



## ‘Special’ service: Declassified Guantanamo court filing suggests some 9/11 hijackers were CIA agents

WASHINGTON (Agencies): An explosive court filing from the Guantanamo Military Commission – a court considering the cases of defendants accused of carrying out the “9/11” terrorist attacks on New York – has seemingly confirmed the unthinkable. The document was originally published via a Guantanamo Bay court docket, but while public, it was completely redacted. Independent researchers obtained an unexpurgated copy. It is an account by the Commission’s lead investigator, DEA veteran Don Canestraro, of his personal probe of potential Saudi government involvement in the 9/11 attacks, conducted at the request of the defendants’ lawyers. Two of the hijackers were being closely monitored by the CIA and may, wittingly or not, have been recruited by Langley long before they flew planes into the World Trade Center buildings.

### – The story of two men

Of the great many enduring mysteries of the 9/11 attacks still unresolved over two decades later, perhaps the biggest and gravest relate to the activities of Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar in the 18 months leading up to that fateful day. The pair traveled to the US on multi-entry visas in January 2000, despite having repeatedly been flagged by the CIA and NSA previously as likely Al Qaeda terrorists. Mere days before their arrival, they attended an Al Qaeda summit in Kuala Lumpur, during which key details of the 9/11 attacks are likely to have been discussed and agreed. The meeting was secretly photographed and videotaped by Malaysian authorities at the direct request of the CIA’s Alec Station, a special unit set up to track Osama bin Laden, although oddly, no audio was captured. Still, this background should’ve been sufficient to prevent



Hazmi and Midhar from entering the US – or at least enough for the FBI to be informed of their presence in the country. As it was, they were admitted for a six-month period at Los Angeles International airport without incident, and Bureau representatives within Alec Station were blocked from sharing this information with their superiors by the CIA. “We’ve got to tell the Bureau about this. These guys clearly are bad. One of them, at least, has a multiple-entry visa to the US. We’ve got to tell the FBI,” Mark Rossini, a member of Alec Station, has recalled discussing with his colleagues. “[But the CIA] said to me, ‘No, it’s not the FBI’s case, not the FBI’s jurisdiction.’” Immediately upon arrival, Hazmi and Midhar encountered a Saudi national residing in California named Omar al-Bayoumi in an airport restaurant. Over the next two weeks, he helped them find an apartment in San Diego, co-signed their lease, gave them \$1,500 towards their rent, and introduced them to Anwar al-Awlaki, an imam at a local mosque. Al-Awlaki was killed in a US drone strike in Yemen in 2011. In the wake of 9/11, Bayoumi unsurprisingly became a subject of interest in an FBI probe of potential Saudi involvement in the attacks,

known as Operation Encore. In a 2003 interview with investigators in Riyadh, he claimed his meeting with Hazmi and Midhar was a coincidence – he heard them speaking Arabic, realized they couldn’t speak English, and decided to assist them out of charity. The Bureau reached a very different conclusion – Bayoumi was a Saudi intelligence operative and part of a wider militant Wahhabist network in the US, which handled a myriad of potential and actual terrorists, and monitored the activities of anti-Riyadh dissidents abroad. What’s more, Encore judged there to be a 50/50 chance he had advanced knowledge of the 9/11 attacks before they happened, and so did the Saudi government.

### – Why was it hidden?

Those bombshell facts remained hidden from public view until March 2022, when a trove of FBI documents was declassified at the request of the White House. The newly released Guantanamo Military Commission filing sheds even further light on Bayoumi’s contact with Hazmi and Midhar – and in turn, the CIA’s keen interest in them, their activities throughout their stay in the US, and refusal to disclose their presence to the FBI until late August 2001. The

filing is an account by the Commission’s lead investigator, DEA veteran Don Canestraro, of his personal probe of potential Saudi government involvement in the 9/11 attacks, conducted at the request of the defendants’ lawyers. Based on a review of classified information held by, and interviews with representatives of, the FBI and Pentagon, the content strongly suggests that the CIA obstructed official investigations to conceal its penetration of Al Qaeda. That’s the judgment of four separate, unnamed FBI agents interviewed by Canestraro who worked on investigations into the 9/11 attacks. The most incendiary charges were leveled by a Bureau agent referred to in his report as ‘CS-23’, who had “extensive knowledge of counterterrorism and counterintelligence matters.” CS-23 recounted how the CIA repeatedly lied and stonewalled the FBI in its investigations into Bayoumi. For example, while Agency officials claimed to possess no files on him when asked by Operation Encore representatives, CS-23 knew for a fact this was a “falsehood,” and the CIA maintained several operational files on Bayoumi, amounting to an extensive paper trail. Furthermore, CS-23 was certain that the CIA used its liaison relationship with the Saudi intelligence services to attempt to recruit Hazmi and Midhar, and circumvent laws prohibiting the Agency from conducting spying operations on US soil, by using Riyadh as a go between. This account was backed up by another FBI investigator, ‘CS-3,’ who further claims that Bayoumi setting up bank accounts and renting an apartment for the two hijackers in San Diego “was done at the behest of the CIA.” Any information provided to Bayoumi would then be fed back to Alec Station. CS-3 felt it odd that

this CIA unit, situated in the US and staffed by analysts, was involved in recruiting Al Qaeda operatives, as such work is typically the responsibility of case officers trained in covert operations based overseas. ‘CS-IO’ concurred that this arrangement was “highly unusual,” and made it “nearly impossible for [Alec] Station to develop informants inside of Al Qaeda from its base several thousand miles from the countries where Al Qaeda was suspected of operating.” Despite such tantalizing leads, CS-23 claims senior FBI officials suppressed further investigations into the CIA’s relationship with Bayoumi and the recruitment of Hazmi and Midhar, and Bureau representatives testifying before the joint Senate and Congressional inquiry into 9/11 were instructed not to reveal the full extent of Saudi involvement with Al-Qaeda.

For their part, CS-3 stated that before they and their colleagues were interviewed by the joint inquiry, CIA officials within Alec Station told them not to cooperate fully with investigators and they were looking to “hang someone” for 9/11. Canestraro does not make any conclusions as to why the CIA concealed vital information from the FBI prior to the attacks, which potentially could have prevented their execution, and why the Bureau subsequently played along with the Agency’s coverup. Although one answer is provided by the unusual nature of Alec Station’s setup. Namely, that far from infiltrating an Al Qaeda cell to avert terrorism, the Agency was seeking to influence and direct its activities in order to cause terrorism, outside standard recruitment channels. Having stumbled upon such a monstrous connivance, the FBI would’ve known well to leave the entire subject well alone.

## Pentagon chief grilled over leaks

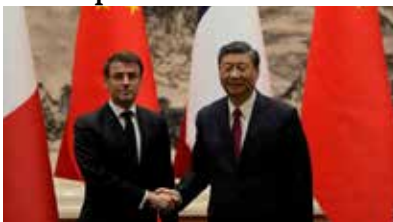
PENTAGON (Agencies): US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has said he was not made aware of a major leak of classified intelligence documents until more than a month after they first appeared online, raising questions about the government’s response as the Pentagon and Justice Department scramble to determine the origin of the breach. Speaking at a Tuesday press briefing alongside Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Austin took an aside to address the document leak, which has dominated headlines since they were picked up by US media last week. Stressing that the government takes the disclosures “very seriously” and had ordered an “urgent cross-department” probe, the Pentagon head also revealed that he was first briefed on the leaks on the morning of April 6 – weeks after the sensitive files first appeared online.

## Four soldiers killed in firing at Indian military base

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Four army personnel were killed in a firing incident at a military station in the Indian border state of Punjab early on Wednesday, officials said, adding that a search for the shooters was in progress. An unknown number of shooters were at large at the Bathinda military station and had ammunition on them, a defence source told Reuters, declining to be named citing the sensitivity of the matter. The incident was “not a terror attack”, and took place in a canteen, a senior police official in Punjab, S.P.S. Parmar told.

## Macron comments leave senior Taiwanese official ‘puzzled’

TAIPEI (Agencies): Comments by French President Emmanuel Macron on Taiwan are puzzling, a senior Taiwanese politician said, wondering whether France’s founding ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity are now out of fashion. Macron, in comments in an interview on a trip to China that was meant to showcase European unity on China policy, cautioned against being drawn into a crisis over Taiwan driven by an “American rhythm and a Chinese overreaction”. He also called for the European Union to reduce its dependence on the United States and to become a “third pole” in world affairs alongside Washington and Beijing. Taiwan parliament speaker You Si-kun, writing on Facebook late Tuesday above a screenshot of a report about Macron’s comments on Taiwan, questioned the



French commitment to freedom. “Are ‘liberté, égalité, fraternité’ out of fashion?” he wrote, referring to the official French motto of “liberty, equality, fraternity”. “Is it OK just to ignore this once it’s part of the constitution? Or can advanced democratic countries ignore the lives and deaths of people in other countries?” added You, one of the founders of Taiwan’s ruling Democratic Progressive Party. “The actions of President Macron, a leading international democracy, leave me puzzled.”

## Biden to meet UK’s Sunak in Belfast at start of Irish tour



BELFAST (Agencies): U.S. President Joe Biden will meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Northern Irish political leaders in Belfast on Wednesday, kicking off a three-day Irish tour with a speech to mark the 25th anniversary of Northern Ireland’s 1998 peace deal. Biden, who is fiercely proud of his Irish heritage, will spend just over half a day in the UK region

before travelling south to the Republic of Ireland for two-and-a-half days of speeches and meetings with officials and distant relatives. Speaking to reporters before leaving Washington, Biden said his priority was to help “keep the peace” as Northern Ireland marks the anniversary of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that largely ended 30 years of bloodshed between mainly Catholic opponents and mainly Protestant supporters of British rule. He also said he would seek to make sure the recent Windsor Framework deal between the European Union and Britain to ease post-Brexit trade barriers between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK remains in place.

## South Korea to lend 500,000 rounds of artillery shells to US, report says

SEOUL (Agencies): South Korea reached an agreement last month to lend the United States 500,000 rounds of 155mm artillery shells that could give Washington greater flexibility to supply Ukraine with ammunition, a South Korean newspaper reported on Wednesday. The DongA Ilbo newspaper cited unnamed government sources as saying South Korea decided to “lend” the ammunition instead of selling, to minimise the possibility of South Korean shells being used in the Ukraine conflict. It said the shells would be used primarily by the United States to fill its stockpile. Having bought 100,000 rounds of such shells last year, the U.S. government had asked to buy the same amount or



more in February, but the South Korean government sought another way to supply the ammunition. “We’ve opted to significantly increase the volume of shells but take the rental method, after exploring how to respond to the request of the blood ally in good faith while sticking to the government principle of not providing lethal weapons to Ukraine,” an unnamed source was quoted as saying.

