



Russia launches large-scale attack on Ukraine's military-industrial facilities

MOSCOW (Agencies): The Russian military has launched a large-scale missile attack against Ukraine's military industry, disrupting production of weaponry and munitions, the Defense Ministry said on Monday. "Tonight, the Russian Armed Forces of the Russian Federation launched a group missile attack with long-range precision weapons, air and sea based, on the military-industrial complex of Ukraine," the ministry said during its daily media briefing, adding that "all assigned targets were hit." While the Russian military did not specify which locations had been targeted exactly, Ukrainian media reported strikes in Kiev, Sumy and Dnepropetrovsk regions. The latter has apparently experienced the worst, with a massive explosion reported on the outskirts of the city of Pavlograd. Unverified footage circulating online shows the aftermath of the strikes near the city. The attack apparently also caused a massive secondary explosion, followed by multiple lesser blasts. Available footage shows numerous columns of white smoke at the location, typically



caused by the detonation of solid-fuel projectiles such as anti-aircraft missiles. The Pavlograd strike destroyed the stockpiles of fuel and ammunition of Ukraine's 46th Airborne Brigade, which has been readying itself for the much-hyped looming Ukrainian counteroffensive, Vladimir Rogov, a senior Russian official in Zaporozhye Region, has claimed, citing the reports of locals. The strikes also destroyed two S-300 anti-aircraft batteries stationed in the area, the official told news

agency TASS. According to Ukrainian emergency services, the explosions in Pavlograd damaged and destroyed up to 80 residential homes and about two dozen multi-story buildings. Emergency services have also acknowledged damage to an unspecified "industrial facility" in the area without revealing its exact nature. In recent days, both Russia and Ukraine have seemingly ramped up long-range attacks against each other, with the uptick in military activities coming ahead of the long-advertised Ukrainian counteroffensive. Moscow has claimed the destruction of several command posts used by the Ukrainian military, and has reported striking groupings of Ukrainian reserves. Kiev for its part, has ramped up shelling of residential areas of Russia's city of Donetsk, as well as other border regions, inflicting multiple civilian casualties. Ukrainian forces also carried out an attack on an oil depot in Crimea, with the spokeswoman for the Ukrainian military's southern command, Natalya Gumenyuk, confirming the strike came in preparation for Kiev's counteroffensive.

Dollar being 'gradually abandoned' - IMF boss

NEW YORK (Agencies): The managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said the US dollar is gradually losing its status as the world's main reserve currency. Speaking on Monday, Kristalina Georgieva noted that there is no viable alternative among global currencies to replace the greenback in the near future. "There has been gradual shift away from the dollar, it was 70% of reserves, now it is slightly under 60%," Georgieva stated at the 2023 Milken Institute Global Conference in Beverly Hills, California. According to the IMF chief, the euro can be viewed as the biggest competitor to the dollar, while the British pound, the Japanese yen and the Chinese yuan "play a very modest role." She stressed that the leading factor for trust in the currency of this or that country is the strength of its economy and the depth of its capital markets. "And if you are thinking of an alternative in a world in which we may migrate to central bank digital currencies massively... and there I don't see an alternative,



I don't see it coming anytime soon," Georgieva said. Georgieva highlighted the major shocks of the past few years - the Covid pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the spike in interest rates after years of loose monetary policy - calling them "a series of unthinkable events." She explained that the rapid transition from low to high interest rates has exposed vulnerabilities in the financial sector, and that the high exposure of the US banking sector to the crisis has come as a surprise to IMF analysts.

US tracking another mystery balloon - media

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Pentagon does not consider the object that flew over Hawaii a threat yet, anonymous sources said US Navy sailors recover the 'Chinese spy balloon' off the coast of South Carolina, February 5, 2023 © PO1 Tyler Thompson/US Navy via Getty Images. The US military has been tracking another flying object over the Pacific Ocean, NBC News reported on Monday citing three unnamed US officials. What was described as a "mysterious balloon," had flown over Hawaii and is currently headed towards Mexico. What exactly the object may be, or who it belongs to, was not clear, the anonymous officials told NBC. Its flight path over the islands did not take it over any "sensitive" military areas. The Pentagon has been tracking the object since "late last week," and the military believes it poses no threat to air traffic or US national security. The suspected balloon does not appear to be maneuvering, or sending out any signals, according to one official. The US is still working on identifying the object and its owner. The military reportedly does not believe it is Chinese in origin at this time. Word of another balloon in US airspace comes almost three months after the American military shot down a "Chinese spy balloon" off the coast of South Carolina.

UN Peacekeeping marking its 75th anniversary with photo exhibit in New York

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): United Nations Peacekeeping Monday launched a special photo exhibition at UN Headquarters in New York to honour the service and sacrifice of uniformed and civilian peacekeepers as it marks its 75th anniversary. The exhibit is part of a year-long global campaign, under the theme 'Peace Begins with Me', which seeks to demonstrate the powerful impact of UN Peacekeeping and its partners on the lives of millions of people caught up in catastrophic conflict, a UN press release said. Featuring a curated collection of peacekeepers in action from the very first deployment of military observers to the Middle East in 1948 through to the 12 missions operating today, the images document the complex and diverse work performed by peacekeeping personnel in some of the world's most fragile political and security situations.

China calls for UN Security Council reform

BEIJING (Agencies): Beijing's top diplomat argues that developing countries, especially those in Africa, should be better represented in the body. China's top diplomat has called for developing nations to have more of a say at the UN Security Council. Wang Yi's remarks came a week after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made a similar suggestion, saying Western powers are overrepresented in the key international body. During a meeting with Kuwait and Austria's ambassadors to the UN, Tareq Albanai and Alexander Marschik, on Saturday, Wang said: "The reform of the Security Council should uphold fairness and justice, increase the representation and voice of developing countries, allowing more small



and medium-sized countries to have more opportunities to participate in the decision-making of the council." The official, who is responsible for foreign affairs in the Chinese Communist Party's central committee, added that "historical injustices against Africa" should be redressed. The Chinese diplomat made his remarks ahead of talks on reforming the Security Council, with Kuwait and Vienna presiding over the negotiations.

Former UK PM contests \$15,000 bill over 'missing' items

LONDON (Agencies): Bathrobes and slippers reportedly disappeared from the residence occupied by then-foreign secretary Liz Truss last summer. Former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss, who'd previously served as Britain's Foreign Secretary, is facing a hefty bill for food and drink as well as for items missing from the estate she lived in during her tenure as Britain's top diplomat, The Daily Mail has reported. The Conservative politician is allegedly disputing part of the bill. In an article on Saturday, the Mail claimed that the UK government had demanded that Truss shell out £12,000 (\$15,000). Among the items which had reportedly disappeared last summer from Chevening,

the state's 17th century grace-and-favor country home, were bathrobes and slippers. According to the paper, Truss had gathered with close aides on multiple occasions at Chevening last August as she prepared to take over the reins at Downing Street from outgoing premier Boris Johnson. An anonymous source told the Mail that "Liz used Chevening as a mini Number Ten, holding meetings with her inner circle, which often turned into parties in the evening." Now the cabinet allegedly insists that she cover the costs incurred during what officials have reportedly characterized as a "series of summer parties" which had nothing to do with state business.

3D printed fish set to hit the market



Around a third of global stocks are currently overexploited, analysts say. If a trip to the lake with your fishing rod just isn't an option, an Israeli company has created a method of 3D bioprinting your very own 'fresh' fish - which, it says, will be ready for cooking immediately. Stakeholder Foods has developed a 3D printed grouper fish fillet from stem cells, which are then processed via bioprinting technology into a fish-like shape. The product,

which was created in conjunction with Umami Meats, mimics the taste and texture of natural fish, and it could be on supermarket shelves later this year. "In the coming months, we intend to announce our plans for bringing this world-class cultivated fish to the market," said Mihir Pershad, CEO of Umami Meats at a tasting event in Israel last week, via The Telegraph. "In the first tasting, we showcased a cultivated product that flakes, tastes and melts in your mouth exactly like excellent fish should," he explained. The development of the technology could have myriad benefits, particularly as it pertains to food scarcity - but also to the global issue of overfishing. Marine experts have estimated that around one third of global fish stocks are currently being overexploited.

Indian government official accuses Kiev of 'assault on Hindu sentiment'

KYIV (Agencies): A tweet by the Ukrainian defense ministry featuring a caricature of the goddess Kali has caused widespread anger. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry has offended Hindu sentiment by tweeting a caricature of the Hindu goddess Kali, Senior Advisor at the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Kanchan Gupta has said. The backlash from Gupta and other Indians prompted Kiev to delete the controversial image shortly after it was posted on Sunday. The tweet in question included a drawing by Ukrainian artist Maksym Palenko, accompanied by a short caption reading "Work of art." Palenko had reworked an image

of an explosion to make it look like the Hindu goddess of ultimate power, time, destruction and change in a pose reminiscent of Marilyn Monroe in the 1955 movie 'The Seven Year Itch'. The post by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry was an example of "brazen hate speech," Gupta wrote in a tweet. No other government had ever done such a thing regarding India, he added. A Hindu goddess being "caricatured on a propaganda poster... is an assault on Hindu sentiments around the world," the official insisted. Kiev's diplomatic advances towards India are all "fakery," and the cartoon shows the "real face" of the Ukrainian authorities, Gupta claimed.

Arab states call for withdrawal of foreign forces from Syria



DAMASCUS (Agencies): Four key regional players have agreed that Damascus should regain control over the entire countrying US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Wednesday. The government in Damascus should re-establish the rule of law on all of Syria's territory, ending the presence of foreign armed groups and terrorists, the foreign ministers of Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq said on Monday after meeting in Amman. Jordan hosted the meeting, the first of its kind since Syria's membership in the Arab League

was suspended in 2011. Prior to the multilateral meeting, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad met with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi to discuss refugees, border security and "water issues," according to Amman. In a joint statement distributed by state news agencies, the five ministers called for "ending the presence of terrorist organizations" as well as "armed groups" on the territory of Syria, and "neutralizing their ability to threaten regional and international security." They also pledged to "support Syria and its institutions to establish control over all of its territory and impose the rule of law." Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq pledged to establish ties with the Syrian military and security institutions in order to "address security challenges."

