wing to demonstrate more dedication and make their best efforts in redressal of the grievances of the common man. He said that according to new policy, he will himself look after such cases and no case of implementation wing will be closed until complete satisfaction of the complainant. (APP)

SCA demands declaring Sindh as drought hit province

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Chamber of Agriculture (SCA) has demanded that the province should be declared drought hit in view of the persisting water scarcity and the loans of the farmers who own up to 16 acres land should be waived.

A meeting of the SCA, chaired by its President Syed Miran Muhammad Shah here on Sunday, rejected the water readings of the engineering structures on the Indus river and demanded installation of the telemeter system.

The chamber also called for a probe over the stealing of around 13,000 cusecs water every day between Taunsa and Guddu barrage.

The farmers asked for release of 125,000 cusecs water to Guddu barrage so that the

prevailing acute water shortage could be brought to an end.

They said around 60 percent water shortage had affected hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the command areas of Guddu, Sukkur and Kotri barrages in Sindh. The meeting appreciated the Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar for allowing exports of mangoes starting from May 15.

The SCA also demanded that 5 million acre feet of water should be stored in Tarbela dam next year before the onset of summer season so that the present crisis could be averted. The office bearers and members of the SCA from Karachi, Khairpur, Sukkur, Badin and other districts attended through the video link. (APP)

Authorities fail to ensure installation of recycling plants at service stations

RAWALPINDI: The authorities concerned of Rawalpindi district administration have failed to ensure installation of water recycling plants at car wash service stations.

In 2018, the district administration had geared up crackdown on some 110 car wash stations in the city which had failed to respond to the notices and install recycling plants to stop the waste of water.

The crackdown against car service stations was started to take action against the violators. The authorities concerned had issued notices to the owners of the service stations and decided to seal the service stations which failed to install recycling plants to stop wastage of water.

A grand operation was also launched against car wash service stations and dozens were sealed, but desired result could not be achieved.

In 2018, after the former Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mian Saqib Nisar took notice of water being wasted, the authorities concerned issued 110 notices to the owners of the car wash service stations in Rawalpindi city areas.

In compliance to the notice, a car wash service station in Rawalpindi had set up the first water recycling plant which was installed at the Khan CNG service station located on the road between Liaquat Bagh and Committee Chowk. (APP)

KPRA starts registration drive in Mansehra

MANSEHRA: A registration drive of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) for North Region is underway and dozens of unregistered service providers brought under the tax net in Mansehra on Saturday.

The KPRA team set up their mobile registration camp at food Hut restaurant located on Karakoram Highway. The field teams visited the premises of unregistered service providers in various areas of Mansehra including Lari Adda, Mansehra Bypass,

Shinkiari and Ghazi Kot providing on the spot registration to unregistered service providers at their doorstep.

The drive has been started with the financial assistance of USAID-funded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilization Activity from Haripur district on Wednesday and will be concluded on Friday next week covering the areas of Balakot, Naran, Kaghan and Batakundi.

On Sunday, the team will spend another day in Mansehra to facilitate. (APP)

Pak possess amazing landscape, natural beauty & cultural heritage for tourists

RAWALPINDI: Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Aftab ur Rehman Rana said that Pakistan has amazing landscape, natural beauty, history, rich cultural and heritage. In a statement, he said that three mountains ranges, glaciers, lakes, Valleys of norther and unique wild flora and fauna can attract tourism from both local and foreign markets.

He described the country as "one of the friendliest countries on earth, with mountain scenery that is beyond anyone's wildest imagination". Under the Ease of visa Policy, as many as 191 countries can apply



for E-Visa.

"For foreigners, we have hiking, rock climbing and mountaineering opportunities in mesmerizing landscapes of Rocky Mountains and lush greenery.

The Karakoram Highway is the world's best highway where u can see the highest peaks from within your car's window

while the ancient silk route connects Pakistan and China to Central Asia and we are working to promote this Old Silk Route," he said, adding that "we have 9000 years history on humankind including Meher Garh, Mohenjodaro and Gandhars which has centuries' old archaeological sites to promote heritage tourism.

Sikh community of UK and other countries can visit their Gurdawaras as Visa facilitation is also improved for Sikh Yatrees living in the West. Sufi heritage, religious and spiritual heritage fascinates the west that needs to be promoted in western markets. (APP)

UN approves Pakistan-backed resolutions calling for fighting disinformation, protection of journalists

ISLAMABAD: A UN panel has approved Pakistan-backed resolutions calling for fighting disinformation and protection of journalists.

The two resolutions were steered by Pakistan in its capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77 developing countries.

Pakistani delegate Mariam Shaikh led the efforts to promote consensus on the texts, reconciling differing views and positions on a range of issues under discussion at



the Committee on Information.

The two resolutions will now be forwarded to the General Assembly for adoption.

Speaking on the occasion, the Pakistani delegate condemned the killing of the Palestinian-American journalist Abu Aqleh by Israeli troops, and called for an independent investigation into her death.

She urged the international community to take urgent action to put an end to the Israeli occupation, which continues to fuel conflict, tension, and instability in the region and remains a matter of grave concern for the entire Muslim world. (APP)

EO vacates 13 houses

ISLAMABAD: Estate Office, Ministry of Housing Works (MoHW) has vacated as many as 13 government residences from the employees of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and one other government department in one and half year.

"The rest of the government accommodations will revert back to the pools of Estate Office," an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP.

He said the mechanism was decided by the Ministry of Housing and Works and WAPDA authorities amicably in a meeting during last year.

However, the allottees who had been allotted accommodation prior to the promulgation of Accommodation Allocation Rules-2002 would be allowed to retain the government accommodation till their date of superannuation, he added. (APP)

20 huts, cattle, goods burnt

MUZAFFARGARH: Household goods worth lacs of rupees along with cattle were burnt alive after fire engulfed 20 huts one after another, police said Monday.

Victims of the Indus River had taken up residence in hut-like makeshift houses on public property in the limits of Beet Mir Hazar Police Station.

Last night fire broke out in a hut which engulfed nineteen others situated close by as a result of which cattle and goods were burnt. Total damage is estimated about Rs. 2.5 million. Authorities could not ascertain the reason of fire.

Former UC Chairman of riverine area, Ajmal Khan Laghari reached out to the victims to express sympathy soon after the fire incident. Talking to media persons, the affectees said neither tehsil nor any official from the district administration had approached them for relief. They said they were facing shortage of food and even their costumes had burnt. They warned of staging a protest if they didn't get help by the concerned authorities. (APP)

Over 31,000 citizens to perform Hajj under govt scheme this year

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony held Hajj balloting in Islamabad.

Through the balloting, it has been decided that 31,253 citizens under the government scheme and 1,000 people on special quota will perform Hajj this year.

Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood and Minister for Housing and Works Maulana Abdul Wasey were present on this occasion. Latter, addressing a news conference, Maulana Asad Mahmood said that Pakistan was given 81,132 Hajj quotas, including 60 per cent government and 40 per cent private Hajj quota from Saudi Arabia.

He said a total of 63,604 applications for government Hajj scheme were received through online and selected banks during the stipulated period this year.

Maulana Asad Mehmood said a large number of people were unable to submit Hajj applications because of compulsory vaccinations, the age limit of 65 years and expensive Hajj expenses.

He said that because of Coronavirus pandemic, Hajj was restricted for last two years. The Ministry of Religious Affairs also operates a helpline to facilitate Hajj pilgrims. The numbers are: 0519216980, 9216981, 9216982 and Whatsapp number is 03063332555.