## China says Taiwan heading for ‘stormy seas’ under President Tsai



BEIJING/TAIPEI (Agencies): China said on Wednesday that President Tsai Ing-wen was pushing Taiwan into “stormy seas” after Beijing held military exercises in response to Tsai’s recent meeting with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. Tsai said the overseas trip, which included the meeting with McCarthy in the US and stops in Guatemala and Belize, showed the world Taiwan’s determination to defend freedom and

democracy. The trip infuriated Beijing, prompting days of military drills designed to show it could forcefully retake control of the self-ruled island, which China claims as its own. China views Tsai as a separatist and has rebuffed repeated calls from her for talks. Tsai says she wants peace but that her government will defend Taiwan if it is attacked. “Tsai Ing-wen brought danger to Taiwan. Tsai Ing-wen almost completely sided the United States, pushing Taiwan into stormy seas,” China’s Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) spokesperson Zhu Fenglian said on Wednesday. Zhu said the drills around Taiwan were “a serious warning against the collusion and provocation of Taiwan independence separatist forces and external forces”.

**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.



### 3.1mln children to be immunized against polio drive from April 14

PESHAWAR (APP): A five-day anti-polio drive would start in different districts of the province from April 14 wherein 3.1 million children under the age of five would be given polio drops against the crippling disease. The campaign will be conducted in Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan divisions, Peshawar, Nowshera, Swat districts and in Afghan refugee camps and high-risk union councils along the border, it was informed in a meeting

held here under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. It was informed that strict security measures have been put in place while 25,957 security personnel would be deployed to ensure foolproof security of the polio teams and to avert any untoward incident during the drive. Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam directed all the concerned officers and relevant authorities to improve the quality of the anti-polio campaign as it was essen-

tial to achieve the goal of a polio-free country. He assured that all the available resources would be provided to make the polio eradication campaign successful, adding that all sections of society including parents have to play their imperative role to administer polio drops to vulnerable children. The meeting was attended by all the administrative secretaries, commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other relevant authorities.

### 9 member robbers’ gang arrested; girl commit suicide in Swat: Police

PESHAWAR (APP): A nine-member gang of robbers were arrested and a 15-year-old girl committed suicide in the Swat district on Wednesday, police said. A police spokesman told journalists in Mingora that clothes, two vehicles and a rickshaw used by the nine-member robbers’ gang including Afghan refugees were seized during the search and strike operation conducted by the Swat police last night. Two members of the gang, who were allegedly involved in robbing people were backed by the six- mem-

bers group of supporters and a local facilitator. Police claimed to have recovered over 1.7 million looted money from their possession. The outlaw belonged to Afghanistan, Peshawar, Swat and Abbottabad districts. In another incident, a 15-year-old girl committed suicide at tehsil Kabal in Swat district due to her poor mental condition. The gory incident occurred at Sorbat tehsil Bahrain where the ill-fated Shalo Bibi shot herself dead with a pistol. Police have registered a case and started investigation.

### Prices of vegetables, fruits on increase

PESHAWAR (APP): Prices of vegetables and fruits could not be reduced during Ramadan and more increases in rates were witnessed during a visit to the markets in the morning. One vendor while talking to APP said that the rates could not be reduced because of the main sellers of vegetables and fruits and instead of taking action against small vendors, the officials of the district administration let the main wholesalers without any check. “How can we

sell vegetables and fruits if we purchased such items at high rates,” he questioned. He said despite the rates of the various items including fruits and vegetables issued by the district administration, the whole sellers sell food items at high rates. He said a slight reduction was witnessed in Adrak Rs 680, however, the rates of Garlic Rs 360 and Lemon Rs 280 per kg are still at high rates. Various items including Peas 180, Arvi 170, Okra 180, Karela 80, Beans 190 and

Onion 90 per kg are being sold. The price of green pepper is 100, tomato is 60 and eggplant is 70 rupees per kilogram while Malta 440, Cano 350 and Banana 280 per dozen are sold without any reduction in the rates. The rates of fruits also witnessed increases including pomegranate 440, Iranian Apple 400, guava 250 and grapes jumped to 440 rupees per kg and strawberries 230 melons 90 and watermelons 50 rupees per kg slightly down.

### Aimal Wali for holding intra-party elections

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial President of Awami National Party (ANP), Aimal Wali, has written a letter to Central President Amir Haider Khan Hoti for the constitution of an organizing committee to hold intra-party elections. Aimal Wali maintained in the letter that the provincial cabinet of the party had completed its constitutional term on April 05 and therefore the party elections should be announced. He further said that

as the provincial party’s president he discharged his responsibilities to the best of his capabilities and fully implemented the agenda and narrative of his party despite several challenges, including corona crises and security issues. He said that ANP never compromised on its principles set by its predecessors, adding that the present cabinet would continue to work till the holding of the new intra-party elections.

### KP Food Safety,Halal Food Authority operations continue in Peshawar,Kohat

PESHAWAR (APP): The operations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority continued in Peshawar and Kohat to ensure food safety for the common

people. This was stated by a spokesman of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority while talking to media men here on Wednesday. He said food safety teams of Peshawar sub-division 1 and 4 conducted joint raids on sweets production units. The inspection teams inspected several bakery shops and issued notices for improvement, the spokesman said. He said 600 kg of substandard sweets

were seized after being exported. Two bakery units have been sealed for use of non-food grade colours and poor sanitation, fines have also been imposed, spokesperson. The action of the food safety team against sick animals on secret information in Kohat district. Butchers were taking sick animals to the slaughterhouse, and a food safety team arrived on the spot, the spokesman of the food authority said.

### Reports of differences in PML (N) baseless: Murtaza Abbasi

PESHAWAR (APP): Former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Member National Assembly Javed Murtaza Abbasi Wednesday dispelled the impression of any reports about the differences in the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and termed it roamers and baseless. Talking to media men, Javed Murtaza Abbasi said that the reports of differences in the Muslim League (N) are baseless. Some leaders were hoping that this time they will get higher positions, Javed Murtaza Abbasi said. Some leaders disagreed over not getting the posts,

but there was no violation of party discipline, Javed Murtaza Abbasi clarified. He said, Muslim League is a big party, there are small differences and could be addressed amicably. In the Muslim League government, 70 percent of the arrears of the province have been given, Javed Murtaza Abbasi replied to a question. Why Khyber Pakhtunkhwa arrears were not taken during the PTI regime, Javed Murtaza Abbasi questioned. He said it is the job of the provincial government to take money from the Federal government.

### PHC reserve decision on dissolution, de-notification of BoGs of MTI hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali on Wednesday reserved its decision on dissolution and de-notification of board of Governors (BoGs) of 10 Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) hospitals of the province by the caretaker provincial government. The bench heard the arguments of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf’s (PTI) Advocate Ali Gohar Durrani in the case who said that the caretaker government illegally approved the dissolution of all BoGs in a cabinet meeting on March 16, adding that the gov-

ernment has no power to take such decision. He said that the move to dissolve BoGs was a violation of Section 230 of the Election Act 2017 as the caretaker government was mainly responsible to run the day-to-day affairs and assist the Election Commission in conducting fair and transparent elections. The Counsel for the petitioner said that unfortunately, the caretaker government was taking more interest in affairs that were not the mandate of the government, adding that the previous government had introduced the MTI Act in 2015 under which BoGs of ten major hospitals were formed.

### MEC students meet Governor KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday said that Pakistani youth had lot of potentials and they were the future of the country so they should utilize their capabilities for the development of the country. It is imperative to pro-

vide better health and education facilities to our young generation with confidence and guidance, he said while addressing the students of Mercy Educational Complex (MEC) Nasirpur GT road Peshawar during their visit to Governor House, Peshawar.

### KP Govt dissolves, denotifies BoGs of all KP MTI hospitals

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government has dissolved and de-notified the board of Governors (BoGs) of all Medical Teaching Institutions (MTI) with immediate effect and handed over administer affairs of BoGs to alternate bodies till the constitution of the new boards. Separate notifications issued here by KP Health Department said that the BoGs of MTI-LRH Peshawar have been dissolved and BoGs Peshawar Institutes of Cardiology (PIC) would take care of the administrative affairs of the

hospital till further order. Similarly, BoGs of MTI MMC/BKMC, Mardan, KMC/ KTH/ KCH, MTI KGMC/HMC Peshawar, MTI QHAMC/NMC, Nowshera, MTI KGN/BMC, Bannu and MTI AMC/ATH, Abbottabad were dissolved and denotified and the administrative affairs would be looked after by MTI, BKMC/GKMC Swabi, BoGs MTI, PIC, BoGs MTI PIC Peshawar, BoGs MTI, BKMC, Swabi, BoGsMTI MMTH/GMC, DI Khan, BoGs MTI, GKMC/BKMC, Swabi respectively until further order.

### Health experts suggest the integration of COVID-19 services

PESHAWAR (APP): Experts on public health while emphasizing COVID-19 vaccination had suggested the integration of COVID-19 services with existing community-based health services and immunization programs. “The community should be mobilized for taking vaccine against COVID-19 as only 17% of people have received booster shots and 36% of people in Pakistan have completed their basic vaccination against the deadly pandemic,” they added. These suggestions were given during a consultative workshop arranged by Shifa Foundation with the support of the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) and Unit aid here in Peshawar. The workshop was organized with the objective of advocating the project theme and seeking the support of key decision-makers in

terms of consultation to improve COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination facilities countrywide. Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce, Technical Education, and Revenue Department, Adnan Jalil chaired the workshop. Bawar Khan, Project Manager for COVID-19 Test and Treat Advocacy in Pakistan, presented the project achievements in the workshop. He said that Shifa Foundation had delivered more than 383 in-person community awareness and capacity-building sessions in Pakistan. He further shared that the project has built the capacity of more than 21,500 individuals including 13,353 women and young girls through in-person sessions and Information education Communication (IEC) materials about COVID-19 in Pakistan.