UN allows Afghan FM to meet Pakistani, Chinese counterparts in Islamabad next week

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): A United Nations Security Council committee has accepted a Pakistani request to allow the acting Afghan Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, to travel to Pakistan next week to meet with the foreign Ministers of Pakistan and China, according to Ambassador Munir Akram. "The Security Council's Taliban sanction committee approved our request this (Monday) afternoon," the Pakistani envoy to the UN told APP. Muttaqi is subjected to a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo under Security Council sanctions. In a letter to the committee, Pakistan's Mission to the UN requested an exemption for



FM Muttaqi who is to travel between May 6-9 "for a meeting with the foreign ministers of Pakistan and China." Last month, the Security Council committee allowed Muttaqi to travel to Uzbekistan for a meeting of the foreign ministers of neighbouring countries of Afghanistan to discuss urgent peace, security, and stability matters following day.

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.

Labour Day;A national tribute to workers of Pakistan By Fakhar Alam

PESHAWAR (APP): Busy like a honeybee in wheat harvesting, Rafique Khan (40), a poor labourer of Nowshera district was seen asking his co-workers to accelerate the work and complete it before sunset on Wednesday. Unaware of the International Labour Day observed on May 1, in many countries including Pakistan with enthusiasm, the motivated labourer was assisted by his elder son Sadiq Khan and three others in wheat harvesting in his native village Dheri Ishaq at tehsil Pabbi. Known as ‘Lala G’, Khan obtained a wheat harvesting project that included wheat cutting, threshing and storage of the commodity. He was working against the clock to complete it before the heavy rainfalls predicted by the Met Office for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. “I wake up early in the morning for cutting of standing wheat on five acres on paid contract i.e., per 200kg wheat or Rs8,000 per acre while its threshing has separate charges,” he told APP. “Following the death of my father, Haji Muhammad Zaman, I discontinued my education after matric

and started different labour jobs including wheat harvesting, fruits selling, transport and bricks kiln, besides opening a small general store at my village to meet the household, health and education expenses of my seven-member family in the wake of skyrocketing price hike,” said Rafique. “I closed my small general store after it was severely damaged by the last year’s devastating floods in River Kabul and also sold my rickshaw to return all the loans obtained for my shop business,” he told with grief. Enjoying tea under a Shisham tree with his fellow labourers before starting threshing of wheat in the afternoon, he said, “We prefer wheat harvesting these days due to high profit margin as compared to other labour jobs.” “Purchasing of own tractor-thresher was my dream but could not materialize it due to financial constraints,” he added. He urged the government to give interest-free loans to labourers so that they may establish their own businesses. Like Rafique and Sadiq, hundreds of thousands of workers were engaged in different labour

works including wheat harvesting, construction, transport, bricks kilns and tree plantations in KP and were contributing to the country’s development. 1st May 1was a significant day to remember and pay glowing tributes to all those labourers, who worked for the economic prosperity, and development of the country and sacrificed their lives for Pakistan. Like other 80 countries in the world, International Labour Day was also observed in Pakistan to pay homage to the services of the labour class. Every year, Labour Day was observed in memory of Chicago workers, who were killed by police while striking for an eight-hour workday in 1886. In Pakistan, May 01 was officially declared as a public holiday after its inclusion in the first labour policy in 1972. “The policy led to formulation of a social security network, old age benefit schemes and workers welfare fund while the 1973 constitution ensured all rights to labour class,” said Syed Noman Bukhari, senior lawyer of trade and labour laws and member of Peshawar High Court Bar Association

(PHCBA) while talking to APP. He said Pakistan was a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) after its independence in 1947 and had protected all rights of the labourers including the right of union and jobs in the 1973 constitution. He said Pakistan had ratified 36 ILO conventions of which eight were important, thus empowering labourers of all rights. The Labour and Culture Department KP spokesman said that several housing projects were launched for the labourers. He said 2,056 flats at Labour City Regi Lalma Peshawar for registered industrial workers were constructed. Funds had been allocated for sanitation, water and street lights in Mardan Labour Colony. Ikhtair Wali Khan, PML-N KP spokesman and former MPA said the minimum labour wage had been increased to Rs25,000 per month, whereas the federal government had planned to send around one million skilled labourers abroad for employment this year. As many as sixteen countries including South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Romania, Portugal and

Malta had shown keen interest in hiring services of our skilled labourers, he added. Since April last year, over 0.6 million Pakistanis were sent abroad for employment. He said the one-window OPF facilitation desk at Bacha Khan Airport Peshawar, having representatives of 13 departments including PIA, NADRA, Immigration and Passport, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Customs, ANF, Bureau of Immigration and Overseas Employment, ASF, Overseas Employment Corporation, CAA and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, was established to swiftly address complaints of overseas Pakistanis. The allocation of five percent quota in public sector universities for children of overseas Pakistanis and financial support in the shape of payment of fees to them in foreign universities through the Higher Education Commission was planned. Overseas Pakistanis Foundation housing scheme had been launched at Budhni Road, Peshawar, which encompasses 681 residential and 74 commercial plots for labourers, he added.

Cloudy weather with rain,thunderstorm predicted for KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Tuesday predicted mainly partly

GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs 221,000	Rs 202,582	Rs 193,375	Rs 165,750
Per 10 Gram	Rs 189,472	Rs 173,682	Rs 165,788	Rs 142,104
Per Gram Gold	Rs 18,947	Rs 17,368	Rs 16,579	Rs 14,210
Per Ounce	Rs 537,145	Rs 492,381	Rs 470,002	Rs 402,859

FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	286.35	289.25
China Yuan	40.99	41.39
Japanese Yen	2.05	2.1
Saudi Riyal	75	78.5
U.A.E Dirham	77.5	78.3
UK Pound	359	362
Euro	313.5	316.5
Australian Dollar	188	190
Canadian Dollar	212	214.5

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
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cloudy to cloudy weather over most districts of the province during the next 24 hours. However, it said that widespread rain-wind/thunderstorm associated with dust storm and isolated heavy rainfall/ hailstorm is likely to occur over Chitral, Lower & Upper Dir, Swat, Buner, Malakand, Shangla, Kohistan, Torghar, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar, Charsadda, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, Han-gu, Orakzai, Karak, Kohat districts. Isolated rain-wind thunderstorm associated with heavy rainfall/hailstorm is likely to occur over Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Tank, D. I. Khan, North & South Waziristan districts. During the last 24 hours mainly partly cloudy weather prevailed over most districts of the province. However, thunderstorm-rain with gusty winds occurred at scattered

places in Peshawar, Lower & Upper Dir, Swat, Buner, Mardan, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Bajaur, Mohmand and Kurram districts. Rain recorded (in mm): DI Khan 28, Peshawar (City 25, A/P 19), Kakul 15, Taimergara 13, Mohmand (Mamad Gut 12), Balakot 09, Parachinar 08, Bajaur (Pashat 07, Khaar 06), Takht Bhai & Cherat 04 (each), Saidu Sharif 03, Ghalanai & Dir 03 (each), Bannu, Landi Kotal & Buner 02 (each). The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 31/17, Chitral 28/13, Timergara 24/14, Dir 24/09, Mirkhani 24/08, Kalam 20/04, Drosh 25/13, Saidu Sharif 21/14, Pattan 30/16, Malam Jabba 13/04, Takht Bhai 29/17, Kakul 18/12, Balakot 18/12, Parachinar 23/06, Bannu 34/16, Cherat 27/14, D.I. Khan 37/18.

BOK’S Q1 ’23 profit rises to RS 939 million, setting new benchmarks in challenging times

PESHAWAR (Khyer Mail): A leading finance & tax expert of KP, Muhammad Umair Zeb told Khyber Mail on Monday that despite of the challenging economic conditions, the Bank of Khyber managed to post Rs.1,647 million profit before tax whereas profit after tax for the first quarter of the year 2023 stood at Rs.939 million against Rs.390 million of the corresponding period of 2022. The Bank’s profit after tax rose to Rs 939 million with basic and diluted earnings per share improving from Rs 0.35 in Q1’22 to Rs 0.85 in Q1’23. The increase in profitability is mainly attributable to gradual repositioning of balance sheet done in view of the market interest rates, continuous focus on non-markup income and positive impact on the cost of deposits during Q1 of certain one-off items. These factors have resulted in increase of net interest income as well as non-markup income of the Bank on

a timeline basis. Non-markup income increased to Rs. 420 million (up 8.3%) against Rs. 387 million in the corresponding period last year with major contributions coming in from fee commission income and foreign exchange income. BOK’s total operating expenses were Rs 1855 million as persistent inflation and rapidly escalating fuel and utility costs created pressure across all categories. The cost-to-income ratio of the bank improved significantly. The bank’s paid an amount of Rs708 million as income tax for the period under review with increase of 175%, compared to Rs257 million in the corresponding quarter of the last year. This also includes the impact of applicable Super Tax. The advancement of the bank’s credit rating from A to A+ by the VIS is the proof of the immense progress made by BOK in the past years.

Ms Hira Kokab has successfully defended her M.Phil thesis

PESHAWAR (Staff Report): Ms Hira Kokab has successfully defended her M.Phil thesis titled” Prevalence and Complications of Covid-19 Co-morbid type 2 diabetes mellitus and assessment of drug-drug interactions” under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Jamshaid Ali Khan fulfilling all the codal formalities. Her defense was carried out by an external examiner Associate Professor Dr. Nar-



gis Aman, Principal, Nazar College of Pharmacy, Dakson Institute of Health Sciences, Islamabad.



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Woman missing,child dead in floods caused by heavy rains

PESHAWAR (APP): In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, recent floods caused by two days of heavy rains have resulted in the loss of two lives and left two others injured. The flood water has reached several areas including Malakand, Lakki Marwat, Lower and Upper Dir, Chitral, Swat, Peshawar, and Kohistan. According to reports, a woman and a 12-year-old child were washed away in the flood in Lakki Marwat. Sadly, the child’s body has

been recovered, while the woman is still missing. In addition, two people were injured when a basement collapsed due to the heavy flooding in the area. Rescue 1122 has been conducting search and rescue operations in various parts of the province to help those affected by the floods. The Rescue 1122 workers have been pulling out dozens of vehicles stuck in the flood waters at different locations.