On May 11, the ministry had asked the applicants that passport, health certificate, Saudi Arabian approved vaccine certificate and token amount of Rs50,000 must be submitted along with Hajj application. It had further said overseas Pakistanis can submit their passports till 20th of Dhul Qa'dah. (APP)

IWMB rehabilitates four black bear cubs at wildlife centre: Rina

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Wildlife Management board (IWMB) has successfully rescued and rehabilitated four cubs of excessively poached Black Bears from various locations where the threatened baby bears were looked after by expert and trained caretakers of the Board. The journey of rescue and rehabilitation of black bears started back in 2021 when two animal lovers from Rawalpindi recovered a three-month old cub and handed over to the Board, told APP Chairperson IWMB Rina Saeed Khan while sharing the animal rehabilitation endeavours done by the Board.

Khan said the poor cubs showed the unheard story of illegal hunting and poaching of Black Bears found in the forest mountains of Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

She said two staffers of the IWMB Gibran and Raja Anees were sent to Jordan's Al-Mawa Bear Sanctuary for training on handling bears during the

relocation of two Himalayan Bears along with the elephant Kavaan sent to Cambodia.

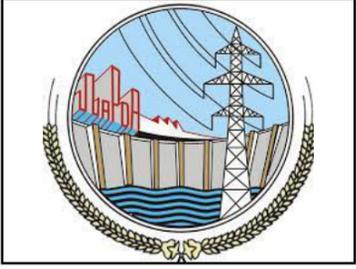
She added that Daboo was recovered in a bag with his ears ripped by the poacher and might have perished in that condition if the wildlife lovers did not rescue him and brought to the IWMB rehabilitation centre.

The Board after the closure of the Marghazar Zoo had decided to establish a animal rescue and rehabilitation centre that was still on the cards awaiting the government's funding, she said.

Daboo, she said was not able to be released into the wild as it had developed close association with the humans due to extreme care and look after by the Board staff.

Later, she said one baby bear Baloo was rescued from a Bear Dancer in Gujranwala and the IWMB requested the Punjab Wildlife Department to hand it over to the Board for better care. "The Punjab Wildlife Department. (APP)

Wapda's new projects to provide 35000 jobs



ISLAMABAD: The Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has initiated 10 new projects which would provide about 35,000 job opportunities during the construction.

The project would also be enhanced hydel generation capacity to cross 18,000 MW with an addition of 9,000 MW, a Wapda source said.

Wapda has initiated 10 projects aimed to enhance the gross water storage capacity in the country from 13 million acre-feet

(MAF) to more than 24 million MAF which would be also sufficient to irrigate another 1.6 million acres of land.

The Wapda projects include five dams, three hydropower projects, one canal, and one water supply scheme that were under construction which would be completed in a phased manner from 2023 to 2029. Diامر Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Nai Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Extension, Sindh Barrage, and K-IV Project were among the projects, said official sources.

The per capita water availability in Pakistan had come down from 5650 cubic meters to an alarming level of 908 cubic meters per annum, pushing us to the stage of a water-scarce country.

In order to tackle the impending water scarcity, we need to have more water storage besides practicing good water conservation and management strategies, he said. (APP)

Sherry for solid measures to deal with effects of climate change

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman stressed the need of immediate, comprehensive and well coordinated efforts for environmental protection to deal with serious threats of climate change to the country. She was addressing the reception ceremony of 'Expedition Indus' that culminated here on Saturday at Karachi after 45 days of journey along with River Indus from Northern areas to Karachi.

Sherry Rehman said that Pakistan is facing an environmental crisis as Pakistan is among the most vulnerable countries which were facing serious threats due to climate change despite less than one percent contribution in emission of green house gases.

She vowed to stand against environmental injustice and climate colonialism at global level and said that issue of global warming and serious implications of climate change made immediate, compre-

hensive and well coordinated efforts for protection of our rivers and overall climate unavoidable as further delay in the regard would prove fatal.

She indicated that climate change has affected life both in urban and rural areas across the globe as reckless exploitation of fossil fuels, over harvesting of natural resources and pollution after industrial revolution has resulted into abrupt and unpredictable changes in weather patterns and extreme weather events across the globe.

The minister for Climate Change pointed out that water flow in Pakistani rivers particularly in River Indus were on decline, drought and famine like situation prevails in a number of areas and the entire country was in grip of heat wave while more than 20 glacial lakes situated in northern areas were prone to hazardous glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF). (APP)

PNCA to start talent hunt music edition by end of May

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Sunday announced to resume its famous 'Talent Hunt' music program by the end of this month. Talking to APP, an official of PNCA Masroor Shah said the institution aims to find singers from the Online Talent Hunt music edition, a popular platform for emerging singers.

Through this talent hunt, the PNCA wants to promote weekly competitions among young singers.

He said the programme earlier was an initiative to discover melodious voices through audition on weekly basis. The online talent hunt was quite helpful

for singers who aspired to showcase their talent but were not finding the right platforms in that regard, said the official.

He said that Lok Virsa would continue its efforts to provide opportunities to talented singers.

According to official, "it is a new talent program where singers across the country would participate in the competitions in various categories.

The categories include, instrumental performance and singing."The winners of the PNCA Talent Hunt would be awarded three awards including 'Winner People's Choice', 'Winner Jury Award' and 'Winner Jury Award.' (APP)

Health experts for adopting protective measures to evade heatstroke

RAWALPINDI: As the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast mainly very hot and dry in most parts of the country during the next week, health experts have suggested the residents of the twin cities adopt protective measures to stay safe from various diseases which were likely to be caused by hot weather.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Faiza Kanwal told APP that patients suffering from stomach-related ailments such as diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach ache and loose motions visited hospitals more often than in other seasons. She said that the temperature rising results in various respiratory disorders, adding that children with low immunity and vulnerability to sickness often fall sick during the summer days. The CEO advised the people to

drink plenty of water and juices to wash out their upper respiratory system.

Stressing upon preventive measures, Deputy District Health Officer Dr Waqar Ahmed advised to avoid going out unnecessarily in the sun from 10 am to 5 pm. If they do, they must take preventive measures to cover their heads and drink ORS and water frequently to stay hydrated.

If they feel their body temperatures rising or any headaches, they should immediately find a shade and drink water, as headaches are caused when the body is dehydrated.

Medical Specialist Dr Haseeb u Rehman said that signs and symptoms of heatstroke were dry skin with severe headache, lethargy and vertigo and extreme tiredness. (APP)

CS inspects bazaars, healthcare facilities

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal on Sunday paid a surprise visit to Kasur district as part of measures to provide relief to the people. He inspected various bazaars and District Headquarter (DHQ) hospitals in Kasur, Chuniyan and Allahabad.

The CS said that providing relief to the people was the top priority of the government. He directed that rate lists be prominently displayed at all shops. He said that availability of food items at fixed prices would be ensured, adding that the administrative officers should perform their du-

ties in a more dynamic manner to provide relief to the people. He directed the Deputy Commissioner Kasur to increase the number of Rehri (Pushcart) bazaars for the convenience of people.

The chief secretary also reviewed the cleanliness and other arrangements at DHQ Hospital and Cardiac Center Chuniyan. He inquired from the patients and their families about the medical facilities. He questioned the patients whether free medicines and timely treatment are being provided to them in the hospital. The patients and their families. (APP)

HSHM collaborates with IMSciences Peshawar



ISLAMABAD: The Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar (IMSciences) for hospitality educational-based projects and skill development programs for the youth, in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality and Education Division, Hashoo Group, and Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, Director IMSciences, during a special ceremony, attended by Mr. Mur-taza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Hashoo Group, Chairman Board of Governors, HSHM, along with the senior management of Hashoo Group, IM-Sciences faculty members and HSHM students.