### Emergency 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







## Prophet’s Mosque ready for surge of worshippers in last 10 days of Ramadan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prophet’s Mosque usually receives a huge number of visitors and worshippers during the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan, as such, Saudi Arabia’s Agency of the General Presidency for the Affairs of Prophet’s Mosque has maximized its efforts to ensure that the surge in the number of worshippers and visitors in this period is attended to through an integrated system of services provided 24 hours. The agency has taken measures to prepare the mosque to receive huge numbers

of people, including all floors and outdoor yards, and increased the efficiency and quality of provided services for the comfort of all worshippers. It has also mobilized human resources to ensure the smooth movement of the mosque worshippers. To provide high-quality services for the visitors, the agency has put in place plans to ensure coordination and integration with all relevant agencies, including voluntary services, Saudi Gazette reported. The agency has boosted the cleaning and sterilization oper-

ations. It provides prayer rugs and water containers. It made ready all mosque facilities and increased the services dedicated to transporting the elderly and people with disabilities to their assigned praying areas through regular vehicles and wheelchairs, to ensure their comfort and ease of access. All of these services are part of efforts exerted by the agency to ensure that services of the highest quality are provided to the visitors to the mosque, to help them perform the rituals easily, Saudi Gazette report said.

## Foolproof security put in place for observance of martyrdom day of Hazrat Ali (AS)

KOHAT (APP): The district police on Wednesday put in place foolproof security arrangements for the peaceful observance of majalis and processions on the martyrdom day of Hazrat Ali (AS). The District Police Officer (DPO) Shazad Umar Abbas Babar, chairing a meeting of police officers, chalked out an effective security plan and directed the SDPOs to monitor the gatherings on the occasion of Hazrat Ali’s martyrdom day. He also directed SHO’s to remain vigilant during the processions and Majalis and thor-

oughly check every individual at entry and exit points of Imambargahs and processions. Under the security plan, the district police installed CCTV cameras for monitoring the Majalis and processions, installed walk-through gates and deployed trained elite commandos, police officials in plainclothes and officials of the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) at strategic locations to keep eye on suspicious persons. The police have also installed barbed wires around Imambargahs and allocated separate places for parking.

## India wants to mislead world by holding G20 meeting in IIOJK: APHC leaders

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders have said that by holding the G20 meeting in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, fascist Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party government wants to mislead the world community about the prevailing grim situation of the territory. Illegally detained senior APHC leader, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, in a message sent from New Delhi’s infamous Tihar Jail termed the Indian move as a deep-rooted conspiracy to deflect world attention away from the real issue. He said the G-20 members that have a remarkable human rights track record should skip the events being hosted by India in the

UN recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir and impress upon India to resolve the lingering dispute in line with the UN Security Council resolutions. He condemned the Modi government’s crafty move to portray normalcy in the region. He reminded the members of G-20 that Jammu and Kashmir is a dispute that has been on the UNSC’s agenda for more than 70 years. “It would be a great travesty of justice on the part of G-20 nations to offer India, the usurper of Kashmir, an opportunity to pose as a responsible stakeholder by participating in the meeting in the territory that it had occupied illegally in brazen violations of international law and norms of justice,” he said.

## Commissioner inaugurates wheat procurement drive

FAISALABAD (APP): Commissioner Silwat Saeed opened the wheat procurement campaign by distributing gunny bags (bardana) among farmers here on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Ali Anan Qamar, officers of the food department and revenue department were also present. Expressing satisfaction over arrangements, the commissioner said that transparent distribution of bardana, organized wheat procurement, easy method of payment, provision of facilities for farmers at procurement centers were the part of the government policy. She directed the staff concerned to redress any

complaint of farmers without delay. Earlier, Deputy Director Umar Sarwar said that 532,810 metric tons of wheat would be procured in four districts of the division for which 43 procurement centers had been set up at various points to facilitate farmers. He said that 110,000 metric tons of wheat would be procured in Faisalabad; 262,810 metric tons in district Jhang; 50,000 metric tons in district Chiniot and 110,000 metric tons in district Toba Tek Singh. At least 11 procurement centers have been set up in district Faisalabad, 8 in TT Singh, 18 in Jhang and six in district Chiniot had been established.

## ANF recovers over 182 kg drugs; arrests seven

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in seven operations managed to recover over 182 kg drugs, 1700,000 intoxicated tablets and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation in Islamabad, ANF recovered 36 kg charras from the possession of two accused, residents of Peshawar. Charras was concealed in the CNG cylinder of a vehicle. In another operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF recovered Ice drug absorbed clothes from the possession of a Jeddah-bound passenger, a resident

of Mardan, going on flight no ER-851. The total weight of the clothes was 16 kg, he added. In third operation conducted in Khyber, ANF and FC managed to recover 15 kg charras and 1.5 kg Ice drug. In fourth operation at Lahore International Airport, 75 Ice drug filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a Qatar-bound passenger, resident of Toba Tek Singh, going on flight no QR-629. In two different operations conducted in Lahore, 3.6 kg opium and 16.8 kg charras were recovered from the possession of two drug pushers, residents of Okara and Toba Tek Singh.

## Sindh Food Authority to register food products from May 15

KARACHI (APP): Director General (DG) Sindh Food Authority (SFA) Agha Fakhar Hussain said that SFA had decided to start the registration process of Food products/brands of all pre-packed food items from May 15 as per the vision of Sindh Food Minister Mukesh Kumar Chawla to make authority functional. “Those who do not get their products registered under SFA will face legal action as per SFA Act 2016, rules, laws, and regulations.” This he said while visiting Pakistan Standard Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) HQ at Gulistan-e-Joher, said a statement is-

sued here on Wednesday. DG SFA had a meeting with Director Quality Control Center (QCC) Dr Tahira Zaheer & other officers. Director SFA Masood Bhutto, Director Technical Ahmed Ali Shaikh and Dr Seema Ashraf were also present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues related to Food Products Brand Registration and joint working with Federal Food Authority (PSQCA). DG SFA Agha Fakhar Hussain further said that SFA would work in various sectors in collaboration with Federal Food Authority to provide better food items to the people of Sindh.

## 97 fresh Covid-19 cases reported in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, around 97 fresh Covid-19 cases have been reported so far. According to Kashmir Media Service, no death has been reported due to the virus in the territory after the emergence of new cases. 49 cases were reported from Jammu region and 48 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 480,230. Among the cases, 174,353 are from the Jammu region and 305,967 from Kashmir Valley. Fresh Covid cases were reported in Srinagar, Budgam, Kulgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Bandedipora, Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch and Kathua districts.

## Man killed by spouse’s ex-husband

BUREWALA (APP): A man was allegedly axed to death by six outlaws at Basti Muhammadpura, situated in limits of Gaggo Mandi Police Station, here According to police, a citizen namely Muhammad Anwar had married the ex-wife of one of the alleged outlaws named Shafqaat. The alleged outlaw was not happy over the marriage. In a fit of rage, he along with another five outlaws attacked Muhammad Anwar and killed him with repeated blows of the axe. In the process, the accused also injured his ex-wife seriously. The deceased Muhammad Anwar was also a local journalist as the Police has started to investigate the matter.

## Shop sealed for hoarding

SARGODHA (APP): The district administration on Wednesday sealed a shop for hoarding and imposed a fine over profiteering in Kot Momin. According to the official sources, Assistant Commissioner Rab Nawaz inspected various shops to ensure sale of essential commodities at the government rates. During his inspection, he sealed a shop due to having undeclared stock of sugar and ghee besides imposing Rs 20,000 fine on a shop for overpricing.

## Man hit to death

SARGODHA (APP): A motorcyclist was killed by a speeding tractor trolley near Chak No 123 SB in Atta Shaheed police limits on Wednesday. Police said Sajid, 35, was travelling on his motorcycle when a speeding tractor trolley hit and killed him. Police reached the spot and shifted the body to a local hospital.

## IRSA releases 58,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 58,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 68,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1436.06 feet and was 38.06 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 19,100 cusecs while outflow as 15,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1113.45 feet, which was 63.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 22,900 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 20,600, 26,400, 32,900 and 6,100 cusecs respectively.

## Former PM Nawaz Sharif to lead PML-N for 2023 general elections: Talal Ch

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior leader Talal Chaudhry Wednesday said that former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif will soon return to the country and would lead the campaign of the PML-N for general elections 2023. Talking to a Private news channel, he said that the PML-N party will decide the right time for the arrival of Nawaz Sharif in the country. Replying to a question, he said his party was ready to deal with any political situation, add-

ing, the public will recognize such faces which go to any extent for their vested interests. To another question, he said that the PML-N leadership had always accepted the court decisions and never indulged in politics of agitation but general elections across the country at the same time was in the best interest of the country. He said that there will be issues in early elections and it will be equivalent to weakening the federation as the country is already witnessing a constitutional and political crisis.

## Addressing mental health issues govt’s top priority: Salman Sufi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of the prime minister’s strategic reforms Salman Sufi Wednesday said that the government was taking practical steps to address ‘mental health’ issues and well-being of the nation on a priority basis that had remained a long-neglected component of healthcare service in our society. In a move aimed at improving mental health services in the country, the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has launched a new mobile application called “Humraaz” and a helpline service 1166 to support public, he said while talking to a private news channel. He said the Humraaz mobile application was available for both Android and iOS devices, adding, this app was providing users with a wide range of mental health resources,

including self-help tools, counseling services, and access to mental health professionals. ‘Humraaz’ first ever government let mental health service would remove the taboo around the mental health issues, he added. This app was now offering psychotherapy, daily activity monitoring, connection with professionals, chatbots, WhatsApp support and appointment booking, he further explained. He said that it was a matter of serious concern that 25 percent of the country’s population was suffering from mental health-related issues. “The aim of the initiative is to provide consultation services and to help improve the health and quality of life of people suffering from deteriorating mental health,” said Salman Sufi, adding, the initiative was being launched on directions of the PM.

## NIA frames fake charges against three Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): A court of India’s dreaded National Investigation Agency (NIA) has framed fake charges against three innocent Kashmiri civilians in Indian Illegally Held Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Court of Special Judge of NIA in Srinagar framed the charges against Umar Mushtaq Khan, Mur-

taza Rashid Dar and Sajjad Ahmad Dar, KMS reported. The case was registered by New Delhi-controlled Special Investigation Agency (SIA) against these persons for supporting the freedom-loving organizations struggling for the liberation of Jammu and Kashmir from Indian illegal occupation.