Four killed two injured in rains: PDMA

PESHAWAR (APP): At least four persons were killed and two injured due to rains, floods and lightning during the last 24 hours in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Provincial Disaster Management Authority PDMA issued a report on Tuesday that three persons including two children died in Lakki Marwat while one person died in Shangla district. According to reports so far, one house was reported partially damaged in the prov-

ince. District Administration, Rescue 1122, Civil Defense and other related institutions are alerted in this connection. The situation is being continuously monitored. Steps are being taken to open the closed roads. PDMA issued a letter on April 26 to all concerned institutions and district administration regarding this spell of rain to take advance measures regarding rains, hailstorms and floods in the province.

Accused charged in triple murder case arrested

PESHAWAR (APP): The City police have arrested an accused charged in tripped murder case and expanded the circle of investigation. According to police, accused Usman Ghani has been apprehended during a successful raid after allegedly killing three persons on petty nature cases. The accused was charged with allegedly killing Jan Mu-

hammad in a women’s dispute near Pathang Chowk in the limit of Pandu police station. The accused was also wanted to police in the murder of the wife of Shamsur Rehman and injuring three others and Said Muhammad in an old enmity dispute. Police shifted the accused to jail after completion of the physical remands.

Peshawar Residencia: Homeless People’s Dream or a Scam?

PESHAWAR (Khyber Mail): The promise of affordable housing for low-income segment of Pakistan’s population was one of the key endeavors of the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan under his revolutionary initiative and slogan “Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar” (My Pakistan, My Home). The Peshawar Residencia (PR) project was announced as part of this initiative in 2019-2020, with the aim to provide affordable dwellings for homeless and low-income populace of the country, in general and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in particular. As the promise of Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHA-F), Islamabad, the mega project was to be completed in three years. However, it has been more than three years since the announcement and collecting billions from the allotees in the form of down-payments and/or installments and sitting on that staggering high amount of hard cash for that period, PHA-F has been failed to deliver on its promises. The dismal state

of affairs is not only raising numerous questioning questions but casts shadows that whether it was a dream for the homeless people or a scam to grab hard earned money of the low-income group with very little saving base and income margin including overseas Pakistanis with earnings made in difficult living and working conditions. As mentioned earlier, the project is launched by the PHA-F, Islamabad, in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Housing Authority (KP-PHA), Peshawar, while the former being implementing partner has collected billions of rupees in down payment and/or installments from the general public through catchy, attractive, and colorful advertisements. However, just after a year, it was revealed that the land for the proposed project is disputed and had not been cleared before being offered to the general public, making it impossible to be accessed by the PHA-F let alone start of any kind of physical work on the project.

AC,Dean KMC inaugurate cafeteria at KTH

PESHAWAR (APP): Assistant Commissioner Zainab Naqvi and Dean Khyber Medical College, Professor Dr Mehmood Aurangzeb on Tuesday jointly inaugurated a cafeteria in Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) here. According to the district administration, on the occasion of the inauguration, HD Zafar Afridi, MD Siraj,

Dr Masood, Haji Faryad Ali Advocate, Haji Pervez Khan and Haji Ashiq were also present. AC Zainab Naqvi said special focus would be laid on maintaining hygiene at the cafeteria. Besides, she said patients would be provided food at subsidized prices so that they could benefit from this new facility.



Wani terms COAS Gen.Asim Munir's statement as great morale booster for Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader All Parties Hurriyat Conference Altaf Hussain Wani has welcomed the Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir's recent statement on Kashmir and termed it as a great morale booster for the freedom-loving people of Kashmir. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Wani said that the Army Chief's categorical stance on the issue of Kashmir and reaffirmation of Pakistan's all-out support to Kash-

miris' legitimate struggle had solidified the Kashmiris' resolve besides rejuvenating their spirit and passion for freedom. The army chief's bold remarks, he said, had left the Indian disinformation networks completely exposed that keep on churning out lies to create cobwebs of confusion around Kashmir. Terming Kashmir as the bloody legacy of the partition of the subcontinent, Wani said that as an important stakeholder

in the dispute, Pakistan has always expressed its willingness to resolve the dispute peacefully in accordance with the UNSC resolutions. He said, "India's traditional intransigence has always been a stumbling block in the way of peace in the region." Wani said that the Indian leadership needs to acknowledge the harsh reality that peace and stability in the region were linked to a just and equitable settlement of the Kashmir issue.

ANF recovers over 224 kg drugs; arrests six

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in three operations managed to recover over 224 kg of drugs, and 180 intoxicated tablets and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He said in an operation near Rawalpindi Bahria Town Phase-4, ANF arrested two accused and recovered three grams of cocaine, two grams of Ice drug and 180 intoxicated tablets. ANF in an operation conducted a raid on Quetta-Karachi Road and recovered 84 kg

charras from a Karachi-bound mini bus coming from Quetta. Charras was concealed in secret cavities of the bus while two accused residents of Mastung were also rounded up during the operation. In the third operation on RCD Highway, 120 kg charras was also recovered from secret cavities of a truck and ANF arrested two accused residents of Quetta. He said that separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.

Cotton to be cultivated on 1.2 m acres in Multan Division

MULTAN (APP): District administration set a target to cultivate cotton on over 1.2 million acres in the Multan division. This was disclosed by Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak while chairing a meeting on Tuesday. The cultivation of cotton over 1.2 million will help generate 2.2 million cotton bales. He stated that the field staff should remain active for the guidance of the farmers. The commissioner also directed officials to speed up the wheat purchase campaign. Overall, a target

of 651,000 metric tonnes has been fixed for the Multan division. He directed strict action against wheat smugglers. Deputy Director food Shahid Khokhar also briefed about the wheat purchase campaign, he stated that the department conducted 294 raids to foil illegal transportation of wheat. The department seized 8678 metric tonne wheat and shifted it to wheat purchase centres. As many as 15 FIRs were registered against the smugglers in the Multan division, he concluded.

Balochistan flour dealers announce strike against ban on inter-provincial supply of flour

QUETTA (APP): Flour dealers in Balochistan have announced a strike against the ban on inter-provincial supply of flour. According to flour dealers, there was a ban on bringing flour from Punjab and trucks loaded with flour had been stopped at check posts on the Punjab border with Balochistan. The flour crisis has further worsened in Quetta, Loralai and other areas of Balochistan as the supply has been interrupted from last weeks. The price of a 20-kilogramme flour bag jumped from Rs 2800 to Rs 3300 in the open market on Tuesday. They sought assistance from the government to

resolve the issue on an emergency basis and make sure flour was affordable for the people of Balochistan. "We will shut down our shops in protest until our halted trucks leave and the strike will continue until lifted the ban on flour supply to other provinces," Haji Ghani Nasar said. Ghani said that in the event of a shutdown situation, the unavailability of flour will only aggravate the problem for the masses. He urged the government to realize the situation as the strike would lead to a severe shortage of flour resulting in price hikes as other sectors were also linked with the flour sector.

On Exchange of Congratulatory Ministerial Messages Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Russia and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Ministers of Russia and Pakistan exchanged congratulatory messages celebrating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. The messages focused on multidimensional bilateral cooperation in different areas, including economy, energy and security. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's commitment to further expanding Russia-Pakistan ties in the interests of our two peoples. Pakistan and Russia enjoy close, multidimensional relations based on mutual goodwill and trust. Bilateral ties are marked by coop-



eration in diverse areas, including economic, energy and security. The two countries also consult at various multilateral fora on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Russia were established on 1st May 1948.

The secretary-General Message for world press freedom day

ISLAMABAD (APP): For three decades, on World Press Freedom Day, the international community has celebrated the work of journalists and media workers. This day highlights a basic truth: all our freedom depends on press freedom. Freedom of the press is the foundation of democracy and justice. It gives all of us the facts we need to shape opinions and speak truth to power. And as this year's theme reminds us, press freedom represents the very lifeblood of human rights. But in every corner of the world, freedom of the press is under attack. Truth is threatened by disinformation and hate speech seeking to blur the lines between fact and fiction, between science and conspiracy. The increased con-

centration of the media industry into the hands of a few, the financial collapse of scores of independent news organizations, and an increase of national laws and regulations that stifle journalists are further expanding censorship and threatening freedom of expression. Meanwhile, journalists and media workers are directly targeted on and offline as they carry out their vital work. They are routinely harassed, intimidated, detained and imprisoned. At least 67 media workers were killed in 2022 — an unbelievable 50 per cent increase over the previous year. Nearly three quarters of women journalists have experienced violence online, and one in four have been threatened physically.

Drug peddler held

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a woman drug peddler and recovered 300-gram heroine from her in the limits of Jitoi police station. According to police sources, the accused was identified as Tasleem Bibi, wife of Muhammad Farooq, resident of Qaiser Ghazlani. Police said action against outlaws would be continued.

One killed over land dispute

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A man was killed over a land dispute when he was going to the brick kiln to perform the duty in the Sheikh Umar area of Kot Addu on late Monday. According to police, Nithwani and Baghlani clans have some disputes over land and both of the parties had moved lower courts to resolve disputes. Some unidentified number of accused from the Baghlani clan had killed Muhammad Ibrahim. Sadar Police Station Kot Addu have started the investigation.

IRSA releases 144,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 144,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 137,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1439.38 feet and was 41.38 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 32,800 cusecs while outflow as 45,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1121.75 feet, which was 71.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 49,900 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 54,700, 49,800, 36,800 and 9,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 34,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 11,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Bid to smuggle 265 flour bags foiled

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police here on Tuesday foiled a bid to smuggle 265 flour bags. According to the district administration spokesman, Food Department Rawalpindi and Rawalpindi district police in a joint operation recovered 265 flour bags from the possession of an accused namely Abid. He informed that the authorities of the food department along with Rawalpindi District police were strictly monitoring all the exit points of the district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. No one would be allowed to smuggle wheat and flour out of Rawalpindi District, he said.

4869 teams constituted for polio drive

FAISALABAD (APP): The health department constituted 4869 teams for next round of anti-polio drive scheduled to commence in district Faisalabad from May 15. A spokesman of the health department said here on Monday that necessary arrangements were being finalized for anti polio campaign which would remain continue up to May 21, 2023. As many as 1.536 million children up to the age of five years would be administered polio drops during week-long drive and all measures would be taken for accomplishment of 100 percent target of the campaign, he added.