With a global curriculum, along with seasoned faculty from around the world, HSHM is looking forward to providing world-class education in hospitality, tourism, and hotel management to the students of KPK.

"Pakistan is experiencing a lot of short-



age when it comes to qualified and experienced hospitality and tourism leaders. By launching the HSHM programme in KPK, we are actively trying to overcome this shortfall by contributing well-trained hospitality students in multiple cities. Upon their graduation from HSHM and IMSciences, we will be offering them guaranteed job placements at Hashoo Hotels", said Mr. Haseeb Gardezi.

Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, while addressing the audience highlighted the importance of the hospitality industry in Pakistan and its anticipated exponential growth in the coming years.

He elaborated on the need for hospitality and tourism-based education in Pakistan which will open doors for students globally.

He also mentioned that young faculty

at IMSciences is very excited about this collaboration, and they will strive to make this venture a success.

He also showed his interest in future collaborations in different fields with Hashoo Group.

IMSciences is a highly reputed government-owned autonomous institute that was founded in 1999.

Catering to a large number of students, it is ranked 1st in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in management sciences and holds its strong position at number 4 in business studies by HEC.

On this occasion, Mr. Mur-taza Hashwani also interacted with the HSHM students and highlighted the importance of hospitality and tourism education in Pakistan whilst encouraging them to excel in their studies. (PR)

Eight gamblers held

SARGODHA: Police on Sunday rounded up eight gamblers and recovered stake money from their possession.

Kotmomin police conducted a raid and arrested Gull, Sajid, Waseem, Majid, Mazhar, GhulamMustafa and others while gambling and recovered Rs 16,500 stake money from their possession.

A case has been registered against the accused. (APP)

Fake caller nabbed

ATTOCK: Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested a man on the charge of fake dacoity call.

A citizen identified as Nasir called on 15 and informed that some bandits had looted cash and valuables from his shop at gun-point. On the call, Atta Shaheed police team reached the spot and investigated the matter. During interrogation, police came to know that the dacoity call was fake and Nasircalled the police just to tease his rival. (APP)

Iranian scholar gets gold medal

SARGODHA: The Sargodha University awarded a gold medal to Dr Mohammad Raza Naseeri, a renowned Iranian historian, researcher, secretary of the academy of Persian Language and Literature, and renowned Persian writer and professor, in recognition of his valuable services in compiling an encyclopedia of the Indian Subcontinent and re-arranging the 'Tareekh-e-Farishta'.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar awarded the gold medal to Prof Naseeri at a ceremony here on Sunday. He said Iran and Pakistan have many commonalities in history, civilisation and culture.

He said Dr. Reza Naseeri played a key role in compiling not only the history of Iran but also the history of the Indian Subcontinent and he had been instrumental in further strengthening the common historical and cultural ties between the peoples of Iran and Pakistan. (APP)

Two died

MUZAFFARGARH: Two persons died while another three sustained injuries as a car overturned due to tyre burst.

According to Beet Mir Hazar Police Station, the deceased persons were identified as Asghar and Tayyib. The both were resident of Basti Khichiwala, Mauza Sandeela.

Another three persons sustain injuries in the mishap. Local police handed over dead bodies to heirs. meanwhile Household goods worth lacs of rupees along with cattle were burnt alive after fire engulfed 20 huts one after another, police said Monday.

Victims of the Indus River had taken up residence in hut-like makeshift houses on public property in the limits of Beet Mir Hazar Police Station. (APP)

Saudi delegation in Pakistan for road to Makkah project's expansion

KARACHI: A Saudi delegation is currently in Pakistan to review customs and immigration counters and other facilities at airports for the expansion of Road to Makkah project for the convenience of pilgrims.

The delegation, which arrived on Friday, spent a busy day at the Allama Iqbal Airport, Lahore on Saturday. It was assisted by the officials of the Ministry of Reli-

gious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, a ministry press release said.

The delegation is also scheduled to visit Karachi to examine all the codal formalities at the Jinnah International Airport.

According to the ministry, the facility of Road to Makkah project would be available to the intending Hajj pilgrims at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi airports this year. (APP)

NHA to reopen Ayub Bridge after restoration: Murtaza Abbassi

HAVELIAN: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbassi Sunday inspected the renovation work of Ayub Bridge Havelian and directed National Highways Authority (NHA) to complete it as soon as possible.

Murtaza Javed Abbassi while speaking on the occasion said that due to the negligence of the PTI led government the most important bridge which is connecting northern areas with the rest of the country through Karakoram Highway (KKH) was damaged due to heavy rainfall in Abbottabad district and after passing a year they were failed to restore the bridge.

He further said that during the PTI gov-

ernment despite an opposition party member I have raised the voice in assembly for the restoration of the Ayub bridge but nobody bothered to pay attention to such an important communication link which was down and ought only a few weeks of work to restore but it's still pending.

The minister said that Ayub Bridge Havelian was supposed to open for traffic during Ramadan but due to the Eid vacation, the restoration work was late now NHA officials assured to reopen the bridge within 10 days.

He also directed NHA to widen Langra bridge and blacktopping of the road which is nowadays used due to traffic conversation from Ayub Bridge. (APP)

PHA authorities directed to accelerate beautification work

RAWALPINDI: Director General, Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi, Zaheer Anwar Jappa has directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the ongoing beautification work.

According to a PHA spokesperson, the DG during his visit to different roads and parks of Rawalpindi and Murree inspected the beautification work and directed the officers to further uplift green belts of different roads and their medians. He also directed the officers to accelerate pace of the work to complete the ongoing projects within

shortest possible time frame.

While visiting different parks and other areas he instructed the PHA officers to uplift all the parks besides completing the ongoing renovation work as soon as possible.

He said, 'We are making all-out efforts for beautification of Rawalpindi and Murree.' Under the project, the beautification of entry and exit points of the city would also be ensured, he added. The DG said, joint efforts would be made by all the departments concerned for beautification of the city and it would be made a model town. (APP)

AJK to launch citizens portal

MUZAFFARABAD: Government of Azad Kashmir has all set to launch a citizen portal that will provide a speedy mechanism to citizens to register their complaints and get their problems resolved in a hassle-free manner.

The portal, which has been developed free of cost, is in its final stages. Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan will soon inaugurate the web portal that would certainly help to improve governance in the region. It provides a unique opportunity to citizens to raise their voices online and the departments and offices concerned would be

bound to respond in the specific timeline to address their grievances. The PM Office will directly oversee the progress on those issues as consumer complaints will be forwarded directly to the Prime Minister's Office.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on IT Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal along with his team while briefing the Prime Minister about the portal's salient features said that the Portal with a user-friendly interface will be accessible all across the AJK. "It offers both web based and application downloading options whereby complaints. (APP)

Govt decides to maintain POL prices till further orders

KARACHI: The government on Sunday has decided to keep the petrol prices unchanged with effect from May 16, 2022, till further order.

According to the statement issued by Finance Division, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has rejected the proposal of OGRA for an increase in the price of petroleum products and directed to maintain the prices at the existing level.

The current price of petrol stands at Rs149.86 per litre, whereas the per litre prices of high-speed diesel, kerosene oil, and light diesel stand at Rs144.15, Rs125.56, and Rs118.31, respectively.

Accordingly, the government will bear the Price Differential Claim (PDC) on the prices of MS at Rs47.02/litre, HSD at Rs86.71/litre, SKO at Rs51.83/litre, and LDO at Rs.67.84/litre.

However, on the back of changing circumstances and international oil prices, the government may hike the prices of petroleum products.