## STC Group provides advanced digital technologies in response to the increase of network usage in Madinah during Ramadan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The STC Group has expanded its network capabilities by 18% in Madinah to meet the increasing demand for its network and accommodate the rising number of visitors during the peak of the Umrah season in the holy month of Ramadan. Thanks to its prepared digital infrastructure, STC provided its advanced services and technologies to visitors in the Prophet’s Mosque. This was in response to an unprecedented increase in the number of international roaming customers who visited the Kingdom for Umrah and other purposes, recording a rise of over 13% compared to previous years. Moreover, STC witnessed a surge of more than 90% in internet data traffic in the Prophet’s Mosque, with over one-third of the traffic be-

ing passed through 5th generation technology - a rise of 130% from the previous year. The Group also registered an increase in voice traffic growth by more than 22% in Madinah compared to last year, despite the significant increase in users. This reflects the high operational efficiency of the network and standard performance indicators. STC Group continuously works on providing a unique experience to the pilgrims through its equipped and developed digital infrastructure in the Prophet’s Mosque. Additionally, all sites for serving the pilgrims and worshippers will be well-equipped to greet millions of visitors during the holy month of Ramadan. This will ensure offering a distinctive digital experience and upgrading service quality.

## Iftar & Dinner organized by Anjuman Behbood-e-Mareezan in DHQ Hospital

ATTOCK (APP): Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza participated in the iftar and dinner program organized by Anjuman Behbood-e-Mareezan at Isfandiyar Bukhari DHQ Hospital in Attock. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Finance Planning

Waqar Akbar Cheema and other officers were also present. DC broke the fast along with the relatives of the patients, the hospital administration and other officials. On this occasion, he also prayed for the recovery of the patients and the development of the nation.

## Nayeem Khan urges G-20 nations to refrain from participating in Group’s upcoming meetings in IoK

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Senior APHC leader Nayeem Ahmed Khan has made a passionate appeal to member countries of Group Twenty (G-20) urging them to refrain from participating in the group’s upcoming events being purposefully hosted by India in the UN-recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued here Wednesday, the illegally incarcerated Hurriyat leader, while condemning the Modi government’s crafty move, reminded the members of G-20 that Jammu and Kashmir is an issue that has been on the UNSC’s agenda for more than 70 years. Terming the Indian move as a deep-rooted conspiracy to deflect world attention away from the real issue, Khan said that G-20 members who have a re-

markable human rights track record should skip the summit events being held in the disputed region and pursue the government of India to resolve the lingering dispute in line with the UN security council resolutions. “It would be a great travesty of justice on the part of G-20 nations to offer India, the usurper of Kashmir, an opportunity to pose as a responsible stakeholder by participating in the leaders’ summit in the territory that it had occupied illegally in brazen violations of international law and norms of justice”, Khan said, adding that it was high time that the member countries of the Group should come clean on the issue and hold India accountable for the massive human rights violations being committed by its troops.



President condoles with families of martyred troops

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday condoled with the family members of the soldiers recently martyred in terrorist attacks in various areas of the country. The president contacted the family members of Naek Fazal Janan over phone, who embraced martyrdom in South Waziristan on April 8. He also expressed condolence to the family members of Naek Nazeer Ullah Mehsood and Naib Subedar Hazrat Gul who were martyred in Khyber Barra on April 8. President Alvi

also telephoned brother of Sepoy Hamid Rasool who was martyred in South Waziristan on April 5. The president paid tributes to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives in war against terrorism. He said the whole nation was united to completely uproot the menace of terrorism from the country. The president prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of ranks of the martyrs in paradise and grant of courage to bear this irreparable loss. He also thanked their families on behalf of the nation.

MoCCC issues heatwave guidelines to provinces for effective disaster management:Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination has issued heatwave guidelines to the provinces and relevant stakeholders to cope with the imminent threat of extreme temperature rise in the Summers and prevent any serious losses. In a series of tweets, the federal minister said that the Ministry had issued necessary standard operating procedures (SOPs) to provinces regarding arrangements for

possible heat waves in the summer season. Senator Rehman underlined that every year heat waves cost losses of lives, agriculture and the economy along with other damages. She added that in order to avoid these losses, along with the administration, the citizens also had to take precautionary measures and preemptive arrangements. These administrative SOPs regarding heatwaves were formulated by the Ministry of Climate Change Task Force, whereas all provinces and stakeholders were consulted in formulating SOPs.

Islamabad Police to constitute special squads to curb signal violation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police has decided to accelerate efforts to ensure the implementation of traffic laws and take strict action against those involved in violation of red-signal. The police spokesperson said that Islamabad capital police have decided to assign a task to the traffic congestion unit for taking stern action against those violating red signals while additional squads would be constituted for the purpose. A special campaign is already underway to check violations while

various squads would perform duties on main roads and boulevards of the city and take action against the violators. A police spokesperson said that efforts are underway to ensure a disciplined traffic system in the city. He also appealed to the citizens to follow the traffic rules to maintain the smooth flow of traffic in the city. The education wing has been directed to give awareness to road users about traffic laws while FM Radio 92.4 would air special programs in this regard.

Riaz Peerzada call on UN Ambassador to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka called on Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada. Matters of mutual interest and cooperation particularly the upcoming report on GSP+ progress made in various aspects and challenges were discussed in this meeting. Federal Minister for Human Rights welcomed the Ambassador and said that Pakistan has been enjoying good relations with European countries and these relations are based on mutual respect and shared international obligations. He appreciated the continuing support of the

European Union through the GSP+ status for Pakistan. He said that our commitments under the UN Charter and our obligations towards international conventions and agreements remained a high priority of the government. Dr. Riina Kionka appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan in the implementation of its human rights agenda and indicated that European Union would continue to help Pakistan in the implementation of this agenda. She said that continuous efforts are required to overcome challenges and European Union would continue its support in this regard.

SCCI president visits Child Protection Bureau

SIALKOT (Agencies): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik and Vice President Wahab Jahan-gir on Wednesday visited the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau. They met the orphan and homeless chil-

dren and distributed cash and Eid gifts, including shoes, suits, pillows and bed sheets. District Officer Child Protection Bureau Fiaz Butt briefed the president and vice president about the helpline 1121 of the bureau and facilities being provided to children.

PIA assures public of uninterrupted operations despite salary payment concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has addressed concerns about non-payment of salaries and reassured the public that its operations are not affected. In a press statement released on Wednesday, the PIA spokesman said that although the airline is facing financial difficulties due to the country's economic situation, it has paid the salaries of staff in Groups I to IV on time. However, he added, there has been a delay of a few days in the salaries of officers and other officials, which will be paid

in the next few days. The spokesman clarified that PIA officers, including pilots, are fully engaged in fulfilling their responsibilities with complete dedication and persistence, and that the airline is fully functional and operational. Several national dailies carried a news story expressing concerns that the national carrier's operations would be affected, as its pilots were reportedly considering boycotting flights as a protest against the non-payment of their pending salaries, even during the month of Ramazan.

MoS Hina to attend meeting of Afghanistan's Neighbouring countries on Apr 13

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will lead the Pakistani delegation in the 4th Meeting of the Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan which would be held in Samarkand on April 13. "On the sidelines of the meeting, the minister of state will hold bilateral meetings with leaders of other participating delegations," a Foreign Office press release said. The Neighbouring Coun-

tries of Afghanistan mechanism was established in 2021 on Pakistan's initiative with a view to evolving a regional approach to the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan hosted the first meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Neighbouring Countries on September 8, 2021, and participated in the second meeting held in Tehran, Iran in November 2021, and the third meeting held in Tunxi, China in March 2022.

Enforcement of ethics during coverage of acts of terrorism global norm: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said that enforcement of ethics, especially during the coverage of acts of terrorism, was a global code as well as part of the national law. Using her twitter handle, she said some concerns had been expressed regarding a recent order issued by Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) about coverage ethics of violent scenes involving acts of terrorism and

their aftermath. "The order prohibits broadcasting gory scenes, dead bodies, wreckage, and live images from the spot only to avoid spreading fear and panic among the masses, which is always the real aim and design of the terrorists," she maintained. The minister said that this boundary was set all over the world and every responsible media body and organization adheres to them across the board, without exception. "Live coverage of terrorism incidents, and

spots amplifies terrorism impact and divulges sensitive post-operation information to the miscreants", she remarked. "We have always upheld the right to free speech as a sacred cause and fought against attempts to curtail this right. We are committed to this principle," she said. However, she stressed that responsible journalism seeks to follow ethics during the coverage of terrorism. This she said "we owe(as a responsibility) to the victims of terrorism".

Security tightened on Yaum-e-Ali (RA)

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The district police, on Wednesday, here, have tightened the security on the occasion of Hazrat Ali's (RA) martyrdom day anniversary, besides providing security to the processions across the district. According to a spokesman for Bahawalpur's police, District Police Officer (DPO) Syed Muhammad Abbas directed to beef up the security across the district to maintain law and order situation on the occasion of Hazrat Ali's (RA) martyrdom day's anniversary. He said that five processions would be taken out in Bahawalpur on this occasion. He also classified the processions in 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories. He added that 29 Majalis would also be held in Bahawalpur, adding that the two majalis would be marked under the category of 'A', seven under the category 'B, and 20 under the category 'C'.

16.5kg hashish seized from three drug peddlers

FAISALABAD (APP): Police arrested three drug peddlers, including a woman, and seized 16.5kg hashish from their possession on Wednesday. According to a police report, drug peddler Haleem was arrested from Mehndi Mohala and 13.2kg hashish was recovered from his hideout. Meanwhile, Shamim Bibi was arrested with 1.5kg hashish from Nankana road andSandalbar police arrested Arshad and seized 1.5kg hashish.

Four robbers arrested

SIALKOT (APP): Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested four members of two gangs and recovered weapons and item. According to a police spokesperson, Muradpur police station arrested Zahid and Akhtar of Tanveera gang and recovered millions of rupees, mobile phones and weapons. Meanwhile, Muradpur police also arrested Waqas and Farooq of Waqasa gang and recovered Rs 200,000, three motorcycles, weapons and mobile phonestion. Police said the accused confessed their involvement in more than 20 different casesof dacoity and robbery. Police sent the accused behind bars after registering separate cases against them.