India trying to hide its war crimes by holding G20 meeting in IIOJK: Ghazali

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali has said that by holding the G20 meeting in Srinagar, Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), India is trying to hide its war crimes in the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali addressing an anti-India rally on the Line of Control (LoC), today, said India is committing the worst kind of human rights violations in the occupied territory and the G20 countries should take note of it. Hurriyat leader Mushtaq-ul-Islam addressing the rally said the Narendra Modi-led Indian is hosting G20 meeting in Srinagar to mislead the world about the

situation in IIOJK. Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory and the Modi regime has no justification to hold a G20 meeting in Srinagar, he added. Hurriyat leaders, Usman Ali Hashim and Sharaf Hussain Malik and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader Sadaqat Hussain Mughal also addressed the anti-India rally and called upon the G-20 G20 countries to boycott the controversial meeting in Srinagar in view of the Indian military attacks on innocent people in IIOJK. Earlier, a protest sit-in was organized by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir to appeal for the boycott of the proposed G20 meeting in the occupied territory.

32 cops wounded as bus overturns in Bahawalnagar

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 32 police personnel were seriously injured when a speeding bus overturned near Arifwala Road in Bahawalnagar on Tuesday. According to police officials, the bus was carrying recruits who were returning to their centre

after the Eid holidays when the accident occurred due to the negligence of the bus driver, who fled the scene, a private news channel reported. Rescue teams reached the spot after being informed and the injured were shifted to the district hospital.

Tariq demands full bench of court, holding elections simultaneously across country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday demanded holding elections at the same time in the entire country and a full bench of court decisions to ensure transparency in the system. "The solution to the prevailing constitutional, political and legal complications is to hold elections once and at the same time in the entire country to ensure transparency and fairness", he said while talking to a private news

channel. Replying to a question, he said dialogue was one of the decent choices at the moment to resolve the issues. He further said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were holding their "final" round of negotiations and hopefully meaningful results would be obtained. In response to another question, Tariq said that the ruling coalition government was not violating the Constitution but rather expressing its reservations.

ASI, constable tortured for arresting PO

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) and a police constable were tortured allegedly by close associates of an accused when he was being taken to jail on Tuesday. According to police sources, the proclaimed offender (PO), Bin Yameen, who was wanted in multiple cases was arrested from Adda Bhagal located in Chowk Sarwar Shaheed. When the accused was being boarded the

police van, his close associates and family members rushed to the vehicle and started beating the security officials to set him free from police custody. However, the police succeeded to keep the accused away from the reach of the attackers. The injured ASI, registered separate cases against heirs and associates of the arrested accused for infiltrating the duty and services of the police. Further investigation was underway.

Police arrest 10 gamblers; recover Rs 98,950 stake money

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district Police arrested 10 gamblers and recovered Rs 98,950 stake money, five mobile phones and valuables from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that Waris Khan police conducted a raid and arrested five gamblers namely Toqeer, Tanveer, Ahmed, Talha and Bilal, who were allegedly involved in betting while playing cards. Police also recovered Rs 60,000 cash stake money, five mobile phones and other items from the possession of the arrested accused. In another raid, Westridge

police conducted a raid and rounded up Sadaqat, Fakhar, Khurram, Ghulam Shabbir and Abdul Ghaffar, five gamblers and recovered Rs 38,950 cash stake money and other items from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Capt. Muhammad Amir Khan Niazi appreciated the police parties and said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession.

Human Rights Ministry, HelpAge Int'l sign LoU for promoting Senior Citizens' rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Human Rights, Pakistan and HelpAge International on Tuesday signed a letter of understanding (LoU) to promote and protect the rights of senior citizens. The ceremony was held in Islamabad. The LOU was signed by Mr. Abdul Sattar, Director General, Ministry of Human Rights and Syed Moez Kakakhel, Country Director, HelpAge International. The event was attended by government officials from MoHR, representatives of Civil Society, media and senior citizens. In his welcome remarks, Rana Tariq Ali, Deputy Director MoHR informed the participants that the National Assembly had passed "The Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Bill, 2021". He highlighted the steps taken so far to roll out the act. Ministry has constituted the senior citizens' council at the Ministry headed by the Federal Minister for Human Rights, he said is bound to create a senior citizens fund where-

as the matter has been taken up with the finance ministry and will be approved this year. "We will need guidance in creating old age homes and regulations keeping in view the global best practices as it has become a need of the hour," he said. He underlined that the grievances committee constitution and its rules are also needed under the legislation. Punjab government has established old age homes in seven divisions but has not framed any law on it, he said, "We not only intend to bring legislation but rather an attitudinal change in the society pertaining to senior citizens." "A senior citizen card will also be issued and they will be entitled to not stand in queues and also get 20% discount on medicines," the Deputy Director said. In addition, he said the Ministry has to do a lot of work and will need cooperation from civil society in this regard. Syed Moez Kakakhel, Country Director HelpAge International said the population of senior citizens globally was rising with population growth.

President asks MoFA to expose Indian designs behind planned G-20 Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to intensify its efforts to expose India's nefarious designs and ulterior motives behind its planned move to hold the G-20 Summit in the UN-recognized disputed territory of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The president expressed these views while conveying the letter of the Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference (APHC), Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), for appropriate action on the issue raised by him. Saghar, in his letter to President Alvi had sought the urgent attention of Pakistan towards the Indian government's highly controversial move to convene a meeting of the members of the G-20 countries in Srinagar and its far-reaching consequences on the Kashmiris' ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination. Expressing serious concern over India's plan



to hold the G-20 Summit events in the UN-recognized disputed territory, the Convener termed the move as a part of a "multi-faceted and multi-front campaign" that New Delhi had been waging to create confusion about the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute. The APHC Convener said India wanted to dilute Kashmir's international and legal status, strengthen the notion that Kashmir was nothing but its internal matter, deflect the world's attention away from the real issue, hide ground realities, and promote its so-called normalcy narrative. He highlighted that India was yet again trying to use this crucial meeting to project its baseless normalcy narrative.

Parliament's power of legislation can't be taken by anyone else: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that a transparent and fair system has been introduced by the recent legislation by the Parliament amending Article 184 (3). "The Parliament will go to any extent to protect its constitutional powers", the minister said in a statement. The Parliament has the right to fully protect and defend its constitutional rights, she said adding no one could take away the constitutional power of Parliament for legislation. She said that the judiciary's authority was to interpret the Constitution and laws but it had no power to rewrite the Constitution or impose restrictions on legislative power of the Parlia-



ment. The Parliament passed a law on the long-standing demand of the lawyers' fraternity, bar councils and bar associations, she maintained. The minister said that the legislation relating to Article 184-3 does not curtail the powers, independence and autonomy of the judiciary. By this legislation, 'One-Man-Show' and 'Imperial court-like' objections were addressed.

Talha urges Moavineen-e-Hujjaj to fulfil responsibilities religiously

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Tuesday urged the Moavineen-e-Hujjaj to fulfil their responsibilities in letter and spirit by taking care of the complete needs of the pilgrims during the entire Hajj operation. Addressing a training session of Moavineen-e-Hujjaj (assistants for pilgrims) here at the Pakistan Sports Complex, he said they should perform their duties under 'Jazba-e-Imani' (spirit of faith), adding that no negligence would be tolerated. Minister Talha said their performance would be mon-

itored keenly as he himself would be among them in Saudi Arabia. He said he was in constant contact with the airlines and Saudi authorities assuring that the Hajj arrangements would be completed soon and the intending pilgrims would be dispatched on time to the holy land. He urged the media to avoid baseless news as it could degrade the morale of the people burning the midnight oil to make the Hajj operation a success story. In the end, he prayed to Allah Almighty to help the Hajj mission manage this official and religious duty in the best possible manner.

Dar rejects news about OGRA's petrol-price reduction recommendation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday rejected some reports circulating in both press and electronic media that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) had recommended a decrease in the price of Motor Spirit Oil (MSO - Petrol) for first fortnight of the current month, terming them 'baseless and untrue.' "Some reports have been circulating in the press and electronic media stating that OGRA made recommendation to the government

for a reduction in the price of Motor Spirit/Petrol with effect from 1st May, 2023, which are baseless and untrue," the minister clarified on his Twitter handle. Meanwhile, OGRA spokesman Imran Ghaznavi in a brief press statement said the authority did not recommend any decrease in the prices of MS/Petrol. "The recent decrease in international price was offset against the outstanding exchange rate adjustment, and as such, there was no room for a decrease in the local prices of MS/Petrol."

IGP Encourages Punjab Police Players Participating In 34th National Games

LAHORE (APP) :Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has invited the players and match officials of the Punjab Police squad participating in the 34th National Games to the Central Police Office. In the 34th National Games to be held in Quetta from May 22, Punjab Police players and teams are participating in a total of 27 sports including Kabaddi, Wrestling, Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Karate, Weightlifting, Wushu, Body Building, Asian Style Kabaddi, while 70 women players are also included in the police force. Speaking to the national players, IG Punjab instructed all the teams and players to continue hard work and practice for the best performance and said that all the players should

win more medals and bring honor to the police department. Dr. Usman Anwar said that the player who wins the gold medal in individual competitions would be given 300,000 rupees, the silver medal winner would be given 200,000 rupees and the bronze medal winner would be given 100,000 rupees, while a special wall would also be made for the players who won medals in sports like police Martyrs and Ghazis. On this wall, details of their Names and competitions would be displayed. Dr. Usman Anwar said that Director General Pakistan Police Sports board should ensure priority measures for the convenience of police players and all players should continue their training with hard work and passion.