Taking his Twitter handle, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail clarified on Sunday, "Due to changing circumstances and international oil prices, we may have to revisit our decision soon."

To note, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has emphasized the need to reverse the unfunded subsidies which are the prior conditions for the ongoing \$6 billion loan program. The government has assured the fund that it will increase the prices of petroleum products to fulfill this commitment. Despite the assurance, the incumbent government has not increased the prices of petroleum products, apparently due to political backlash. (APP)

Emirates unveils premium economy at ATM 2022

ABU DHABI: Flyers can look forward to another distinctive Emirates travel experience as the airline unveils its full Premium Economy offering onboard and on ground, and announces it will open this highly sought-after cabin for sale from 1 June 2022.

The new cabin class, which offers luxurious seats, more legroom, and a service to rival many airlines' business offering, will be available to Emirates customers travelling on popular A380 routes to London, Paris, Sydney from 1 August, and Christchurch from December.

Emirates is the only airline in the region to offer a Premium Economy cabin.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline

said: "As with everything we do, Emirates Premium Economy will be exceptional in its class, with minute attention given to every aspect of the customer experience. Customers trading up from Economy will be getting excellent value.

"Since we first introduced our Premium Economy seats in January 2021, the positive response and demand has been tremendous. We currently have six A380s equipped with this cabin class, which limits our initial deployment, but our intention is to offer this experience to many more markets across our network. This November, we will begin our retrofit programme to install Premium Economy on 67 A380s and 53 Boeing 777s. (Agencies)

UAE to invest \$100b in India

NEW DELHI: The UAE has committed itself to invest \$100 billion in India across several sectors, the country's commerce and industry minister, Piyush Goyal, revealed on Friday. Goyal made the announcement at the India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit in Mumbai.

"The commitment from the UAE is to look at over \$100bn of investment to India in different sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, services," explained Goyal at the launch of the "India-UAE Start-up Bridge", part of a trade agreement between the two countries. In attendance at the event was the UAE's Economic Minister, Abdulla Bin Touq.

The trade deal, known as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), was signed in February and came

into effect on 1 May. In a tweet on Friday, Goyal said that the CEPA will usher in a "golden era in our economic ties."

Bin Touq's four-day tour of India began on Wednesday. He arrived in New Delhi with a delegation of 80 trade representatives.

After the US and China, the UAE is now India's third largest trading partner. India is the UAE's top trading partner for non-oil exports, accounting for almost 14 per cent of its total non-oil exports globally. Bilateral trade between the countries presently stands at \$60bn but is expected to reach \$100bn within five years.

Goyal added that he expects trade to go up to \$250bn by 2030. "Clearly, millions of jobs will be added if our exports, which are now at about \$36bn. (Agencies)

Ukraine's IT sector booming despite Russian invasion

KIEV: Ukraine's IT sector is booming despite the Russian invasion. Workers with stickers on their laptops recline on beach chairs outside a warehouse for start-ups in the east Ukraine city of Lviv giving off major Silicon Valley vibes.

But the atmosphere inside is different. Through the glass doors of the complex, young Ukrainians zig-zag between stacks of bulletproof vests and cardboard boxes filled with helmets ready for the front.

They are part of Ukraine's burgeoning tech sector which was forced to adapt after Russia's invasion and has become key to supporting the war effort.

"Most tech companies had developed contingency plans" in case of war said Stepan

Veselovskiy, the head of the "IT Cluster Lviv" community.

He told AFP that companies transferred servers to secure locations and established back-up systems outside the country before Russia invaded on February 24.

When Russian bombing started, IT companies shut offices in the capital Kyiv and eastern city of Kharkiv and engineers found refuge in western Ukraine or Poland next door. Veselovskiy said there were already around 500 tech companies in Lviv before the war but now estimates that 80 per cent of the sector is in the western city. One is Infopulse, which provides various digital services to mainly European customers. (Agencies)

Pak exports to Italy witnesses 35.58pc increase in current fiscal year

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Honorary Investment Consular to Milan, Italy, Muhammad Sheheryar Khan Sunday disclosed that Pakistan's exports of goods and services to Italy witnessed an increase of 35.58 percent during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year.

He stated this while talking to chief executive officer of Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq, said a press release. He said on year to year basis, the exports to Italy also increased by 42.79 percent by going up from \$75.006 million during March last year against exports of \$107.105 million in March current year.

He said on month to month basis, exports to Italy also registered surge of 30.89 percent in March 2022 as compared to the exports of \$81.826 million in February 2022. Sheheryar Khan who is leading investor and expert of financial management said overall Pakistan's export to other countries witnessed an increase of 26.

64 percent in the first three quarters from US \$ 18.713 bn to US\$23.699 bn. On the other hand, the imports from Italy during the period under review were recorded at \$620.487 million against \$391.109 million last year depicting growth of 58.64 percent during the first three quarters of current fiscal year. (APP)

G7 for economic pressure on Russia, tackle 'wheat war'

WEISSENHAUS: Group of Seven foreign ministers vowed to reinforce Russia's economic and political isolation, continue supplying weapons to Ukraine and tackle what Germany's foreign minister described as a "wheat war" being waged by Moscow.

After meeting at a 400-year-old castle estate in the Baltic Sea resort of Weissenhaus, senior diplomats from Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Union also pledged to continue their military and defense assistance for "as long as necessary."

They would also tackle what they called Russian misinformation aimed at blaming the West for food supply issues around the

world due to economic sanctions on Moscow and urged China to not assist Moscow or justify Russia's war, according to a joint statement.

"Have we done enough to mitigate the consequences of this war? It is not our war. It's a war by the president of Russia, but we have global responsibility," Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told reporters at a closing news conference.

Key to putting more pressure on Russia is to ban or phase out buying Russian oil with EU member states expected next week to reach an agreement on the issue even if it remains at this stage opposed by Hungary.

"We will expedite our efforts to reduce and end reliance on Russian energy sup-



plies and as quickly as possible, building on G-7 commitments to phase out or ban imports of Russian coal and oil," the statement said.

The ministers said they would add further sanctions on Russian elites, including economic actors, central government institutions and the military, which enable President Vladimir Putin "to lead his war of choice." (Agencies)

Climate change causes 60pc decline in mango production

HYDERABAD: Mango production declined by nearly 60 percent in the ongoing season due to climate change and lack of resources including closure of canals, electricity loadshedding, diesel shortage at very crucial time for the crop.

Severe temperature variation from March 11 to March 17 from 37 degree centigrade to 42 degrees centigrade, contrary to 34 degree centigrade routine temperature in previous years, affected the mango fruit to a greater extent, said Director Mango Research Institute MRI Abdul Ghaffar Garewal while talking to APP, here on Sunday. Similarly, the temperature in April also remained high, compared to previous years and it also aggravated problems for the growers. Abdul Ghaffar stated that the mango production affected by nearly 60 percent as the flowering stage could not bear the severity of weather.

Besides climate changes, some other factors also damaged the mangoes production. He stated that growers could not irrigate mango orchards at time of fruiting



due to shortage of canal water, electricity loadshedding and diesel shortage. The growers could not operate their tube-wells due to power outage.

Progressive farmer Shahid Hameed Bhutta also expressed concern on low production of mangoes. He stated that climate change was one of the important factor. About other reasons, he added that political instability during March-April and poor performance of Bureaucracy also damaged mango crop.

The Bureaucracy could not focused on the problems of the growers.

The growers who owned electricity tube-

wells, could not irrigate orchard at very important time due to electricity loadshedding. The mango flowers could not bear harsh weather condition and fell down.

A good number of growers have diesel operated tube-wells also. Similarly, due to the fuel shortage, they faced the same complication and could not irrigate the orchards.