Youth's dead body recovered from maize crop

BUREWALA (APP): The dead body of a youngster recovered from maize crops at Chak No 573/E.B in tehsil Burewala. According to police sources, Liaquat Ali, a resident of Chak No 479/E.B was working as a welder at Chak No 573/E.B. Two days ago, he went missing suddenly. His parents approached the police to search for the missing youngster. On Wednesday, the dead body was recovered from a maize crop. Police started an investigation into the mishap.

DC visits examination centers

SARGODHA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Capt (ret'd) Shoaib Ali visited examination centers for matriculation annual examination here on Wednesday. The DC with Secretary board Dr Mohsin Abbas visited Government Comprehensive Girls High School, Government Muslim High school and checked arrangements for the exams. Additional commissioners and assistant commissioners would monitor examination centers on daily basis, he said. Later on, the deputy commissioner also visited free flour distribution points in the cityand monitored the process.

G-20 meeting has no relevance for Kashmir: Farooq Rehmani

ISLAMABAD (APP): It has always been noted and acknowledged by members of the world body that Kashmir is a disputed territory and its future remained unsettled since, while the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been martyred in large numbers and thousands put behind bars during the last 32 years for rising peacefully against India's terror, tyranny and human rights atrocities in and along the besieged region of the Kashmiris. Therefore, there's is no sense in calling an international conference in the region, said Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Chairman Jammu and Kashmir People's Freedom League and ex-Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference to bring the disputed and volcanic situation of the region in focus. He said that India was hoodwinking the world opinion, particularly the G-20 members

for its nefarious regional designs and trying to convey the message that all was well in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The reality, he emphasized was totally different and the inhabitants of the area were under surveillance and siege from all sides; all basic civil rights and fundamental freedoms remain strangled there , thousands were in jails all across India, press and platform was taboo for the people since the day of its merger with India in 1919. He stated India not only violated bilateral agreements with Pakistan but it did not abide by the two CHR Commission reports of 2018 and 2019 on Jammu and Kashmir and continued to ridicule and flouting the international law, UN resolutions on Kashmir and other international obligations with regard to suggestions for the solution of the dispute.

Foreign exchange can be earned by increasing fish production,says Magsi

MULTAN (APP): South Punjab Secretariat has intensified activities to promote the fisheries sector with the beginning of fish breeding season. Secretary Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries South Punjab, Sarfraz Khan Magsi, visited district Bahawalnagar and Mian Channu in this regard on Wednesday. Director General Wildlife and Fisheries was also accompanied by him. Secretary Fisheries South Punjab reviewed the fish breeding and seed production activities in Minchanabad and Hashilpur.

He visited the under construction fish hatchery at a cost of Rs 72 million in Minchanabad and inaugurated the training for the hatchery managers on increasing the productivity of tilapia. Addressing the opening ceremony, he said that the whole world was facing shortage of food while foreign exchange could be earned by increasing fish production and its export. Mr Sarfraz urged the fish farmers to get benefit from the technical assistance provided by the Fisheries department.

Dr. Naznain Aman becomes the 1st female trophy hunter from Gilgit-Baltistan

GILGIT (APP): Dr. Naznain Aman becomes the 1st female trophy hunter from Gilgit-Baltistan. She managed to successfully hunt a 42" Himalayan ibex in Batura Valley (Hussaini CCHA)

on 10th of April 2023. The trophy was hunted at Qirgiz Wask at an elevation of 3500 meters above sea level about 17 km deep in the Batura Valley. Dr. Naznain belongs to Gilgit-Baltistan.

PAC orders action against all involved in illegal transfer of PSL broadcast rights to a private channel

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on Wednesday issued directives for taking action against all those involved in the illegal transfer of Pakistan Super League broadcast rights to ARY Channel. The committee meeting chaired by Noor Alam Khan Member of National Assembly (MNA) gave the observation that during the previous regime, the rules were flouted for the benefit of a private tv channel. The committee ordered to stop of the salary and all perks and privileges of former Director of sports ptv Dr. Nauman Niaz.

"Action will be taken against whoever is involved in this matter", Noor Alam Khan maintained. Sheikh Rohail Asghar opined that the former information minister was involved in this matter. He suggested that the committee should summon Dr Nauman Niaz to know what did he have to do with this whole matter and then the committee will understand the whole story. Secretary Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan briefed the PAC on the process of granting the PSL rights to ARY Channel and ongoing hearings of the matter in different courts.

AIOU awards research grants to faculty

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chancellor (VC) of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood on Wednesday said that national universities needed to focus on research-based solutions to social and economic problems. VC said this while addressing the prize distribution ceremony of Research Publication and Research Project Grants 2022-23. He said, "The purpose of giving research publication grants is to encourage students and faculty members in conducting the best research." "Research-based solutions can bring recognition to the institution and the country at national and international levels." Dr Nasir said. "Although universities are known for their research to work good teaching should also be encouraged." He congratulated the faculty members and others who received the award and directed them to

do better in the field of research. The VC directed the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) to consult the faculty members and start the best teacher award the next year. Principal officers, faculty members, and research grant awardees participated and attended the ceremony which was organized by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC). Two hundred thirty-two awards were given to faculty members, administrative staff, and students under Research and Publication Grants. Prize for publication of a paper in category Y is Rs-/ 20,000, for publication in category X- / 25,000 and - / 30,000 cash prizes for publication of a paper in the W category. Additional Director of ORIC Dr Saima Nasir explained in detail the aims, services, goals, and achievements of ORIC.



## Oil steadies after surge, with supplies and stockpiles in focus

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Oil held near the highest close since January as traders tracked supply constraints and a US industry report pointed to another decline in crude holdings at the nation's key storage hub. West Texas Intermediate traded above US\$81 a barrel after rallying by 2.2% on Tuesday. Shipments from Russia have weakened after Moscow vowed to reduce production, according to tanker-tracking data. In the Middle East, meanwhile, pipeline flows from Iraq's semi-au-



tonomous Kurdistan region remain halted. The industry-funded American Petroleum Institute reported that crude holdings at Cushing, Oklahoma, contracted by 1.4 million barrels last week, according to

people familiar with the data. If confirmed by government figures later on Wednesday, that would be a sixth consecutive drawdown. Crude has rebounded from a 15-month low hit in March after Opec and its allies cut output, US crude holdings declined, and traders stuck to the view that Chinese demand will pick up. The gain on Tuesday came ahead of US consumer price data that'll shape investors' expectations for the Federal Reserve's next move, and appetite for risk.

## Emerson Electric nears US\$8bil deal for National Instruments

TEXAS (Agencies): Industrial conglomerate Emerson Electric is in advanced talks to acquire National Instruments Corp in a deal that could value the measurement equipment maker at about US\$8 billion, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. Emerson prevailed over other companies that participated in the sale process, including Fortive Corp and Keysight Technologies Inc, with an offer of about US\$60



per share for National Instruments, the sources said. The deal could be announced as soon as this week, the sources said, cautioning that the talks could fall apart at the eleventh hour. The sources requested ano-

nymity as these discussions are confidential. Spokespeople for National Instruments, Emerson, Fortive and Keysight did not immediately respond to requests for comment. National Instruments launched a formal sale process in January after Emerson threatened to challenge its board if it did not engage in deal negotiations. Emerson dropped its hostile bid once the auction for National Instruments got underway.

## Theranos founder Holmes heading for prison

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies): Fallen US biotech star Elizabeth Holmes is to begin serving prison time this month after a judge denied her request to remain free while appealing her fraud conviction. In a ruling Monday night denying a motion by Holmes, US district court judge Edward Davila wrote that it is unlikely her appeal will succeed. "The court does not find that she has raised



a substantial question of law or fact that is likely to result in reversal or an order for a new trial of all counts," wrote Davila, who presided over Holmes's trial. Holmes was sen-

tenced to just over 11 years in prison for defrauding investors with her Silicon Valley start-up Theranos. She is scheduled to begin serving her time in prison on April 27. She was convicted of four felony fraud counts in January 2022 for persuading investors that she had developed a revolutionary medical device, until the company flamed out after an investigation by The Wall Street Journal.

## Yellen remains vigilant to downside risks facing global economy

WASHINGTON (Agencies): US Treasury secretary Janet Yellen on Tuesday said she remained vigilant to downside risks facing the global economy, given Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and banking pressures, but the overall outlook was "reasonably bright." Yellen, speaking at a news conference, pushed back against warnings by the International Monetary Fund of bigger risks associated with severe financial ten-



sions. "I wouldn't overdo the negativism about the global economy," Yellen said, when asked about a slightly trimmed IMF global growth forecast for 2023 which warned that a flare-up of financial system turmoil could

slash output to near recessionary levels. "I think we should be more positive," Yellen said she had not seen evidence suggesting a squeeze in credit after two US bank failures last month, although that was a possibility. She said the US banking system remained sound, with strong capital and liquidity positions, and the global financial system is resilient due to the significant reforms enacted after the 2008 financial crisis.

## Russia sends first fuel cargo to Iran by rail – Reuters

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russia has made its first fuel deliveries to Iran by rail as the two sanctioned countries rapidly expand energy and trade ties amid Western restrictions, Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing three industry sources and export data. Last autumn, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Novak announced that Moscow and Tehran had clinched a massive energy deal worth \$40 billion and agreed to swap supplies of oil and natural gas. Since then, the two countries have been



working out the routes and technical arrangements for the deal. The actual supplies started this year when Russia exported about 30,000 tons of gasoline and diesel to Iran in February and March, according to sources and tracking data. The outlet said

that all fuel cargoes were shipped from Russia through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan by rail. Some volumes of gasoline were further sent by truck from Iran to neighboring countries, including Iraq. Russia previously exported small volumes of fuels to the Middle Eastern country via the Caspian Sea. However, Moscow now seeks to expand rail deliveries to Tehran as seaborne diesel and gasoline cargoes face high freight fees and are subject to Western-imposed price caps.

## Switzerland refuses to freeze more Russian assets – official

BERN (Agencies): The Swiss government will not block more Russian assets – apart from the funds already frozen – due to a lack of evidence they fall under sanctions, Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) Helene Budliger Artieda said in a Tuesday interview in the German newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung. Her comments came in response to earlier claims by US Ambassador to Switzerland Scott Miller, who criticized SECO last month for not doing enough to implement sanctions against Russia, saying that Bern could



block a further 50 to 100 billion Swiss francs in Russian assets and use them to help restore Ukraine. "The figure of 50 to 100 billion francs was initially circulated as a possible estimate of Russian funds under [Swiss] management, but it was not an estimate produced by Switzerland. Not all Rus-

sians are subject to sanctions – only a small minority," Budliger Artieda told the NZZ. Bern has frozen 7.5 billion Swiss francs (\$8.3 billion) worth of Russian assets since the EU imposed sanctions on Moscow in connection with its military operation in Ukraine. According to the SECO chief, the blocked funds equate to around "a good third" of the €21.5 billion (\$23.4 billion) frozen across the European Union, but further asset freezing would require evidence that the funds were connected with sanctioned entities or individuals.