Railways' Eid train operation gets passengers' overwhelming response

ISLAMABAD (APP): The special trains on Eid ul Fitr introduced by Pakistan Railways had received an overwhelming response from thousands of travellers who visited their loved ones in their native towns. The passengers have expressed their gratitude to Pakistan Railways for facilitating them on Eid through special trains which saved their precious time and money. A large number of passengers with families were seen at the railway stations according to whom the staff at the stations was quite helpful in informing them about

timing of trains, platforms' numbers, ticketing and booking issues. Talking to APP Muhammad Ali who arrived at Rawalpindi Railway Station from Karachi after celebrating Eid with his relatives said that Pakistan Railways had won the passengers' hearts through completing Eid trains operation with a lot of improvement. Another passenger, Shahraiz Arshid said that the services being provided by the management were very much improved while all the railway stations were neat and clean. He said that despite the tracks were not in

good condition after the heavy rains and floods of 2022 across the country, the timing of the trains was also improved as compared to the previous years. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Railways had announced the operation of five special trains to facilitate the travel needs of the public during the Eid-ul-Fitr holidays. He said the trains had been operated from Karachi to Lahore and Karachi and Peshawar to various locations across the country, providing a comfortable and convenient mode of transportation for passengers.

Two persons found dead

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were found dead from different localities near here during the past 12 hours. Rescue sources said on Tuesday that the corpse of a 45-year-old man was found near the general bus stand, whereas the other body of a 35-year-old man was recovered from Samosa Park near old central jail, Dijkot Road. Apparently, both, yet to be identified, were addicted. Concerned police took the bodies into custody and shifted them to the city's morgue for autopsy.

DQCB meeting held

KASUR (APP): A meeting of District Quality Control board (DQCB) was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Jaffar Chaudhry here at DC room on Tuesday. According to the spokesperson, a total of 30 cases against illegal medical stores and clinics were examined in the meeting. Among them, seven cases were referred to Drug court, warnings were issued to 17 others, whereas the decision of five others cases would be decided in next meeting. On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Dr. Laiq Chaudhry, Secretary QCB Maryam Shareef, Drug controller Kasur, Sana ullah Saif and other concerned officials were present.

ACE recovers Rs 1.9 m from defaulters

SARGODHA (APP): Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) team on Tuesday recovered Rs 1.9 million from defaulters of Excise and Taxation department in Mianwali district. According to the press release issued by ACE office, Regional director ACE Asma Ijaz Cheema came to know that property tax defaulters in Mianwali district were not depositing their dues while officials of the Excise, Taxation department were using delaying tactics in this regard. To which, she tasked the circle officer ACE Mianwali Adnan Haider to investigate the matter. After the completing the inquiry, ACE team recovered Rs 1.9 million from the defaulters and deposited in government exchequer.

PFA recovers 180 kg unhygienic meat

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Food Authority (PFA) foiled an attempt of supplying unhygienic meat at marriage halls and hotels and recovered 180 kg of sub-standard meat. The food safety team of PFA conducted a raid at a poultry shop situated near Stadium Chowk on Tuesday and checked the meat ready for supply at hotels and marriage halls. The team declared the meat unhygienic and disposed it off on the spot. A sum of Rs 20,000 was also imposed on the shop owner, PFA sources said.

Nine power pilferers booked

SARGODHA (APP): Faisalabad Electric Power Company (FESCO) task force team caught nine power pilferers during a crackdown here on Tuesday. According to spokesperson, the task force teams raided at various areas of the district and caught nine accused who were involved in stealing electricity from main lines and meter tampering. They were identified as- Muhammad Aslam, Nawaz, Muhammad Ameer, Munawar Hussain, Sher Khan, Muhammad Akbar, Muhammad Imran and others.

The 6th Meeting of Consortium of IBU held online

BAHAWALPUR (Staff Report): The 6th Meeting of Consortium held online under the chair of Convener Vice Chancellor, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob at Islamia University of Bahawalpur. According to the notification of Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), IUB lead Theme II Climate Change, Environment & Pollution (Waste Management) among all Universities Punjab-Pakistan was discussed. The details of the agenda were briefed by Dr. Wajid Nasim Jatoti Focal Person and Director International Centre for Climate Change, Food Security and Sustainability. Members exchanged views on the first draft on "Climate Change Policy Action Document". Prof. Dr. Nasim Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore appreciated the Islamia University of Bahawalpur for working continuously on the theme and suggest some



improvements to carry the task at national level in National Climate Change Policy as published by Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan through this Consortium. Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum, Patron and members Dr. Muhammad Abdullah, Dr. Nargis Naz, Dr. Samar Fahad, Dr. Abid Rashid Gill, Dr. Mazhar Abbas, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, and Dr. Naveed Ul Haq were present in this meeting. Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum concluded the meeting, and it was decided to hold the next meeting to finalize the Climate Change Policy Action Document.

NA Speaker felicitate Pakistan Junior Tennis Team for qualifying world group of world Junior Tennis



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that youth in Pakistan has lot of potential and Sports is the best way to harness youth potential positively. He said that Pakistan is blessed with talented youth who can perform wonders in all walks of life including sports. He expressed these view during his meeting with members of Pakistan Junior tennis team led by Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Ehsan ur rehman Mazari in Parliament House. The Speaker extended warm felicitation to Pakistan Junior Tennis Team for creating history by qualifying for the World Group of the World Junior

Tennis (WJT) after a gap of 27 years. He also extended heartiest congratulations to the captain, players, parents, and coaches and wished them success in the future particularly for the upcoming ITF World Group finals, scheduled for August this year in Czech Republic. While appreciating the talent of Pakistani youth in all sports, speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has also encouraged team members to fully utilize their potential for benefits of nation. He expressed his confidence that one day this team would prove pride for Pakistan. Later on, Pakistan junior tennis team also witnessed the proceedings of National Assembly Session.

Hungary represents rich culture of Islamic heritage says Hungarian Ambassador



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that the exhibition of the Islamic culture heritage in Hungary is evident of rich Islamic traditions. He also said that the Hungarian nation was one of the first European Nation which demonstrated peaceful co-existence between Muslim and Christian community. He said that the photo exhibition of Islamic heritage of Hungary reflected the rich Islamic footprints left by Ottoman Empire in Europe. He expressed these views while inaugurating three days Photo exhibition of Islamic Heritage in Hungary organized by National Assembly Secretariat in collaboration with Hungar-

ian Embassy in Parliament House. While narrating the brief history of Ottoman Empire, he said that Hungary was different from other parts of the Ottoman Empire not only for economic and social but also for cultural reasons. He also said that The peaceful co-existence of Christians and Muslims was well demonstrated by the law adopted among the first in Europe by the Hungarian Parliament in 1916 which granted Islam the status of a legally recognized religion of Hungary. He also appreciated cooperation between governments of both Hungary and Turkiye which are working to preserve the Islamic Cultural Heritage of Ottoman Empire in Hungary.

Oil slides on concerns over China's demand outlook

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Oil held a loss as concerns over China's economic outlook and caution in financial markets spurred by a banking crisis dominated sentiment. West Texas Intermediate held below US\$76 a barrel after dropping 1.5% on Monday. China's recovery remains patchy with recent data pointing to a contraction in manufacturing. Still, tourism and travel activity soared on the first day of the country's five-day Labor Day holiday, possibly signalling increased de-



mand for fuels in the world's largest crude importer. In the US, JPMorgan Chase & Co agreed to acquire First Republic Inc, the latest lender to fail. While the deal could help to

stabilise the financial system, there are still concerns over the fate of other weak banks in the country. Oil has shed more than 5% this year despite a move by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies to cut supply from this week. Losses have been spurred by a darkening economic outlook, with central banks including the Federal Reserve continuing to raise rates. The Fed is expected to deliver another hike this week, potentially the last rise in the current cycle.

HSBC's pre-tax profits jump to US\$12.9bil in Q1 Strong earnings

HONG KONG (Agencies): Global banking giant HSBC announced Tuesday a US\$9-billion jump in pre-tax profits in the first quarter of 2023, projecting strong earnings for the rest of the year. The London-headquartered bank reported pre-tax profits of US\$12.9 billion for the opening quarter, up from US\$3.4 billion in the same period last year. Revenue leapt

64% to US\$20.2 billion. "Our strong first quarter performance provides further evidence that our strategy is working," chief executive Noel Quinn said in a statement. "Our profits were spread across our major geographies, and all three global businesses performed well as we continued to meet our customers' needs through our internationally connected franchises."

Quinn added that HSBC has also announced its "first quarterly dividend since 2019 of US\$0.10 per share" and a share buy-back of up to US\$2 billion. Pressure has been mounting on HSBC since its largest shareholder, Chinese insurer Ping An, called for the bank to break up its business as part of a "strategic restructuring" to unlock shareholder value.

IMF raises Asia's economic forecast on China recovery, warns of risks

RIYADH (Agencies): The International Monetary Fund raised Asia's economic forecast on Tuesday as China's recovery underpinned growth, but warned of risks from persistent inflation and global market volatility driven by Western banking sector woes. The reopening of China's economy will be pivotal for the region with the spillover to Asia seen focused on consumption and service-sector demand rather than investment, the IMF said.



"Asia and Pacific will be the most dynamic of the world's major regions in 2023, predominantly driven by the

buoyant outlook for China and India," the IMF said its regional economic outlook report. "As in the rest of the world, domestic demand is expected to remain the largest growth driver across Asia in 2023." Asia's economy is expected to expand 4.6 percent this year after a 3.8 percent increase in 2022, contributing around 70 percent of global growth, the IMF said, upgrading its forecast by 0.3 of a percentage point from October.

Saudi National Bank's Credit Suisse holding to convert to 0.5% of UBS

DUBAI (Agencies): Saudi National Bank's almost 10% shareholding in Credit Suisse will convert to approximately 0.5 percent of UBS following the merger of the two Swiss lenders, a bourse statement said on Monday. Saudi National Bank, Credit Suisse's top shareholder, said the carrying value of its investment in the troubled Swiss lender was SR1.3 billion (\$346.63 million) on March 31, a decline of almost 70 percent during the



first quarter. "SNB's shareholding in Credit Suisse of 9.88 percent will convert into a shareholding in UBS of approximately 0.5 percent upon completion of the merger," the bourse statement said. On Dec. 31, 2022, the

value of SNB's investment in Credit Suisse had declined by approximately 20 percent, the statement said. It then posted an additional fall of almost 70 percent during the first three months of 2023. In March, Fitch Ratings said the UBS takeover of Credit Suisse would have a neutral impact on SNB's A- rating, due mainly to the limited contribution of the Credit Suisse investment to its group asset portfolio of less than 0.5 percent of total assets.