In past, there had been one to two rains. However, there were no rains. The rainy water is of vital importance for mango plants at flowering stage, said Shahid.

To a question about suggestions to avoid further losses, the Director MRI Abdul Ghaffar Garewal suggested growers to spray the plants with water as it will help maintaining health of the plants. During the ongoing month of May, the temperature increased to nearly 49 to 50 degrees centigrade in the orchards especially at noon. Apart from this, the growers should be highly vigilant against the pest attacks also. It could also affect production by damaging fruit quality. (APP)

Egypt to sell state assets as it seeks \$40b in investment

CAIRO: Egypt outlined on Sunday a wide array of state assets that it will offer to private investors, part of a government plan to fully withdraw from certain sectors of the economy as it seeks to attract \$40 billion in investment over the next four years. Egyptian Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly said he wanted private investment to rise to 65 per cent of the country's total within three years, up from around 30 per cent at present.

"We will offer projects to the private sector in electric vehicles, data centres, networks for oil and gas and expansion of gas liquefaction plants, communication towers, and wind power," Mr Madbouly said at a news conference.

It will also eventually open up renewable energy projects, desalination plants, education and banking assets to private investment.

The government has been talking about selling state assets for years, announcing in 2018 that it would offer minority stakes in 23 state-owned companies. The programme has been repeatedly delayed due to weak markets, legal hurdles and the readiness of the companies' financial documentation.

It faces a rising budget deficit, increased borrowing costs and a depreciating currency, all compounded by a higher wheat import bill and declining tourism revenue following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The government will publish a document by the end of the month outlining the sectors from which it would withdraw completely or partially or where it would remain as owners, Mr Madbouly said. It would leave some sectors within three years.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi last month ordered the government to draw up a programme to attract \$10bn in "private participation" over each of the next four years.

Mr Madbouly said the government had already identified \$9 billion in assets that would be monetised and another \$15bn that it would quickly begin preparing to offer. (Agencies)

Samsung hiking chipmaking prices by 20pc

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics is in talks with clients about hiking prices for chip contract manufacturing by up to 20% this year, Bloomberg reported today.

The move, expected to be applied from the second half of this year, is part of an industry-wide push to raise prices to cover rising materials and logistics costs, Bloomberg said, citing people familiar with the matter. Contract-based chip prices are likely to rise around 15% to 20%, depending upon the level of sophistication, with chips produced on legacy nodes likely to face bigger hikes, Bloomberg said, adding Samsung had completed negotiations with some clients while still in discussions with others. Samsung Electronics declined to comment. The company is the world's second largest chip contract manufacturer, after Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC). (Agencies)

Emirates airline cuts annual loss to \$1.06b

DUBAI - Dubai's Emirates airline on Friday posted a loss of 3.9 billion dirhams (\$1.06 billion) for the year ended March 31, sharply lower than its loss of 20.3 billion dirhams a year earlier as easing pandemic-related curbs boosted travel demand. Emirates said it increased destinations from 120 at the start of the financial year to over 140 destinations by the end and continued to reinstate services across its network.

"This year, we focussed on restoring our operations quickly and safely wherever pandemic-related restrictions eased across our markets," said Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman and CEO of Emirates Airline and the group. (Agencies)

Uzbek cotton industry greets end of 13-year global boycott

TASHKENT: Uzbek cotton farmers are celebrating the lifting of a 13-year-old international boycott of their product following a finding that the cautiously reform-minded government is no longer using organized forced labor to harvest the economically vital crop.

The decision will open the door to long-closed markets for one of the world's biggest cotton producers, including major American clothing retailers such as Amazon, Gap, J.Crew, Target and Walmart.

The U.S.-based Cotton Campaign, a coalition of more than 300 businesses and organizations, initiated the boycott in 2009. At that time, it said, the Uzbek authorities were "forcing over 1 million children and adults, including medical staff, public sector employees and students, to pick cotton every year during the harvest." The boycott ended after the Uzbek Forum for Human Rights, a Cotton Campaign partner, reported this spring that it found "no systemic or systematic, government-imposed forced labor during the cotton harvest" in 2021.



Despite the Uzbek Forum's finding of discrete incidents of forced labor in several regions, the Cotton Campaign said.

"This historic achievement comes after years of persistent engagement by Uzbek activists, international advocates and multinational brands, together with a commitment by the government of Uzbekistan to end its use of forced labor."

The campaign now urges end users to conduct human rights due diligence at all stages of production — at cotton farms, spinners, fabric mills and manufacturing units — and ensure to have "credible, independent mechanisms in place for forced labor prevention, monitoring, grievance and remedy." (Agencies)

Iran, Cuba to increase trade, economic cooperation

TEHRAN: Iran and Cuba agreed to increase trade relations through the development of joint trade and economic cooperation.

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin announced the development of 34 opportunities and grounds for joint trade and economic cooperation between Iran and Cuba in his meeting with Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas.

"We have made good progress in areas such as the pharmaceutical, mining and

home appliances industries, which can pave the way for joint activities between the two countries," he said.

Referring to Cuba's cooperation with the Pasteur Institute of Iran in the field of vaccines, he added, "We can also increase trade relations between the two countries in the field of mining (steel, copper, aluminum, etc.)." He also stressed the relationship between businesses and private sector companies of the two countries, saying this type of relationship can promote trade relations between the two countries. (Agencies)

UAE Falcons get Euro Open Challenge netball title with two wins



ABU DHABI: The UAE Falcons made a bright start to their defence of the European Open Challenge title with comfortable victories over Malta and Israel. A 70-34 win over the Maltese was followed by an even more impressive victory over Israel 85-24 in the late game to see the Falcons top Group B on the opening day at the National Sports Centre in Isle of Man. "The technical staff were very pleased with the game one performance and managing to get all 12 players to take the court, including four new internationally capped players of which two had made

U17 debuts earlier this year," Susanne Skelding, manager of UAE Netball, told The National. "The team had set themselves a tough challenge of getting 90 per cent of centre passes to goal. Which they achieved in the first half of the game with a centre pass to goal average of 91 per cent. "In the first quarter, the team turned over 12 balls and managed to capitalise and score from every one of them." The Falcons produced another full performance against Israel to round off the first day's play on a high. "Three out of the four quarters of play saw 100 per cent centre pass to goal, and 92 per cent of our turnover were taken to goal," Skelding added. "The coaching staff was really pleased that the team, despite a shaky start, were able to pull out a variety of combinations to take 85 goals in the game. This sets the team up well for the remainder of the weekend." The Falcons meet Republic of Ireland in a top-of-the-table clash on Friday. They Irish beat Israel 85-15 and Malta 58-21. (Agencies)

Badminton: India stun Denmark to reach final



BANGKOK: India continued to enjoy their fairytale run in the Thomas Cup Finals. On Friday, India pulled off an incredible show to knock out fancied Denmark 3-2 to reach their first final in the premier world team event at the Impact Arena. They had beaten Malaysia in a similar fashion in the quarter-finals on Thursday. The country that had not gone beyond the semi-finals, banked on All-England runner-up Lakshya Sen to start the ball rolling but the 20-year-old went down 13-21, 13-21 to reigning Olympics champion Viktor Axelsen. But India were back in the game when their world No. 10 Satwik-

sairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty fought brilliantly to beat scratch pair Kim Astrup-Mathias Christiansen 21-18, 21-23, 22-20 in a 78-minute thriller. The 29-year-old K. Srikanth continued his fine form to extend the lead 2-1 but not after a herculean effort. The World Championships silver medallist's dogged determination prevailed when he beat world No. 3 Anders Antonsen 21-18, 12-21, 21-15. Denmark refused to budge and kept their hopes alive through their scratch pair Anders Skaarup-Frederik Sogaard. The duo took only 39 minutes to beat Krishna Prasad-Goud Panjala 21-14, 21-13 to level the tie at 2-2. In the decider, H.S. Prannoy was simply magnificent. He had a nasty slip and injury scare in the first game but the crafty shuttler rose to the occasion to beat Rasmus Gemke 13-21, 21-9, 21-12 in 73-minutes to take India into the final as the camp erupted into joy yet again. They will play defending champions Indonesia in the final on Sunday (May 15) at Malaysian time 2pm. (Agencies)