## Brits cut back on luxuries – Barclays

LONDON (Agencies): UK consumers slashed spending on luxuries and dining out in March as household incomes continue to suffer amid stubborn double-digit inflation, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday, citing Barclays data. More than half of Barclays card-

holders cut spending on luxury items and one-off treats, while six in ten trimmed expenses on eating out and purchases of new clothes, the bank said after analyzing data on credit and debit card transactions. According to the lender, overall consumer spending grew

4% last month from a year earlier, with expenses in supermarkets climbing 7.8% – well below the rate of increase in prices for food and non-alcoholic drinks. Overall inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages surged to 18% in February, the highest level since 1977.

## EU state makes new energy deal with Russia

BRUSSELS (Agencies): Hungary has reached an agreement with Russian energy company Gazprom on possible gas supplies in excess of what is provided for in long-term contracts, Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said during a visit to Moscow on Tuesday. The announcement followed talks

with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Novak and the CEO of Russian nuclear energy major Rosatom, Aleksey Likhachev. "We managed to agree with Gazprom the possibility of buying supply volumes in excess of the amount indicated in the long-term contracts, if a need arises in the course

of preparation for winter ...mainly through the Turkish Stream [pipeline]," Szijarto stated. "Today we extended the agreements regarding this possibility," he added. The sides also discussed a possible acceleration of the ongoing expansion of Hungary's Paks nuclear power plant by Rosatom.

## Australia tells exporters to diversify, be less China-reliant

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australia wants exporters to diversify markets and become less reliant on China because it cannot separate economic and strategic relationships, foreign minister Penny Wong said a day after the trade partners unveiled a path to ending a dispute. Both nations have reached a consensus to end their dispute over barley, they said on Tuesday, with Australia suspending a case at the World Trade Organization, while China hastens a review of tariffs on Australian exports. "Making sure

we do diversify our export markets is an important part of our national resilience," Wong told Sky News in a television interview on Wednesday. "And the government will continue to encourage that because we want to make sure we have diversified export markets." Trade worth A\$285 billion a year continues with Australia's major two-way trading partner while thawing ties see Beijing wind back impediments placed on a raft of Australian commodity exports in 2020 amid a diplomatic dispute.

## Twitter 'roughly breaking even' as advertisers return

NEW YORK (Agencies): Twitter Inc CEO Elon Musk said on Wednesday the social media company is "roughly breaking even", as most of its advertisers have returned. He made the comments in an interview with BBC broadcast live on Twitter Spaces that attracted more than 3 million listeners. Twitter has been hit by a massive decline in advertising since Musk acquired the company for US\$44 billion in October. Musk had said that was due to the cyclical nature of ad spending and some of which was "political". He said on Wednesday most of its advertisers have since returned. Musk said Twit-



ter has about 1,500 employees now, a sharp decline from around 7,000 workers before his acquisition. Concerns over Twitter's stability have been widespread since the Musk deal. Among the mass exodus were many engineers who were responsible for fixing and preventing service outages, sources told Reuters.

## Dollar dips ahead of key US inflation data

SINGAPORE (Agencies): The US dollar slipped on Wednesday ahead of a closely-watched inflation reading later in the day that will provide clues on the path of Federal Reserve interest rate hikes. Following last week's solid US jobs data, all eyes are now on the inflation report, with currency moves subdued ahead of the release. Sterling rose 0.04% to US\$1.2432 while the euro was last 0.1% higher at US\$1.0924, with both currencies some distance away from their one-week lows hit on Monday. Against a

basket of currencies, the US dollar index fell 0.05% to 102.07. "It will be a bit like Friday's nonfarm payrolls, where not much happens until the data, and when the data comes out, you get all sorts of reactions," said Joseph Capurso, head of international and sustainable economics at Commonwealth Bank of Australia. A Reuters poll of economists has forecast headline inflation in March to come in at 5.2% year-on-year, down from 6.0% previously, while core inflation likely ticked higher to 5.6%.

## Swiss lower house votes against Credit Suisse rescue

BERN (Agencies): Switzerland's parliament on Tuesday failed to approve the 109 billion Swiss francs (US\$120.5 billion) of financial guarantees used to rescue Credit Suisse last month, in a first-round vote that was largely symbolic given the state had committed the funds. The lower house retrospectively rejected the rescue near midnight, with heated debates continuing into the early hours of Wednesday morning as members discussed other measures related to Credit Suisse. Earlier on Tuesday, Switzerland's upper house had approved the rescue, meaning

the two chambers of the legislative body will vote again on Wednesday. Lawmakers were recalled for a rare extraordinary session to discuss the rapid rescue of Credit Suisse and the Swiss government's open chequebook response to a collapse that many in the country have blamed on top management. A shotgun marriage which saw Credit Suisse taken over by Zurich-based rival UBS for 3 billion Swiss francs and propped up with more than 250 billion Swiss francs in guarantees and support has been the subject of widespread criticism.

## Cars' sale decreases 50.30% in 9 months

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The sale of cars during the first nine months of the current fiscal year 2022-23, has dropped by 50.30 per cent as compared to the same months of last year, the latest data released by the Pakistan automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA). According to the data, as many as 85,776 cars were sold during July-March 2022-23 as opposed to 172,612 units during July-March 2021-22. The breakup figures showed that 12,381 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during the corresponding period of the year 2022-23 as compared to the sale of 28,830 units last year,

thus showing a dip of 57.05 per cent. Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars sales also decreased by 63.39 per cent as it went down to 15,994 units the current year from 43,695 units in the same period of the previous year. However, Suzuki Swift's sales went up by 1627.16 per cent as sales increased to 8,584 units from 497 units last year. Sale of Suzuki Cultus decreased to 6,233 units during the current year, whereas during the same period last year, the sale was recorded at 17,686 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 5,022 units from 16,916 units in the same period of last year.

## Rs 53 bln disbursed for various projects of NTDC/PEPCO so far

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The government has released a sum of Rs 53.007 billion for various projects of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and Pakistan Electric Power Company (PEPCO) under the Annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) so far during the current fiscal year 2022-23. According to the data of the Planning Commission, the government had allocated Rs 42,983.26 million for various NTDC/PEPCO projects with Rs 20,773.43 million foreign aid component. A sum of Rs 49,131.40 million has been spent so far on various projects. A sum of Rs 39,566.83 million has been disbursed under the foreign aid component till

January. The government had specified a sum of Rs 7,500 million for the Interconnection of Makran Network, Rs 2,000 million for 220 kV Swabi Substation (NTDC), Rs 1,500 million for 220/132kV GIS Substation Dhabiji (NTDC), Rs 1,200 million for 500 kV Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Rs 1000 million for 220kV Haripur Substation, Rs 750 million for ABC Cable for Peshawar, Bannu Circle (PESCO), Rs 600 million for construction of 132 kV Grid Station (Khan Meherza), Rs 395 million for electrification works at different villages of Chitral. For the new scheme, an amount of Rs 2,500 million has been allocated for the electricity distribution efficiency improvement project.



Djokovic fights back to reach 3rd round at Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (Agencies): Novak Djokovic briefly ran into a spot of bother as he fought his way into the third round of the Monte Carlo Masters with a 7-6(5), 6-2 victory against Russian qualifier Ivan Gakhov on Tuesday. The world No 1, who had not played since early March when he reached the final in Dubai after being forced to skip Indian Wells and Miami because of his Covid unvaccinated status, struggled to find his range on the Monte Carlo clay before prevailing on a sunlit cen-



tre court. Gakhov went for his shots and claimed the first service break to lead 4-3, only for the Serbian to break

right back and take the opening set by winning the tiebreak 7-5. Djokovic was then business-like in the second set, leaving no chance of a comeback for his opponent, who suddenly felt the court was too big for him. The double French Open champion, who suffered an opening-round exit here last year, will next face Lorenzo Musetti or the 16th seed's Italian compatriot Luca Nardi. "It was probably, if you can call it this way, an ugly tennis win for me today," Djokovic said.

Man City thrash Bayern as Haaland reaches new milestone

MANCHESTER (Agencies): Rodri struck a wonder goal and Erling Haaland set another scoring record as Manchester City beat Bayern Munich 3-0 on Tuesday to continue their quest for a first-ever Champions League title in their quarterfinal first leg. Haaland, who scored City's third goal of the night in the 76th minute, has 45 goals in all competitions, a single-season record for a Premier League player, moving ahead of Mo Salah and Ruud van Nistelrooy. Rodri put Pep Guardiola's team ahead in the 27th minute, cutting the ball back to beat midfielder Jamal Musiala and curling a blistering long-range shot into the top left



corner beyond the outstretched hand of Yann Sommer. "I know that this Bayern team is special," said Guardiola, who managed Bayern from 2013-16. "We got a good result, but we need two strong games. Anything can happen at Allianz Arena. I know that be-

cause I was at Bayern for three years." Rodri celebrated with a long knee slide on the rain-soaked turf at the Etihad, while Bayern's new manager Thomas Tuchel threw up his hands in disgust en route to his team's biggest defeat in the Champions League since a 3-0 loss to Paris St Germain in 2017. "It was very special for me to score my first goal in the Champions League. At that moment we were struggling because they are a great, great team," Rodri told BT Sport. "Sometimes we understand we cannot have 80% possession. They play too. We scored three and could score four but it is a great result."

Michael Jordan sneakers fetch auction record \$2.2m

NEW YORK (Agencies): A pair of sneakers worn by NBA superstar Michael Jordan sold for \$2.2 million on Tuesday, setting a record price at auction for game-worn sports footwear, Sotheby's announced. The basketball great wore the "Bred" Air Jordan 13s during Game 2 of the 1998 NBA Finals on the way to his sixth and last NBA championship title. The online sale cements Jordan's position as the most valuable athlete at auctions for sports-wear memorabilia. It broke his own re-



cord of \$1.5 million for sneakers, set in September 2021. Last year, one of his jerseys sold for \$10.1 million, the most

ever paid at auction for any game-worn collectibles. "Today's record-breaking result further proves that the demand for Michael Jordan sports memorabilia continues to outperform and transcend all expectations," Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectables, said in a statement. Jordan wore the sneakers for the second half of the Chicago Bulls' 93-88 victory over Utah Jazz on June 5, 1998. Jordan scored a game-high 37 points as his Bulls side tied the series 1-1.