Morgan Stanley plans to cut another 3,000 jobs

NEW YORK (Agencies): Morgan Stanley is planning to cut more jobs after reporting a drop in profit during the first three months of the year, US media reported on Monday. The bank aims to trim its headcount by nearly 4% this quarter after ending March with more than 82,000 employees, according to the reports. The US investment and financial services giant said in a recent earnings report that its profit dropped 20% in the first three months of this year amid a slowdown



in mergers and acquisition advising. The global financial institution at the end of last year trimmed about 2% of its staff or some 1,600 positions, CNBC reported at the time. The new round of cuts is expected to involve

about 3,000 jobs. Word of more layoffs at Morgan Stanley came as JP-Morgan Chase's takeover of First Republic resolved the fate of the last major bank caught up in recent upheaval. The sector still faces a weakening economy and challenges from higher interest rates. Ever since the March collapse of Silicon Valley Bank ignited fears of widespread failures among midsize banks, the industry has been operating under a cloud of uncertainty.

US judge declares mistrial in Apple-Masimo smartwatch fight

SACRAMENTO (Agencies): A US judge in California on Monday declared a mistrial in Masimo Corp's potential billion-dollar smartwatch trade secret lawsuit against Apple Inc after jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict, multiple media outlets reported. The jury in federal court in Santa Ana could not determine whether Cupertino, California-based Apple misused confidential information from Masimo related to the use of light to measure biomarkers



including heart rates and blood-oxygen levels, US district judge James Selna said. The jury began deliberating on April 26 after a trial lasting about three weeks. Apple said in a statement that it "deeply respects

intellectual property and innovation and does not take or use confidential information from other companies," and will ask the court to dismiss remaining claims in the case. A Masimo spokesman did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Irvine, California-based Masimo and its spinoff Cercacor Laboratories Inc sued Apple in 2020, accusing it of stealing trade secrets and using them to create and sell several Apple Watch models.

Florida board picked by DeSantis countersues Disney

TALLAHASSEE (Agencies): A district board appointed by Florida governor Ron DeSantis to oversee development around Walt Disney Co's Florida theme parks sued the company on Monday to void "backroom deals" favourable to the entertainment giant. The state court lawsuit escalates tensions between Disney and the Republican governor and likely presidential candidate. It comes in response to a case Disney filed last week in federal district



court against DeSantis and members of the Central Florida Tourism Oversight district board. Disney accused DeSantis and his supporters of illegally using state government

to punish the company for exercising its free-speech rights last year when Disney criticised a state measure banning classroom discussion of sexuality and gender identity with younger children. DeSantis who is expected to soon declare his candidacy for US president, has repeatedly attacked "woke Disney" in public remarks. "Since Disney sued us, we have no choice now but to respond," board chair Martin Garcia said at a Monday meeting.

UAE's Adnoc signs US\$1bil LNG deal with TotalEnergies

DUBAI (Agencies): The United Arab Emirates' Adnoc Gas announced Monday a US\$1-billion deal to provide liquefied natural gas to France's TotalEnergies as Europe scrambles to find alternatives to Russian energy sources. The liquefied natural gas

provided under the three-year supply deal "will be delivered to various export markets around the world", an Adnoc Gas statement said. The agreement is valued at between US\$1 billion and US\$1.2 billion, the statement said, without elaborating

on the quantities involved. "The deal is due to start in 2023 and targets the Asian market as a priority," TotalEnergies told AFP. The deal was signed with TotalEnergies Gas and Power Limited, a subsidiary of the French multinational.

BP back in Q1 profit after Russia's exit setback

LONDON (Agencies): British energy giant BP on Tuesday posted net profit of US\$8.2 billion for the first quarter, which compared with a record loss a year earlier as it ended operations in Russia. In the first three months of 2022, BP recorded its biggest quarterly loss after tax, at US\$20.4 billion, as Moscow's invasion of Ukraine caused its exit from Russian business. BP had booked a year ago a pre-tax charge of US\$25.5 billion after abandoning its 19.75% stake in energy group Rosneft, ending more than three decades of investment in Russia. That wiped out the positive effect of surging energy prices that were driven by tight-



er supplies following the invasion by major oil and gas producer Russia. BP chief executive Bernard Looney called this year's first-quarter performance "strong" as the group focuses "on safe and reliable operations". The company added that it would return US\$1.75 billion to shareholders.

Mercedes taps F1 team to keep up with Tesla

BRIXWORTH (Agencies): Mercedes-Benz has plugged its Formula One team into the engineering process to build vastly more efficient mass-market electric vehicles (EVs), slashing development times by a quarter or more as it jump-starts efforts to keep pace with Tesla. F1 technology has always eventually bled over into mass-market vehicles. But Mercedes' F1 collaboration to build more efficient EVs faster is unprecedented because it embeds that racing mindset and technological expertise directly in product development. After decades of leadership in combustion-engine technology, legacy carmakers



like Mercedes have lagged Tesla in electric vehicles. Mercedes' F1 team can help it get back in the race, said Steven Merkt, head of transportation solutions at TE Connectivity, a major autos supplier. "Nobody feels the pressure more than Mercedes to be innovation leaders here," Merkt said. "They've got to push it out or they're no longer Mercedes."

Alibaba's faded rally signals grim outlook ahead

SHANGHAI (Agencies): It took only four weeks for optimism around Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's breakup plan to fizzle. Restoring it will likely be an uphill battle. Alibaba's American Depositary Receipts are now 2.3% below where they were before the e-commerce firm announced its overhaul plan last month, wiping out as much as 20% in gains. Investors had originally hoped that a split into six units would boost the empire's value and increase chances of listing those units publicly. That would reverse woes faced after the sudden halt of Ant Group's IPO in 2020 amid Beijing's concerns about



influence. But as US-China geopolitical tensions flare, some are starting to backtrack on their earlier enthusiasm. Concerns about broader weakness in sentiment for Chinese equities, coupled with questions about the potential initial public offering pipeline and a lack of growth catalysts, are also weighing on the stock's outlook.

Saudi Arabia's Thiqah plans expansion to Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's business service provider Thiqah has signed a memorandum of understanding with Cairo-based e-Finance Investment Group to facilitate the company's entry into the Egyptian market. The agreement will enable both companies to provide digital solutions, electronic payment services and integrated technological systems to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. "Our partnership with Thiqah is perfectly aligned with the group's investment strategy, which aims to expand our activities and business operations outside Egypt, especially in markets that present attractive growth opportunities and allow us to



maximize value for shareholders," said Ibrahim Sarhan, the chairman of e-Finance Investment Group. The agreement will support Thiqah's position in the Egyptian market and facilitate e-Finance's expansion to international markets. Founded in 2005, e-Finance has been instrumental in building and developing Egypt's governmental financial network.

UK house prices rise for first time in eight months

LONDON (Agencies): UK house prices rose for the first time in eight months in April, halting, for now, the worst slump in 14 years, one of the country's biggest mortgage lenders said. Nationwide Building Society said its measure of home values rose 0.5% last month after a 0.7% drop in March, the first increase since August. Economists had expected declines to continue, and the March figure wasn't quite as bleak as previously estimated. "There were tentative signs of a recovery," Nationwide's chief economist Robert Gardner said in a statement Tuesday. "In recent months industry data



on mortgage applications point to signs of a pickup." The figures open the prospect that house prices may not slump by 10% or more as economists have warned. Soaring inflation and interest rates have strained the affordability of new homes, but a lack of supply of properties coming to market has helped keep prices buoyant.

Search still on for alternatives to Musk-owned Twitter

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Since Elon Musk took over Twitter in October, users irked by the platform's new regime have vowed to move their online presence elsewhere, though this has proved harder than some had banked on. Here is a list of some of the contenders to dethrone Twitter as the go-to website for the media, officials and celebrities. Bluesky was created by Twitter's co-founder Jack Dorsey and is now the talk of Silicon Valley, leaving those in the know scrambling

to secure an invite to join the app that is still in the testing phase. The platform looks and feels like Twitter as its backers want users from the Elon Musk-owned site to feel at home, though posts on the app are referred to as "skeets", not tweets. Bluesky was actually created as a Twitter side project in 2019 as a way to think about a decentralised version of the platform where users – and not the company – are more in control of personal data and content moderation.

Ice-cool Harden scores 45 as Sixers stun Celtics, Jokic downs Suns

NEW YORK (Agencies): JAMES HARDEN SCORED 45 points as the Philadelphia 76ers stunned the Boston Celtics in the NBA playoffs on Monday before Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets took a commanding 2-0 series lead over the Phoenix Suns. In a pulsating Eastern Conference duel in Boston, Harden produced a vintage performance — including a pivotal go-ahead three-pointer with 8.4 seconds remaining — to leave the TD Garden in stunned silence as the



Sixers snatched a 119-115 game one victory. The Sixers' win was achieved without their best player, injured talis-

man Joel Embiid, who watched from the bench after failing to recover from a knee injury. "We're just a resilient team," Harden said. "Even without Joel, we've got the confidence to come here and win games. "We've been doing it all year long, that's a good one for us." Harden's points haul came from 17-of-30 shooting and included seven three-pointers. "He was awesome," Sixers coach Doc Rivers said. "Kept his cool, knew when to attack, knew when to give it up."

Blackburn's play-off hopes hanging by a thread after Luton draw

LONDON (Agencies): Blackburn's hopes of qualifying for the Championship play-offs are no longer solely in their own hands following a 1-1 draw at home to Luton on Monday. Hayden Carter headed in his first Rovers goal four minutes from time at Ewood Park and the hosts almost snatched a win late on when Sammie Szmodics volleyed against the crossbar. Wales international Tom Lockyer had given third-placed Luton, already in the play-offs, the lead from Carlton Morris's cross shortly



after half-time. Blackburn must now beat Millwall in their final game of the regular season to have a chance of a top-six finish, but they would

still fall short if either West Brom or Sunderland won as well. Earlier, Rotherham guaranteed their Championship survival with a 1-0 win over 10-man Middlesbrough. The Millers had been relegated in each of their previous three second-tier campaigns. But Hakeem Odoffin's second-half winner ensured their safety with one game to spare. Rotherham cannot be caught by third-bottom Reading who, following their six-point deduction, currently hold the final relegation spot.