China beat Thailand to meet South Korea in Uber Cup final

BANGKOK: China's women's badminton team sailed past host nation Thailand 3-0 in the Uber Cup semifinals on Friday and will defend their title against South Korea in the final showdown. China faced Thailand for the third consecutive time in the Uber Cup semifinals, with Olympic champion Chen Yufei beating Ratchanok Intanon 2-0 to give her team the lead. In the following doubles match, the world's No. 1 Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan stumbled in the first set by the Thai pair Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Raw-

inda Prajongjai. However, Chen and Jia bounced back to take the match 17-21, 21-13, and 21-15. He Bingjiao built on the advantage to win the third match in straight sets against Pornpawee Chochuwong to secure the 3-0 victory for China. In the other semifinals, Japan's dream to repeat the final of last year's Uber Cup against China was crushed by South Korea, while An Se Young came back from behind to beat the world No. 1 Akane Yamaguchi to lead a 3-0 victory for South Korea. (Agencies)

Bouwman claims stage 7 as Lopez retains pink jersey

POTENZA: Dutch rider Koen Bouwman timed his final effort to perfection to win the seventh stage of the Giro d'Italia, a 196km ride between Diamante and Potenza yesterday. The Jumbo-Visma rider, who was in the day's breakaway with his team mate and compatriot Tom Dumoulin, jumped away from the leading group 100 metres from the line on a brutal uphill drag to beat another Dutchman, Bauke Mollema. Italy's Davide Formolo came home third ahead of Dumoulin.



Spain's Juanpe Lopez retained the overall leader's maglia rosa after finishing safe in the peloton. A strong breakaway of seven riders, featuring former Giro champion Dumoulin and Tour de France stage winner Mollema, built an advantage of over six minutes. The peloton was controlled by Lopez's Trek-Segafredo team as the main contenders stayed quiet. The bunch upped the pace to prevent Dumoulin making up for the time he lost in the climb up Mount Etna on Tuesday. The Dutch rider started the stage 8:30 off the pace. The breakaway group's lead shrank quickly and Bouwman, hoping to take the

maglia rosa, attacked from the front of the race with 42km left, but his move did not stick. In the third-category climb to La Sellatta, Dumoulin tried his luck several times but the sharpest attack came from Formolo. Mollema, Bouwman and Dumoulin, however, caught up with him 1.5km from the top. On a steep section 9km from the line, Dumoulin fell behind. He fought his way back but had nothing left in the tank, leaving Bouwman, Formolo and Mollema to fight it out for the stage win. Today's eighth stage is a 154km ride in and around Napoli. (Agencies)

China withdraws Football Asian Cup host due to pandemic

KUALA LUMPUR: China has withdrawn as the 2023 Asian Cup host due to the coronavirus, football officials said today, as the country battles its worst outbreak since the early days of the pandemic. The 24-team competition was due to be played across 10 Chinese cities in June and July next year. But the Asian Football Confederation said it had been "officially informed by the (Chinese Football Association) that it



would not be able to host" the tournament. "The AFC acknowledges the exceptional circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to the relinquishment

by (China) of its hosting rights," the governing body said in a statement. The AFC did not name a new host, saying only that "further steps" would be announced in due course. China is pursuing a strategy of stamping out the virus entirely, which includes rapid lockdowns and mass testing. Its largest city Shanghai has been under a tough lockdown affecting most of its 25 million people for over a month. (APP)

Baku to host World Taekwondo C'ship-23

BAKU: The World Taekwondo Championships will be held in Azerbaijan for the first time in 2023. The decision was made during the Extraordinary meeting of the World Taekwondo Federation (WT) held at the Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland. Baku presented its bid to the Council during the meeting alongside Wuxi, China. The World Championships will be particularly special as they will fall on the 50th anniversary of World Taekwondo. (APP)

Hamza excels in Golf C'ship 2022

ISLAMABAD: Hamza Khattak dominated the day first of the Federal Amateur Golf Championship 2022 at Islamabad Club Golf Course on Friday. At the close of the day, Hamza's gross score remained 72. Qasim Khar, Salman Khan, Noman Asghar each ended the day at gross 74 to finish second. Omar Khalid with a gross score of 75 remained third. Meanwhile, tough contest was witnessed on the first day of Jinnah Development Tour Golf Championship 2022 where Mohammad Waqar, Mohammad Asif, Haroon Rashid and Mohammad Saqib occupied the top slot with each golfer having a gross score of 70. They were followed by Salman Akhtar Ghazanfar Mahmood, who finished second and third with gross scores of 71 and 72. (APP)

FIFA women's world cup draw in October

CANBERRA: The draw for the 2023 Women's World Cup will take place on October 22, FIFA announced. Fatma Samoura, the Secretary-General of FIFA, and New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson on Friday revealed the draw for the ninth Women's World Cup to be hosted in Auckland. Australia and New Zealand, placed in Group B and Group A respectively, will co-host the tournament, which kicks off on July 20, 2023. As the largest Women's World Cup ever featuring 32 teams, up from 24, the tournament will be spread across five Australian and four New Zealand cities, with Auckland - also known as Tamaki Makaurau - hosting the opening match. "Preparations are well underway in Australia and New Zealand to welcome the world's largest women's single-sport event. The official draw in October marks an important milestone for teams and fans in the countdown to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023," Samoura said in a statement. (APP)

Bastianini upstages Quartararo

LE MANS: Italy's Enea Bastianini posted a track record to set the pace in opening practice at the French MotoGP yesterday as home favourite and world champion Fabio Quartararo finished out of the top five. Bastianini lay down an early marker for this seventh round of the world championship with a time of 1min 31.148sec on board his Ducati-Gresini team bike at Le Mans' Bugatti circuit. Spain's Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia) was best of the rest, at 0.202sec, with his compatriot Alex Rins (Suzuki) in third. In search of his first win in his home MotoGP Quartararo had to settle for sixth, the Yamaha champion satisfied enough to lie 0.492sec off the pace going in to today's final practice sessions and qualifying. "I'm feeling very relaxed, with this pace we're on target. (Agencies)

Ronaldo backs new coach Ten Hag to deliver at Manchester United

LONDON: Manchester United forward Cristiano Ronaldo expressed confidence that incoming manager Erik ten Hag will be a good fit at Old Trafford but warned that the Dutchman must be afforded time if United are to return to winning ways. Speculation has been rife about Ronaldo's future at United following a trophy-less campaign and their failure to qualify for the Champions League this season. "What I know about him is he did a fantastic job for Ajax (Amsterdam), that he's an experienced coach," Ronaldo told the club website on Friday. "But we need to give him time. Things need to change the way he wants." The 37-year-old has been among the few bright sparks for United in an otherwise dreadful season under interim boss Ralf Rangnick, scoring 24 times in all competitions. "I hope we have success, of course, because, if you have success, all of Man-



chester is going to have success as well. I wish him the best," added the Portuguese. "We are happy and excited, not only as players, but the supporters as well," Ronaldo said. "Let's believe that next year we are going to win trophies." Ten Hag, who has signed a three-year contract, comes to United after five seasons at Ajax, where he led the side to three league titles and two Dutch Cup triumphs. United, sixth in the league, travel to Crystal Palace for the final game of the season on May 22. (Agencies)