Kerr strikes as Australia end England streak with 2-0 victory in international friendly

LONDON (Agencies): Australia ended England's 30-match unbeaten run with a 2-0 victory in a friendly on Tuesday, 100 days from the start of the Women's World Cup. Sam Kerr scored in the first half after a defensive error and Charlotte Grant doubled the advantage in the 67th minute to hand Sarina Wiegman her first loss as England's coach. England's unbeaten run of 26 wins and four draws had included winning the European Championship last summer. Kerr, the Australian captain who plays for Chel-



sea, pounced on a weak backpass by defender Leah Williamson and one-on-one with Mary Earps deftly flicked the ball past the goalkeeper's left

shoulder and into the net in the 32nd minute at a rainy Gtech Community Stadium in west London. Williamson was trying to deal with a long ball and after a bounce tried to head it back to Earps, but the England captain left it short and Australia's all-time leading scorer took advantage for the Matildas. Grant got on the end of Kerr's cross and beat Earps with a header that deflected into the net. It was the first match between the teams since a 1-1 draw in a friendly in London in October 2018.

Asian Tour to stage Scotland event for first time

SINGAPORE (Agencies): The Asian Tour golf will stage an event for the first time in Scotland when it tees off at Fairmont St. Andrews on August 24-27, organizers said on Tuesday. The inaugural St. Andrews Bay Championship will have a minimum prize purse of \$1.5 million and be the sixth stop on the tour's LIV Golf-supported International Series in 2023. The International Series is in its second season and also has



events this year in Oman, Qatar, Thailand, Vietnam and England. "We are an

ambitious initiative that aims to travel and go beyond our traditional borders to help grow the game and there can be no better place to play one of our events than where the game originated," Rahul Singh, head of the International Series, said. The International Series offers a pathway to the LIV Golf League. Saudi-backed LIV is pumping an estimated \$300-400 million into the Asian Tour.

'Chennai, Kolkata preferable World Cup venues for Pakistan'

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Pakistan would prefer playing bulk of their 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup matches in the Indian cities of Chennai and Kolkata — the two venues where the team reportedly felt safe during its earlier tours, Press Trust of India reported on Tuesday. The World Cup will start tentatively on October 5, with 46 matches, including the final set to be played across 12 Indian cities, including Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mumbai, Rajkot, Bengaluru, Delhi, Indore, Guwahati and Hyderabad, Dharamasala. It is understood that discussions are currently on at the ICC level as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) bigwigs are in talks with a top-level ICC executive on the issue, which still remains a sensitive one. "A lot will depend on what BCCI and the Indian government decide but given a choice, Pakistan will like to play most of its World Cup matches in Kolkata and Chennai," a source close to ICC Board, tracking developments, told PTI on conditions of anonymity. "In Kolkata, Pakistan played its T20 World Cup game against India in 2016 and the players were very happy with the security. Similarly, Chennai



as a venue remains memorable for Pakistan. It's also about feeling safe at specific venues." The bone of contention will be the India versus Pakistan game. While Ahmedabad with 132,000 capacity gives ICC the best chance to earn optimum profits but the Narendra Modi Stadium is already hosting the final, so another venue might host the game. Each team will play nine games at the league stage which will be held in round-robin format. The ICC's Events Committee, in association with host cricket board BCCI, will chalk out the final itinerary in the next few months so that it allows fans across India and other parts to plan their travel itinerary. Recently, ICC General Manager Wasim Khan, in his own capacity had told Pakistani

media that the team could play its matches in Bangladesh as a part of a 'hybrid model' that could be followed since the Indian team is not travelling to the country for the Asia Cup. But the PCB's interim Management Committee chairman Najam Sethi, back then had rubbished the idea of playing World Cup games in Bangladesh. More so, ICC had made it clear that no such proposal had come from Pakistan about a 'hybrid model' for global tournaments. During the 2011 World Cup, Pakistan's semi-final against India was played at Mohali, which made it logistically convenient for the fans across the border to travel through Wagah Border. However, Mohali does not figure in the 12 venues finalised by the BCCI. In 1996, the high-profile quarter-final was held at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. A lot has changed since then and in these sensitive times, it will be very difficult to host Pakistan in some of the specific venues, including Mumbai and Dharamasala. While security will be top-notch for each team, the BCCI as well as the Indian government would like to ensure that there aren't any untoward incidents.

Nicol is making little legends walk tall

PETALING JAYA (Agencies): It's often said that athletes 'die' twice, the first time being when they retire from their sport. If so, Nicol David is leading an afterlife every bit as rewarding as her two decades as Malaysia's top sportswoman. If not more so. Four years since hanging up her competitive racquet, the first lady of squash is now "giving back", as she puts it. And in less than a year, scores of children, parents and teachers are already saying she is just as generous to her new charges as she was stingy in conceding points on court. With the lofty goal of "empowering girls and boys through sport and education", the Duracell Bunny runs the Nicol David Organisation (NDO) with all her old



commitment and some new-found skills. Unlike many foundations to which sports stars attach their names, NDO offers a unique opportunity to play squash, learn English and much more besides. As co-founder, coach, benefactor, headmistress, cheerleader, favourite aunt and guardian angel, she has her hands more than full with what she dubs her "little legends" – and she's loving it.

Napoli's Osimhen out of Milan Champions League clash



MILAN (Agencies): Napoli's injured forward Victor Osimhen will miss the Champions League quarterfinal first leg at AC Milan today after being left out of Luciano Spalletti's matchday squad. Nigeria's Osimhen, who is Serie A's top scorer this season with 21 goals, was sidelined for this month's league games against Milan and Lecce due to a thigh strain. Napoli said on their website that Osimhen "worked separately" from the team in Tuesday's training session. "We've won

important games even without Osimhen. I expect those who go out onto the pitch to have the trust of their teammates and themselves," Spalletti told a news conference on Tuesday. "The strength of a team is never a raw addition of teammates but of the qualities, of how they manage to coexist with each other, the team behaviour. And our team has shown that it can play beyond the starting lineup," he added. Napoli's Argentina striker Giovanni Simeone is also out with a thigh problem and Giacomo Raspadori, who is expected to lead the line, is still waiting for a fitness test. "He has only done one training session today, not very deep. He will be assessed tomorrow morning for further tests and then we will choose who will play in that position," said Spalletti.

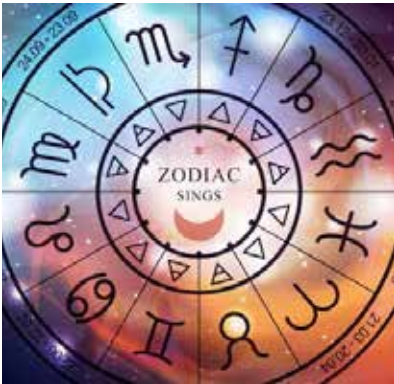
Lampard calls on Chelsea to become 'leaders' at Bernabeu

MADRID (Agencies): Frank Lampard called on his young Chelsea side to become "leaders" when they face European champions Real Madrid today. The Blues have struggled this season and are 11th in the Premier League, but face Los Blancos at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg. Lampard, who took over last week as coach until the end of the season after Graham Potter was sacked, confirmed Chelsea would have N'Golo Kante, Thiago Silva and Mason Mount available after injury issues. "You can only become a leader in action – there's no point being called a leader until you show it on the pitch," Lampard told reporters on Tuesday. "Where we have brought in some younger players, we have to



give them the chance to develop into the leaders we want them to be. "In (Enzo Fernandez) I see a leader, but he's 22 years old. Games like tomorrow are great chance to perform and show that personality that makes you a proper leader." Lampard was one of Chelsea's leaders on the charge to winning the competition for the first time in 2012, alongside other club greats including John Terry and Didier Drogba.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: APRIL 13, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.  
– **ARIES**: You need to get people organized today, and it's much easier than usual! You may still have a few headaches thanks to recalcitrant kids or that one coworker who thinks they know what's best.  
– **TAURUS**: You don't always like to think of yourself as a defender of the status quo, but today things go too far and you have to stand up for what you believe. Don't let all your recent gains wash away!  
– **GEMINI**: You are far from set in your ways, and today brings an opportunity to surprise the world by pivoting on an opinion that most folks had assumed you'd hold until your very last breath.  
– **CANCER**: You've got financial issues to tackle today even if you thought everything was clear! They may be entirely positive, so there's no need to panic unless you see too much red ink.  
– **LEO**: You've got some amazing ideas, and that creative energy is essential to solving the problems of the day. Make sure you're talking to key players and

getting everyone excited for the future.  
– **VIRGO**: You lose patience with some system of organization and decide to overhaul it. This may delay some projects, but you know that it's an investment of time and energy that should pay off handsomely.  
– **LIBRA**: You are famously sociable, but today is almost ridiculous! Your great social energy makes you a hit with almost everyone you meet, so try to get out there and mix it up with folks a little!  
– **SCORPIO**: You're feeling a little bored with the same old routines and look, so see if you can mix them all up somewhat! Try not to go overboard or you could land in hot water with someone who's stuck in the past.  
– **SAGITTARIUS**: You can get along with almost anyone on a day like today, so it's a good time to wave the white flag if you need to negotiate a truce. You can also make new friends and impress new clients!  
– **CAPRICORN**: It's time for a change, but a small one! You might want to institute a series of incremental changes in the way you live, but you've got to start somewhere. Now is the right time.  
– **ACQUARIUS**: You shouldn't be shy about speaking up today. People are listening, even if they don't appear to be. Your ability to impress them with the force of ideas alone is remarkable and valuable.  
– **PISCES**: There are too many distractions today for you to focus on one project for long, but that is as it should be! You may want to try something a little different and just flit from one thing to another.