FIFA warns Europe of Women's World Cup broadcast blackout

GENEVA (Agencies): Publicly criticizing broadcasters for offering too little to screen the Women's World Cup has not worked out yet for FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who is now threatening a blackout in some major European markets. Infantino intensified a public standoff that started last October with a warning late Monday to five key countries — England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain — in a statement published less than three months before the tournament starts in Australia and New Zealand. "To be very clear, it is our moral and legal obligation not to



undersell the FIFA Women's World Cup," Infantino said of the July 20-Aug. 20 tournament. "Therefore, should the offers continue not to be fair (toward women and women's football), we will be forced not to

broadcast the FIFA Women's World Cup into the 'Big 5' European countries," he said. Infantino first aired the issue seven months ago, when in Auckland for the official draw for the 32-team tournament, saying that offers as low as 1 percent of the TV rights price paid for the men's World Cup were "not acceptable." In March, for world soccer's annual meeting held in Rwanda, Infantino reported no progress with TV broadcasters while also announcing a more than threefold increase in team prize money to \$110 million for the tournament.

Host of women professionals headline Aramco Team Series, Florida, presented by the Public Investment Fund

FLORIDA (Agencies): A host of women professional golf stars will compete in the second event of this year's Aramco Team Series presented by the Public Investment Fund, which takes place at Trump International Golf Club West Palm Beach from May 19-21. Among the list of golfing stars set to compete are world No. 6 and Aramco Team Series New York champion Lexi Thompson; the current world No. 2 and two-time major champion Lydia Ko; six-time LPGA winner Jessica Korda; previous ANA Inspiration major champions Patty Tavatanakit and Pernilla Lindberg;



and a host of American and European Solheim Cup stars. Aramco Team Series and Golf Saudi ambassadors and multiple tour winners Anne van Dam, Marianne Skarpnord, Stephanie Kyriacou, Pia Babnik, Alison

Lee, Emily Pedersen, Carlota Ciganda, Lindsey Weaver-Wright, Olivia Cowan, Chiara Noja, and winner of the Aramco Team Series Singapore Pauline Roussin-Bouchard, complete what is a strong field for both team and individual honors in Florida. Korda returns to the Aramco Team Series having competed previously in New York where she finished tied fourth and tied 18th in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Korda's best result in the Aramco Team Series came last year at Sotogrande where she finished tied second individually and was victorious in the team event.

Zamalek's Super exit reflects poor season

CAIRO (Agencies): Abu Dhabi has been looking forward to hosting the Egyptian Super Cup on May 5 for some time. It is not just about the occasion between the champions Zamalek and cup holders Al-Ahly but the rivalry between these Cairo giants is one of the biggest and fiercest in the world and the same can be said about games between the two. Last October, Al-Ahly defeated Zamalek 2-0 yet this year's match is not going to happen as, on Tuesday, Zamalek



announced they were withdrawing due to various grievances against the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) especially the issue related to Al-Ahly star Mahmoud Kahraba. The

striker was suspended for 12 games by the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) in April for allegedly making obscene chants against Zamalek in a game between the two rivals in January. After an appeal by Al-Ahly, he was cleared to play in the Super Cup until a court meets later this month. "The matter has to do with a player who insulted millions of Zamalek fans and directed obscene words at them," a statement released by Zamalek said.

Dallas Mavericks and Minnesota Timberwolves to feature in NBA Abu Dhabi Games 2023

ABU DHABI (Agencies): The National Basketball Association (NBA) and the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) today announced that the NBA Abu Dhabi Games 2023 will feature the Dallas Mavericks and the Minnesota Timberwolves playing two preseason games on Thursday, Oct. 5 and Saturday, Oct. 7 at Etihad Arena on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi. The NBA Abu Dhabi Games 2023 will air live in the UAE and across the Mid-



dle East and North Africa on beIN SPORTS, the Sports Channel and NBA League Pass, and reach fans in more than 200 countries and ter-

ritories on television, digital media and social media. The games and surrounding events will be supported by a roster of marketing partners, including Aldar, Experience Abu Dhabi, Gatorade, Nike and Tissot. The NBA Abu Dhabi Games 2023 are part of a multiyear collaboration between the NBA and DCT Abu Dhabi that last year saw the Atlanta Hawks and the Milwaukee Bucks play the league's first games in the Arabian Gulf.

Forte is 3-1 favorite for Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs

LOUISVILLE, (Agencies): Todd Pletcher-trained colt Forte and Brad Cox's filly Wet Paint are the morning line favorites respectively for the 149th Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks at Churchill Downs. Forte, the 2-year-old champion whose 190 points led the Derby qualifying trail, drew the No. 15 post at 3-1 odds on Monday for the \$3 million premier



race for 3-year-olds. He brings in a

five-race winning streak and has won six of seven starts including last month's Florida Derby won by a length over Mage, who will start from the No. 8 post at 15-1 odds. Stablemate Tapit Trice is the 5-1 second choice after drawing the No. 5 post on Monday, with Cox's Angel of Empire (154 points) the 8-1 third choice after drawing the No. 14 post.

Sabalenka ends Andreeva adventure to reach Madrid quarters

MADRID (Agencies): World number two Aryna Sabalenka made light work of 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva on Monday with a 6-3, 6-1 win to reach the Madrid Open quarter-finals. Iga Swiatek, top of the world rankings, followed her into the last eight with a hard-fought three set win over Ekaterina Alexandrova, 6-4, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3. In the men's tournament world number three Daniil Medvedev beat his friend and Russian compatriot Alexander Shevchenko, while Frances Tiafoe and Cameron Norrie crashed out against underdogs. Russian youngster Andreeva, a wildcard, became only the third 15-year-old to win a WTA 1000 main draw match when she beat 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez last



week. She went on to beat two top 20 players in Beatriz Haddad Maia and, on her 16th birthday, Magda Linette, but overcoming 2021 Madrid winner Sabalenka was a bridge too far. "Of course I'm happy with the win, I wish I would have played at Madrid when I was 16," said Sabalenka. "I think my first few games I was trying to adjust for her rhythm and her game, and then I kept trying to play my game, be aggressive and fight for every point."

Wolfsburg beat Arsenal to reach Women's Champions League final

LONDON (Agencies): Wolfsburg will play Barcelona in the Women's Champions League final after Pauline Bremer's last-gasp winner sealed a dramatic victory against Arsenal on Monday. The Germans won 3-2 in the semi-final second leg at the Emirates Stadium as Bremer's goal in the closing seconds of extra time sealed a 5-4 aggregate success. Stina Blackstenius put Arsenal ahead, with Jill Roord and Alexandra Popp netting for Wolfsburg before Jennifer Beattie levelled for the Gunners, setting the stage for Bremer's decisive goal. Barcelona, who beat Chelsea in the other semi-final, lie in wait for Wolfsburg in the final at Eindhoven's PSV Stadium on June 3. Wolfsburg, who beat Arse-



nal in last season's quarter-finals, are back in the final for the first time since losing the showpiece to Lyon in 2020. Arsenal are the only Women's Super League club to have won the Women's Champions League, lifting the trophy in 2007. But their hopes of another crack at the trophy were dashed in the most painful fashion. The Gunners had battled back to draw the first leg 2-2 in Germany despite trailing by two goals after just 24 minutes.

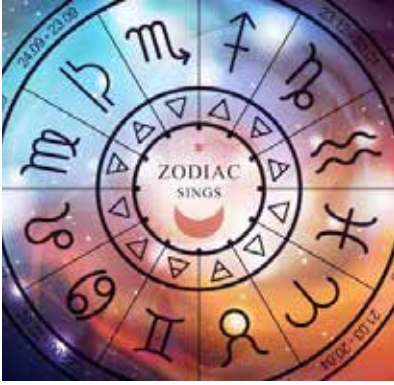
Chong Wei, Lin Dan inducted into BWF Hall of Fame

KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies): National badminton legend Lee Chong Wei and his on-court nemesis Lin Dan of China to be inducted into the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Hall of Fame for 2023. BWF in a statement said the two icons, who were the most dominant men's singles shuttlers of their generation, have been elected to be inducted in the world governing body's list of exceptional players. The official ceremony has been scheduled for May 26 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. BWF president Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen, who hailed both players for their impact on the game, said they will be remembered for more than in terms of tournament success. "Chong Wei and Lin Dan were among the foremost ambassadors of badminton over a major part of the last two decades. With their outstanding



performances, they drew whole generations of fans to the sport. "They both richly deserve to be inducted into the Hall of Fame," he added. Chong Wei, 41, and Lin Dan, 40, who both began their senior international careers in the early 2000s, had stamped their presence on the game until their retirements in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Chong Wei, who retired due to nasal cancer, bagged 47 BWF Superseries/World Tour titles in total during his 19-year illustrious career and was world No 1 for an amazing 349 weeks.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: MAY 3, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES:** Things aren't exactly where you want them to be right now, and that could mean that you're in for an uncomfortable time, but not necessarily! Try your best to smile and keep others smiling. .
– **TAURUS:** Your jealous side comes out for an uncomfortable moment today, and while it may reinforce some positive feelings in your relationship, it's not all good.
– **GEMINI:** Your powers of observation have never been stronger, so try to figure out what's going on with that friend or coworker who's been so weird lately. The answer is more mundane than you expect.
– **CANCER:** Try your best not to get too carried away with stuff you're not dead certain of. Your intuition is especially powerful right now! You might need to try something different to get ahead.
– **LEO:** Your intuitive side is out in force today, and you might pick up signals you wish you hadn't! You'll still be

able to put them to good use, though, so don't worry about it all too much. – **VIRGO:** You may find someone's story to be a little more than just suspicious, but that doesn't mean you need to call them on it right away! Wait until they trip up on their own.
– **LIBRA:** Your cash situation isn't exactly pleasing you right now, but that doesn't mean you need to fall into despair. Try to make sure that all the appropriate parties are involved before you make a decision.
– **SCORPIO:** Your inner strength is manifesting itself in the outside world today, and you couldn't be more pleased! No matter what's going on in your life, you ought to be able to get ahead of the curve.
– **SAGITTARIUS:** You've got so much going on today that you might not feel like you've got much time for others, and that's okay! Concentrate on your personal issues and return to social life on another day.
– **CAPRICORN:** If you're facing a big issue that demands a decision on your part, now is the right time to move forward. You may not be totally sure that you're correct, but you at least have all the facts you need.
– **ACQUARIUS:** You're conflicted over some new option available to you. It might be that you don't quite know what to do about it. You should probably defer any decision for at least a few more days.
– **PISCES:** You're in the middle of a big upheaval, and it might be tough on you at first, but you can see that it's going to be great in the long run! You might want to try something a little different this time.