Rangers beat Penguins 5-3 to force deciding Game 7

NEW YORK: Chris Kreider's long slap shot bounced over Louis Domingue and into the net with 1:28 left and the New York Rangers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-3 on Friday night to push their thrilling first-round series to a deciding Game 7. Kreider's second of the game and fourth of the playoffs sent the series back to New York. Andrew Copp added an empty netter for good measure in the waning seconds. Game 7 is Sunday at Madison Square Garden. May 13, 2022; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; The New York Rangers celebrate the game winning goal scored by Rangers left wing Chris Kreider (20) against the Pittsburgh Penguins during the third period in game six of the first round of the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs at PPG Paints Arena. The Rangers won 5-3. Mandatory Credit: Charles LeClaire-USA TODAY Sports (Charles LeClaire-USA TODAY Sports)



Mike Zibanejad had two goals and two assists and Adam Fox had four assists. Igor Shesterkin stopped 31 shots to win at PPG Paints Arena for the first time this series after getting chased by Pittsburgh in Games 3 and 4. Bryan Rust, Evgeni Malkin and Jeff Carter scored for Pittsburgh. Domingue, who has become a local folk hero while filling in for injured Tristan Jarry and Casey DeSmith, made 33 saves but couldn't get a handle on Kreider's shot, which seemed to hit him high then popped up into the air and behind him before rolling into the net. (Agencies)

First-ever senior World Hockey event early next month

ISLAMABAD: Hero FIH Hockey5s Lausanne 2022', the first-ever senior World Hockey5s event organised by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), will take place in less than one month, on June 4 and 5, this year in Lausanne, Switzerland. In addition to a thrilling competition on the field of play with some of the powerhouses of international hockey (Women: Switzerland, India, Poland, South Africa and Uruguay; Men: Switzerland, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Poland), the event also aims at enabling everyone to

discover and practice the sport, with an initiation offered to the public throughout both days. Furthermore, a DJ music programme will entertain fans during the whole event, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) said on its website on Wednesday. "And since hockey is a big family, even the players of the flagship ice hockey club of the Vaud city - the Lausanne Hockey Club (LHC) - will be there and will come to compete for an exhibition match at a local and international selection of (field) hockey players," (APP)

Iga Swiatek makes it 25 wins after beating Azarenka at Italian Open

ROME: Iga Swiatek made it 25 wins in a row after an impressive 6-4, 6-1 victory over Victoria Azarenka at the Italian Open. The 20-year-old world No 1, who is aiming to seal a fifth tournament in a row, produced a ruthless performance against the former top-ranked player and Grand Slam winner. The last player to win more consecutive matches was Serena Williams, who had a streak of 27 in a row during 2014 and 2015. Swiatek's remarkable run makes her a favourite to win a second French Open when the year's second Grand Slam gets under way in 10 days. It looked like the win-streak might be under threat as Azarenka - a two-time Australian Open champion - stormed into a



3-0 lead, breaking Swiatek twice in the process only for the Pole to battle back. Azarenka got rattled when a spectator entered the front row of the mostly empty VIP section just behind her as she was facing a break point late in the first set. When she then double-faulted to hand Swiatek control of the set, she slammed her racket in frustration and complained to the chair umpire about the mid-game interruption. (Agencies)

China warns Nato not to interfere in Asia



BEIJING: China increasingly sees the war in Ukraine -- and the roles of the United States and its NATO allies in backing Kyiv against Moscow -- as a reflection of future tensions to come between the military bloc and Beijing in the Indo-Pacific. Ever since Russian tanks first crossed into Ukraine on February 24, Beijing has walked an awkward line between not giving outright support to Moscow's invasion while accusing the United States and other NATO countries of provoking the war by allowing the security alliance to expand

eastward despite protests from the Kremlin.

Now, as the war continues to grind on with the Russian military suffering major setbacks on the battlefield, China has ramped up its rhetoric to warn about NATO and the United States' footprint in Asia.

"NATO, a military organization in the North Atlantic, has in recent years come to the Asia-Pacific region to throw its weight around and stir up conflicts," Wang Wenbin, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said in late April. "NATO has messed up Europe. Is it now trying to mess up the Asia-Pacific and even the world?" Wang's comments were in response to earlier remarks from U.K. Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, who called for boosting NATO in the wake of the Ukraine war and warned China that it should "play by the rules." (Agencies)

Nopec bill could send oil prices to \$300

ABU DAHBI: If the U.S. passes the NOPEC bill, a bill designed to pave the way for lawsuits against OPEC members for market manipulation, the oil market could face even more chaos. OPEC's most influential energy ministers warned against passing the legislation, suggesting it could send oil prices soaring by 200% or 300%.

"The last thing we want is someone trying to hinder that system," the UAE's Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei said at a conference in Abu Dhabi, referring to the system OPEC has had in place for decades to ensure supply to the market is adequate (adequate according to OPEC's view). "If you hinder that system, you

need to watch what you're asking for, because having a chaotic market you would see ... a 200% or 300% increase in the prices that the world cannot handle," al-Mazrouei said at a panel at the World Utilities Congress hosted by CNBC's Dan Murphy.

As gasoline prices in America hit record highs, some lawmakers are looking to resurrect the NOPEC legislation that would allow the U.S. Attorney General to sue OPEC or its member states for antitrust behavior. Forms of a NOPEC bill have been considered in Congress committees for nearly two decades, but they have never moved past committee discussions. (Agencies)

Briton, German deny smuggling antiquities in Iraq court

BAGHDAD: A British and a German tourist accused of smuggling ancient shards out of Iraq appeared in a Baghdad court in yellow detainees' uniforms Sunday, telling judges they had not acted with criminal intent and had no idea they might have broken local laws.

The trial of Jim Fitton, 66, is grabbing international attention at a time when Iraq seeks to open up its nascent tourism sector. The session also revealed first details about a second defendant, identified as Volker Waldmann of Germany. The three-judge panel in Baghdad's felony court scheduled the next hearing for May 22. The court must determine whether the defendants had sought to

profit by taking the 12 items, which were found in their possession as they attempted to fly out of Baghdad airport on March 20.

Fitton and Waldmann appeared in court in detainees' yellow and were asked to explain their actions.

Waldmann said the two items found in his possession were not his and instead had been given to him by Fitton to carry. "But did you put them in your bag?" asked head judge Jaber Abdel Jabir. "Didn't you know these were Iraqi antiquities?"

Waldmann said he didn't pick up the items from the site, only agreed to carry them for Fitton. (Agencies)

New commando force leads Britain's military in Arctic operations



WASHINGTON — The new Future Commando Force program, made up of about 4,000 personnel with the British Royal Marines, is leading the way in Arctic operations for the entire service, according to the head of the effort.

"We are the U.K.'s Arctic experts [in] regard for specialists and electronic warfare elements," Brig. Mark Totten said at the

Modern Day Marine expo on Wednesday. "And we can use ship-to-shore maneuver and maneuver at sea to support routine operations in that theater."

For the most part, the service previously focused on the Arctic theater for "training and environmental development," Totten said, but that's going to shift. He added that the Future Commando Force wants to bolster its resources in the region and is ready to position other readiness forces near the Suez Canal.

The program is composed of two littoral response groups, and it aims for forces to be able to immediately deploy to complete a range of tasks, from combat operations to humanitarian missions. (Agencies)

Saudi Arabia mulls two-day weekend for private sector

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development has announced that it is still studying the possibility of amending some provisions of the labour law with an aim to increase the weekly off to two days for all private sector employees, local media reported.