## China to close airspace north of Taiwan April 16-18, sources say

BEIJING (Agencies): China is planning to close the airspace north of Taiwan from April 16 to 18, four sources with knowledge of the matter said, a move that could disrupt flights around the region. China and Taiwan's foreign ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Four officials outside China, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, said the ban would disrupt Taiwan's northern flight information region (FIR) and that they were not aware of the reason for the



restrictions. It comes as China rounds off several days of military training around self-ruled Taiwan, a response to Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen's recent meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California which infuriated

Beijing. One senior official with direct knowledge of the matter said the flight ban would affect 60 percent-70 percent of flights going between Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia, as well as flights between Taiwan and South Korea, Japan and North America. According to OPSGROUP, an aviation industry cooperative which advises on flight risks, previous restrictions imposed during Chinese military drills last August resulted in significant disruptions to flights in the region, with some pilots forced to carry extra fuel.

## What we know so far on the leaked Pentagon documents



WASHINGTON (AP): It's been less than a week since news of highly classified military documents on the Ukraine war surfaced, sending the Pentagon into full-speed damage control to assure allies and assess the scope of the leak. The information on scores of slides has publicized potential vulnerabilities in Ukraine's air defense capabilities and exposed private assessments by allies on an array of intelligence matters, raising questions about whether the leak will erode allies' trust in sharing information with the U.S. or impact Ukraine's plans to intensify the fight against Russia this spring. Overall, the leaked documents present a "very serious risk to national security," a top Pentagon spokesman told reporters Monday. This is a look at what the documents are, what is known about how they surfaced, and their potential impact.

### WHAT ARE THEY?

The classified documents — which have not been individually authenticated by U.S. officials — range from briefing slides mapping out Ukrainian military positions to assessments of international support for Ukraine and other sensitive topics, including under what circumstances Russian President Vladimir Putin might use nuclear weapons.

## Trudeau Foundation leadership resigns over China-linked donation



OTTAWA (Agencies): The leadership of charitable foundation named after former Canadian prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has abruptly resigned over scrutiny of a donation with alleged ties to Beijing. The Trudeau Foundation said on Tuesday the "political climate" surrounding the 2016 donation "made it impossible to continue with the status quo". It returned the donation last month. The sudden resignation comes as Canada grapples with allegations of election meddling by Beijing. The charity, a scholarship organisation created to fund doctoral researchers, was founded over two decades ago in memory of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Justin Trudeau's father. Justin Trudeau, who became Canada's prime minister in 2015, has no involvement in the organisation. In February, the Globe and Mail newspaper, based on anonymous sources, reported that two wealthy Chinese businessmen gave C\$200,000 (\$148,000; £120,000) to the foundation, a payment allegedly orchestrated by Beijing. While the money was recently refunded, politics around the donation and wider concern over Chinese interference put "a great deal of pressure" on the foundation's volunteer board and CEO Pascale Fournier, said the organisation in a statement, announcing their resignation.

## Mexican immigration agency chief to be charged in fatal fire

MEXICO CITY (AP): Mexico's top immigration official will face criminal charges in a fire that killed 40 migrants in Ciudad Juarez last month, with federal prosecutors saying he was remiss in not preventing the disaster despite earlier indications of problems at his agency's detention centers. The decision to file charges against Francisco Garduño, the head of Mexico's National Immigration Institute, was announced late Tuesday by the federal Attorney General's Office. It followed repeated calls from within Mexico, and from some Central American nations, not to stop the case at the five low-level officials, guards and



a Venezuelan migrant already facing homicide charges in the case. Anger initially focused on two guards who were seen fleeing the March 27 fire, without unlocking the cell door to allow the migrants to escape. But President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said earlier Tuesday that they didn't have the keys.

## Theranos Founder Elizabeth Holmes to go to prison end of April



CALIFORNIA (Agencies): Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes will report to prison at the end of the month after losing a bid to remain free while she appeals against her convictions. Holmes was sentenced to over 11 years in prison for defrauding investors in her blood testing start-up. A federal judge on Monday said Holmes failed to prove her appeals process would lead to a reversal of her case. She is scheduled to go to prison on 27 April. Holmes had said

she would raise "substantial questions" that could warrant a new trial. Her attorneys also argued she should remain free to care for her two young children, including one who was born this year. But in the Monday ruling, US District Judge Edward Davila said Holmes had not proven her appeal would result in a new trial. "Contrary to her suggestion that accuracy and reliability were central issues to her convictions, Ms Holmes's misrepresentations to Theranos investors involved more than just whether Theranos technology worked as promised," he said. Prosecutors, meanwhile, had argued Holmes was a flight risk because she had booked a one-way plane ticket to Mexico during her trial.

## Myanmar military airstrike: More than 100 people feared dead

NAYPYIDAW (Agencies): More than 100 people are feared to have been killed in Tuesday's airstrike by the Myanmar military, one of the deadliest so far in the civil war. Survivors told the BBC they have collected at least 80 bodies, but expect the toll to rise further. The United Nations has condemned the attack, which targeted a village in the north-western Sagaing region. The military has increasingly used air strikes against their opponents since seizing power in February 2021. The spokesman for the military junta, General Zaw Min Tun, told state television, "yes, we launched the air strike". He said they had chosen to attack Pa Zi Gyi because the village was holding a ceremony to mark the opening of an office for their local volunteer defence force. These anti-coup militias, known as People's Defence Forces or



PDFS, are waging an armed campaign against the military in various parts of Myanmar. Communities in Sagaing have put up some of the strongest opposition to military rule. With so many army convoys being ambushed now on the roads, the junta is using air power more widely, targeting symbols of defiance of its rule. This includes schools and health clinics; sometimes entire villages are destroyed in a scorched earth campaign which it hopes will eventually exhaust the tenacious resistance it is facing in much of the country.

## Poultry to be allowed outside as bird flu eases



LONDON (Agencies): Poultry and captive birds can be kept outside again starting next week as the risk from bird flu eases, the government said on Tuesday. The Chief Veterinary Officer said the "mandatory housing order" for England and Wales would

lift at 00:01 on Tuesday, April 18. The measures were introduced during the world's biggest ever bird flu outbreak. The UK has seen more than 330 cases confirmed and 4 million birds culled over the past year. The decision means that eggs laid by hens with access to outdoor areas can be marketed as "free-range" again. The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Christine Middlemiss, still warned that "scrupulous standards" of biosecurity will need to be maintained as avian flu is expected to still be circulating in the environment for several weeks.

## Supply of Man-Portable Air Defenses to Ukraine Endangers Global Civil Air Traffic: Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies): The Russian Foreign Ministry has told Sputnik that it was necessary to raise the issue of the safety of civil air traffic in the world and Europe against the background of deliveries of Western man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) and anti-tank guided weapons (ATGW) to Ukraine. The ministry noted that "the

EU and its member-states transferred to Kiev arms and military equipment worth more than 12 billion euros [\$13.1 billion], delivered heavy weapons, planes, tanks, agreed to supply the Ukrainian armed forces with 1 million artillery shells by the end of the year, and do not prevent the recruitment of mercenaries in their countries."

## Abortion pill opponents urge US appeals court to allow ban

NEW YORK (Agencies): Abortion opponents on Tuesday urged a U.S. appeals court to allow the suspension of Food and Drug Administration's approval of the abortion pill mifepristone, in a case with potentially far-reaching impact on how the government regulates medicine. In a filing with the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, lawyers for groups and doctors who oppose abortion and challenged the FDA's more than two decade-old approval of the drug said a government request to stay the suspension was "extraordinary and unprecedented" and should be denied. The abortion opponents' requests came one day after the U.S. Department of Justice urged the appeals court to put U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk's April 7 order voiding the FDA's approval on hold through the appeals process.



Kacsmaryk, a Texas judge appointed by former Republican President Donald Trump, had issued only a seven-day stay. The groups and doctors are led by the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, which was formed last August. It is not clear when the 5th Circuit will rule on extending the stay. Mifepristone is the first pill in a two-drug regimen for medication abortions used in more than half of all U.S. abortions. Several states have announced plans to stockpile mifepristone or the other drug, misoprostol.

## Trump lawyer seeks monthlong delay in trial over rape claim



NEW YORK (AP): An attorney for Donald Trump is seeking a one-month delay in the trial regarding a columnist's claims that Trump raped her in a department store dressing room in the 1990s, contending that his client's right to a fair trial depends on a "cooling off" period following the former president's indictment and arraignment. The trial was set for April 25. In a letter Tuesday to Judge Lewis A. Kaplan, attorney Joseph Tacopina cited "the recent deluge of prejudicial media coverage" surrounding Trump's arrest and court appearance in arguing for a delay. The former president was charged March 30 with 34 felony counts related to allegations that he paid hush money to an adult film star, Stormy Daniels. The civil case before Kaplan was brought against Trump in November by E. Jean Carroll, a columnist who says the wealthy real estate developer raped her in early 1996 after a chance meeting at the Bergdorf Goodman department store. Trump has repeatedly and emphatically denied the allegation. A jury will be asked to decide whether the rape occurred and if Trump defamed Carroll with his comments. A temporary state law that took effect last year allows adult rape victims to sue their abusers, even if attacks happened decades ago.

## Cuba lifts ban on cash deposits in US dollars at banks



Havana (Agencies): Banks in Cuba will again accept cash deposits in US dollars after a ban prohibiting the practice was surprisingly lifted on Monday. Cubans had been unable to deposit dollars in cash into their accounts at banks and other financial institutions for almost two years. The Cuban government brought in the ban in 2021 citing "continuing difficulties caused by the ongoing US embargo". The move comes among the worst economic crisis to hit Cuba in decades. Cubans are facing shortages of food, medicines and petrol which have led to long queues forming at shops and petrol stations. The resolution by the Central Bank of Cuba (BCC) was published in Cuba's Official Gazette on Monday and is effective immediately. It does not mention Cuba's current economic problems but rather cites the recent increase in tourism and the "gradual recovery of the service industry and the productive sector" as the reasons behind the lifting of the ban.

## CLASSIFIED

## COMMANDER ESTATES

Property Consultants

Lt Cdr (R)

**Asmat Ullah Tariq**  
CEO

Authorized Dealer for

**- DHA Peshawar**

**- New Peshawar Valley**

0345-8282666

0336-8282666



UG-356 Deans Trade  
Center, Peshawar Cantt.



commanderestates@gmail.com

ESTB: 2020



## MILK

- 100% Pure and Farm Fresh Whole Milk
- Freshly packed pollution and dust free
- No preservatives and no harmful medications

Also provide:



0336-9036364

This Newspaper has been  
digitally printed at



## 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