Qantas names Vanessa Hudson as first woman chief executive

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australian airline Qantas named company veteran Vanessa Hudson as its first woman chief executive on Tuesday, replacing the cost-cutting Irish-Australian Alan Joyce. Qantas, which returned to profit late last year after taking large losses during the Covid-19 pandemic, said Hudson would become chief executive and managing director when Joyce retires in November after 15 years in the top job. Hudson, who has been in Qantas' executive ranks for nearly three decades, will remain in her role as chief



financial officer until then, the airline group said. "I have worked for Qantas for 28 years and that excitement of the first day that I felt walking into Qantas, I feel still today," Hudson told a news conference. "We are in an incredibly

strong position. We have got many things in the pipeline. That is not to say the past three years have not been challenging -- they have," she added. "There will be many challenges, I am sure, ahead," she said, stressing that taking care of customers was "absolutely at the centre of everything". Hudson said she was "incredibly proud" as a woman to reflect both on her own promotion at Qantas and on "some of the other amazing females that are running very big organisations across Australia and across the globe".

Hollywood writers to strike as studio talks collapse

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Thousands of Hollywood television and movie writers will go on strike Tuesday, their union said, after talks with studios and streamers over pay and other conditions ended without a deal. The strike means late-night shows could immediately grind to a halt, and television series and movies scheduled for release later this year and beyond may face major delays. Writers Guild of America (WGA) board members "acting upon the authority granted to them by their memberships, have voted unanimously to call a strike," the organisation tweeted. Studios' responses to its demands had been "wholly insufficient given the existential crisis writers are facing," the writers' union said. It came after the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers



(AMPTP), representing studios including Disney and Netflix, said in a statement that negotiations "concluded without an agreement." The last time Hollywood writers laid down their pens and keyboards, in 2007, the strike lasted for 100 days, costing the Los Angeles entertainment industry around \$2 billion. This time, the two sides are clashing as writers demand higher pay and a greater share of profits from the boom in streaming, while studios say they must cut costs due to economic pressures.

Ethics of Supreme Court justices in spotlight at Senate hearing

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The US Supreme Court is used to doing the grilling but it will be the high court itself in the hot seat on Tuesday as a Senate panel conducts an extraordinary examination of the ethics of the justices. The Senate Judiciary Committee hearing comes with a record 58 percent of Americans disapproving of the job being done by the court, composed of six conservative and three liberal justices. The Democratic-controlled Senate committee has called the hearing following recent revelations about business dealings by two conservative justices and lavish gifts received by one of them. Chief Justice John Roberts, a moderate conservative, was invited to testify but declined, citing "separation of powers concerns and the importance of preserving judicial independence." In-

stead, the five witnesses for the hearing which begins at 10:00 am (1400 GMT) will include two former US District Court judges, one of whom served as US attorney general under president George W. Bush, a law professor and the director of ethics at a campaign finance watchdog group. Senator Dick Durbin, chair of the Senate panel, called the hearing after news outlet ProPublica reported that Justice Clarence Thomas, a staunch conservative, had accepted expensive gifts and luxury travel from a Republican political donor, billionaire real estate tycoon Harlan Crow. Thomas, 74, the longest-serving member of the court, responded by saying it was his understanding that "personal hospitality from close personal friends, who did not have business before the court, was not reportable."

First conference of Sino-Pak joint lab on smart disaster prevention held in Nanjing

BELJING (Agencies): The first academic committee conference of the China-Pakistan Belt and Road joint laboratory on smart disaster prevention of major infrastructures was successfully held in Nanjing, China. The purpose of this academic exchange conference was to promote the spirit of modern times, showcase the important research progress and academic achievements of technological innovation talents in the fields of civil engineering, architecture, water conservancy, and transportation, Counselor of Science and Technology at the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Khan Muhammad Wazir told APP here on Tuesday. He said that the conference will strengthen academic exchange of leading talents, promote the collision of ideas,



disciplinary development, and talent cultivation of innovative talents in the field of civil engineering, water transportation and serve the national technological innovation and high-quality economic development. On behalf of Southeast University, Executive Vice President Prof. Gang Wu warmly welcomed the arrival of all experts and expressed sincere gratitude to the academic committee members for their long-term support and assistance to the school and joint laboratory.

Australia targets Big Tobacco in crackdown on vaping

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australia announced a sweeping crackdown on vaping Tuesday, accusing tobacco companies of hooking the next "generation of nicotine addicts" by deliberately targeting teenagers. Billed as the country's largest anti-smoking reforms in a decade, Australia will ban single-use disposable vapes, halt imports of non-prescription versions, and restrict how much nicotine e-cigarettes may contain. Australia has long been at the vanguard of attempts to stamp out smoking, and in 2012 became the first country to introduce "plain packaging" laws for cigarettes -- a policy since copied by France, Britain and others. But in recent years, Australia has struggled to contain the explosion in recreational vaping, particularly among teenagers. "Vaping has become the number one behavioural issue in high schools. And

it's becoming widespread in primary schools," Health Minister Mark Butler said. "Just like they did with smoking, Big Tobacco has taken another addictive product, wrapped it in shiny packaging and added flavours to create a new generation of nicotine addicts." People will still be allowed to use vapes, with a prescription, as a tool to help them quit cigarettes. "Vaping was sold to governments and communities around the world as a therapeutic product to help long-term smokers quit," Butler said. "It was not sold as a recreational product -- especially not one for our kids." Butler also announced Australia will hike taxes on tobacco sales by five percent each year over the next three years. Heavy taxes on tobacco mean Australia already has some of the most expensive cigarettes in the world -- with a pack of 25 selling for around Aus\$50 (US\$33).

Covid vaccine requirement for international travelers ends May 11: W.House

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The White House on Monday announced a May 11 end to Covid-19 vaccine requirements for travelers to the United States and for government employees across the world's biggest economy. "Today, we are announcing that the administration will end the Covid-19 vaccine requirements for federal employees, federal contractors, and international air travelers at the end of the day on May 11, the same day that the Covid-19 public health emergency ends," a statement said. More than a million people died from Covid-19 in the United States. However, the White House noted that the pandemic had been all but stopped, leading to the government lifting restrictions dating back from when the disease was ravaging entire communities and forcing crippling economic shutdowns. "Since



January 2021, Covid-19 deaths have declined by 95 percent and hospitalizations are down nearly 91 percent. Globally, Covid-19 deaths are at their lowest levels since the start of the pandemic," the statement said. According to the White House, "vaccine requirements bolstered vaccination across the nation, and our broader vaccination campaign has saved millions of lives." While demanding proof of a Covid vaccination for foreigners boarding US-bound flights mirrored the practice of many countries, the domestic government vaccination mandates sparked sometimes fierce political backlash at home.

Final portrait: Zimbabwean banker cashes in with tombstone art



HARARE (Agencies): Pick a portrait of yourself, have the picture hand-carved on a gravestone of your own design - and pay for the monument before you die. That is how a former banker in Zimbabwe, Tafadzwa Machokoto, found an unusual formula for making a hugely successful business. Four years ago, the 35-year-old holder of a computer science degree quit a job with a leading bank, joining the army of Zimbabweans trekking to neighbouring South Africa in search of a better life. A year later, after a not-so-rosy stint, he returned to live in Rugare, a rundown district of the capital Harare where the big business is making tombstones. Competition in the funeral sector is ferocious, and Machokoto - pardon the pun - quickly learned that he had to think outside the box. His idea: have artisans delicately chisel portraits of the dead on tombstones. "We need to remember our loved ones not only by their name but also by their face," said Machokoto, flanked by a mason carving a portrait into black granite at a roadside yard. He and business partner Brian Haruperi offer people options for designing their own tombstone, choosing a portrait they want, crafting the epitaph and paying for the service before they pass on. Engraved portraits of the dead are a common sight in graveyards in Europe and elsewhere, though they are usually etched by laser. For a similar idea to work in Zimbabwe, the pair had to pitch hand-crafted labour and overcome entrenched traditions and taboos. Funeral styles in this southern African nation are often conservative, and it is typically the responsibility of the bereaved - not the deceased - to choose the monument.

US may risk debt default 'as early as June 1': Yellen



WASHINGTON: The United States could run out of money to pay its financial obligations -- risking a catastrophic default -- as early as the start of June, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Monday, as policymakers tussle over raising the debt ceiling. Last week, the Republican-led House of Representatives voted to lift the national borrowing limit, but only with drastic cuts as they sought a showdown with President Joe Biden, a Democrat, over what they see as excessive spending. Republicans were determined to muscle the Limit, Save, Grow Act through the lower chamber of Congress to strengthen their position in negotiations with Biden, who has refused to agree to spending cuts. But the act has no chance of becoming law as it is opposed by Democrats controlling the Senate and White House.

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Europe's produce at stake in Spain's water war



TOTANA (Agencies): Spanish farmer Juan Francisco Abellaneda's salads and watermelons fill the shelves of European supermarkets winter and summer. But maybe not for much longer. The tap that turned the arid semi-desert of southeastern Spain into Europe's market garden may be about to be turned off, threatening the intensive farms that feed much of the continent. Spain is the EU's biggest producer of fruit and vegetables and almost half of its exports are grown by farmers like Abellaneda, the crops irrigated by huge transfers of water from the River Tagus hundreds of kilometers (miles) to the north. But with climate change hitting Spain hard, and three-quarters of the country at risk of desertification, the government has decided to limit the flow of the dwindling waters of the Tagus to the southeastern Levante. The level of the Iberian peninsula's longest river has been dropping dangerously, to the point that in some places it is possible to cross its dried-up bed by foot in summer. Just like Egypt's shrinking Nile and the Tigris in Iraq, the right to draw on the waters of the Tagus—which crosses into Portugal before flowing into the Atlantic—has become a political hot potato. The debate is getting even more heated in the run up to regional elections later this month, with the intensive agriculture that is a pillar of the Spanish economy called into question.



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