"The ministry is keen on taking all the necessary measures that serve the interests of workers and the job market in a manner that contributes to achieving the government's goals and the labour market strategy in sync with the Saudi Vision

2030," Saad Al Hammad, spokesman for the ministry, said.

Al Hammad was speaking in reaction to private sector employees' repeated demands for reviewing the official weekly working hours and applying the two-day weekend, instead of one day off, for workers in the private sector.

Earlier, the ministry had worked on proposed amendments to the Labour Law and already put forward these propositions for feedback through a public opinion poll platform. (Agencies)

Nepal, India sign MoU to construct Arun-4 hydropower project

KATHMANDU: A bilateral memorandum of understanding for the construction of the identified 490.2 megawatts Arun-4 hydropower project has been signed between the governments of Nepal and India. Executive Director of Nepal Electricity

Authority (NEA), Kulman Ghising and chairperson and operation manager of the Indian hydropower company Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam, Nanda Lal Sharma signed the MoU for the joint venture semi-reservoir based hydropower project between the NEA and Nigam. (Agencies)

US drops Jewish extremist group from terror list

WASHINGTON: The US will remove a Jewish extremist group linked to late rabbi Meir Kahane as well as a Palestinian militant group from a terror blacklist after years without violence, an official said.

The state department designated Kahane Chai as a foreign terrorist organisation in 1997, three years after its supporter Baruch Goldstein massacred 29 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron.

The group was founded by Kahane, a US-born rabbi and former Israeli MP who advocated the expulsion of Arabs from Israel and was assassinated in New York in 1990.

The state department informed Congress it will withdraw the designation, which was contested in court by the group, as Kahane Chai "has not been linked to a

terrorist attack since 2005", an official said.

The official said the state department was also delisting the Mujahidin Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Palestinian extremist group linked to rocket attacks a decade ago.

Revolving the designations "ensures our terrorism sanctions remain current and credible and does not reflect any change in policy towards the past activities of any of these the organisations", the state department official said on condition of anonymity.

Despite the lack of attacks by Kahane Chai group, the late rabbi remains a hero for some on the extreme right of Israeli politics, including member of parliament Itamar Ben-Gvir who has advocated annexing the West Bank and hung a portrait of Goldstein in his home. (Agencies)

World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Czech Republic



PRAGUE: A pedestrian suspension bridge that is the longest such construction in the world has opened at a mountain resort in the Czech Republic.

The 721 metre-long bridge is built at an altitude of more than 1,100 meters above sea level. It connects two ridges of the mountains and hangs up to 95 meters above the valley below.

Sky Bridge 721, as it is known, is located in the northeastern part of the country in the Kralicky Sneznik mountain range near the border with Poland, some 200km east of Prague.

The bridge offers unusual views for vis-

itors who have a head for heights. Up to 500 people will be allowed to be on the bridge at any one time, although that number is halved for the first two weeks following Friday's opening.

The bridge will be closed for safety reasons if winds reach 135km/h. The construction took two years and cost some 200 million Czech crowns (\$13.4m). Critics say the bridge is too big for the surrounding environment, while others argue it will attract too many tourists to the town, which has a population of less than 500.

heo Scheepens, 59, from the Netherlands was one of the first. "Marvellous, impressive, the bridge moves, so you think something is going to happen," he said. "I wonder what is going to happen when it is windy. It is terrific weather, we are very blessed." The previous longest such bridge is in Arouca, Portugal, and is 516m long. (Agencies)

N.Korea battles Covid with antibiotics, home remedies

SEOUL: Standing tall in bright red hazmat suits, five North Korean health workers stride towards an ambulance to do battle with a Covid-19 outbreak that - in the presumed absence of vaccines - the country is using antibiotics and home remedies to treat.

The isolated state is one of only two countries yet to begin a vaccination campaign and, until last week, had insisted it was Covid-free. Now it is mobilising forces including the army and a public information campaign to combat what authorities have acknowledged is an "explosive" outbreak.

In an interview on state television today, public health vice minister Kim Hyong Hun said the country had switched from a quarantine to a treatment system

to handle the hundreds of thousands of suspected "fever" cases reported each day.

The broadcaster showed footage of the hazmat team, and masked workers opening windows, cleaning desks and machines and spraying disinfectant.

To treat Covid and its symptoms, state media have encouraged patients to use painkillers and fever reducers such as ibuprofen, and amoxicillin and other antibiotics - which do not fight viruses but are sometimes prescribed for secondary bacterial infections.

While previously playing down vaccines as "no panacea", media have also recommended gargling salt water, or drinking lonicera japonica tea or willow leaf tea three times a day. (Agencies)

G7 to help Indonesia, Vietnam shed coal dependence

TOKYO: The G7 major economies will expand an initiative to support such developing countries as Indonesia in their efforts to phase out coal.

G7 members will provide financial and technical support to help developing countries transition their mainstay coal-fired power generation to renewable energy in a push to accelerate decarbonisation.

As a first step, support will be provided to Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Senegal.

An agreement will be reached as early as the meeting of G7 environment, climate and energy ministers in late May.

Japan will help several countries, including Indonesia. South Africa received support to move



away from coal at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) last year. Countries including the US and the UK committed US\$8.5 billion in assistance to speed South Africa's introduction of renewable energy and its closing of coal-fired power plants. (Agencies)

Americans demonstrate in Paris against US threat to abortion right

PARIS: American women demonstrated in Paris's place du Trocadéro yesterday against plans in the US to reverse federal laws making abortion a right.

If the right is overturned by the Supreme Court, some states are expected to ban abortions, while others would not. The current rights date from the 1973 Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade.

The women, who numbered just over 100, waved coathangers, a symbol of the days

when desperate women visited 'backstreet' abortionists who used such objects to carry out risky abortions.

One of the protestors, 'Olivia', told FranceInfo: "My own mother had an illegal abortion in the 1950s in the US. She described it to me, and it was horrible. She almost died and it has remained a trauma for her." Another, 'Christine', said: "It will especially affect poor women and black women. (Agencies)

CLASSIFIED

Booking Open

Limited Slots Available Now

AB Creative Studio
By Bilal Abad

For more inquiries: Call Us: +92 346 905 3243
Office No: UG-9, Dean's Trade Center, Peshawar Cantt.



EURO DENTAL & BRACES CENTRE

Dr. Ijaz Khan

BDS, RDS, FCP(S/I)
PMDC # 15217-D

Services Offered

- Braces
- Root Canals/Fillings
- Tooth Whitening/Bleaching
- Scaling/Polishing
- Extractions/General Dentistry
- Crowns/Bridges

+92313-9583151/ +92333-8458001

Dental Office # FF01 Town Heights,
Old bara Road, University Town
Peshawar - Pakistan

office Tax Consultant

First Floor Town Heights Plaza, Abdara Road
Opposite GPO Officers Colony,
University Town - Peshawar - Pakistan

Cell: 0333-4149098
Email: eoffice27@gmail.com

Car House



+92 91 5270608
+92 333 9141117
sherazift1@gmail.com
17 The Mall, Peshawar Cantt, Pakistan

This Newspaper has been
digitally printed at

Khyber Prints
Instant Digital & Offset Printing Solutions

khyberprints@gmail.com
+92 309055000

Khyber Prints

- Instant Digital Printing Solutions -
First Floor, Town Heights, Old Bara Road,
University Town - Peshawar
Cell/Whatsapp: 0309-0055000
E-mail: khyberprints@gmail.com