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Pages 8 Price: Rs. 25/-

Vol 11, No 213 - Tuesday 16 May 2023 Shawwal 25, 1444 A.H.

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National consensus among stakeholders must to address ongoing political instability: Corps Commanders

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Special Corps Commanders Conference (CCC) presided over by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday emphasized the need of national consensus among all stakeholders to address ongoing political instability on priority so as to restore public confidence, reinvigorate economic activity and strengthen democratic process. The participants of conference held the General Headquarters paid rich tribute to the Shuhada (martyrs), who had laid their lives in defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The forum acknowledged the successful counter-terrorism and intelligence-based operations in the country by the security forces, especially valiant response given by the troops in the Muslim Bagh attack, and paid rich

tribute to the supreme sacrifices made by the brave sons of the soil. The forum was briefed in detail about the prevailing internal and external security environment. It took comprehensive stock of the law and order situation in the past few days that was created to achieve vested political interests. It was told that a well-coordinated arson plan, involving the desecration of Shuhada's pictures and monuments, burning down of historical buildings, and vandalism of military installations was executed to malign the institution and provoke it towards giving an impulsive reaction. The forum condemned, in the strongest possible sense, the politically motivated and instigated incidents against military installations, and public and private properties. The commanders also communicated the anguish and sentiments of the rank and file of the Army on the unfortunate



and unacceptable incidents. "Based on the irrefutable evidence collected so far, the armed forces are well aware of the planners, instigators, abettors and perpetrators of these attacks and attempts to create distortions in this regard are absolutely futile," ISPR said. The forum expressed firm resolve that those involved in the heinous crimes against

the military installations and personal equipment would be brought to justice through trials under relevant laws of Pakistan including Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act. It resolved that restraint would no longer be exercised against perpetrators, spoilers and violators, "who attack military installations and setups under any circumstances".

The forum also showed concern over externally sponsored and internally facilitated, orchestrated propaganda warfare, unleashed against the Army leadership, meant to create fissures between the armed forces and the people of Pakistan, and within rank and file of the armed forces. "The vicious propaganda of such inimical forces will be defeated with the support of people of Pakistan, who have always stood with the armed forces during all odds." The forum stressed the need of strict implementation of relevant laws to penalize the violators of the social media rules and regulations, and also resolved to support all such efforts to reach the much needed consensus. The forum further resolved that the Pakistan Army with the full support of people of Pakistan, would defeat all nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan, Insha Allah.

Residents without permits banned from entering Makkah

JEDHA (Agencies): The General Directorate of Public Security, Saudi Arabia has announced that residents who do not have entry permits will be turned back from the security control points on roads leading to the Holy Capital from Monday. This comes in implementation of the instructions for organizing Hajj, which require residents wishing to enter the Holy Capital to obtain a permit from the competent authorities, said the Public Security. The instructions regulating Hajj stipulate turning back vehicles and expatriate residents to where they came from except in cases of those who work in the holy sites and have entry permits issued by the competent authority, those who hold a resident's identity card issued in the holy capital, or an Umrah or Hajj permit, SPA reported. Meanwhile, the General Directorate of Passports has started receiving applications for issuing entry permits to the Holy Capital electronically for domestic workers and non-Saudi family members, workers residing in establishments based in the Holy Capital, seasonal work visa holders and contractors with those establishments registered in the "Ajeer" system, for the Hajj season 1444 AH. The service aims to facilitate procedures for beneficiaries, shorten time and save effort, as the platform of "Absher Individuals" provides permits for domestic workers and non-Saudi family members, while the service of entry permits to the Holy Capital is accessible through the electronic "Muqeem" portal for all agencies.

New Zealand hostel fire leaves at least six dead

WELLINGTON (Reuters): A fire at a multi-story hostel on Tuesday in Wellington, New Zealand, has left at least six people dead and officials warned the number could rise. "There are still a number of people unaccounted for, but this number, along with the number of deaths, cannot be confirmed at this time," Fire and Emergency Services New Zealand (FENZ) said. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins told breakfast television show AM that six were dead and police have said that they expect the death toll will be fewer than 10. Police said they will not have more information until the 92-room building is safe to enter, and there is a risk the roof will collapse. Fifty-two people so far have been accounted. The fire broke out on the top floor of the Loafer Lodge in the Wellington neighbourhood of Newtown just after midnight on Tuesday. Police said the cause of the fire is not known.

Turkish election heads to runoff

ANKARA (Agencies): A runoff election will be held in Türkiye on May 28, the country's Supreme Election Council announced on Monday. Incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is currently leading challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu by 49.46% of the vote to 44.79%. Under Turkish election law, a candidate must pass a threshold of 50% of the vote to win in the first round. Erdogan opened strongly shortly after polls closed on Sunday evening, but his lead was whittled away over the night as counting progressed. A third

candidate, nationalist Sinan Ogan, received 5.2% of the vote, and will be excluded from the runoff. Ogan's voters are set to prove decisive in the coming showdown between Erdogan and Kilicdaroglu. Both candidates were optimistic when they addressed their respective supporters on Sunday night. "We strongly believe that we will continue to serve our nation for the next five years," Erdogan told a crowd in Ankara, while Kilicdaroglu urged his followers to stay hopeful, reminding them that "data is still coming in."

China's envoy kicks off visit amid intensified battle in Ukraine crisis



BELJING (Agencies): China's special envoy for Eurasian affairs Li Hui is set to visit Ukraine, Poland, France, Germany and Russia as part of China's efforts to help find a political solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. The main mission of the visit will be learning and communicating on demands and opinions of these major parties concerned, experts said. The visit demonstrates China's efforts to bring about a political settlement to the Ukraine crisis,

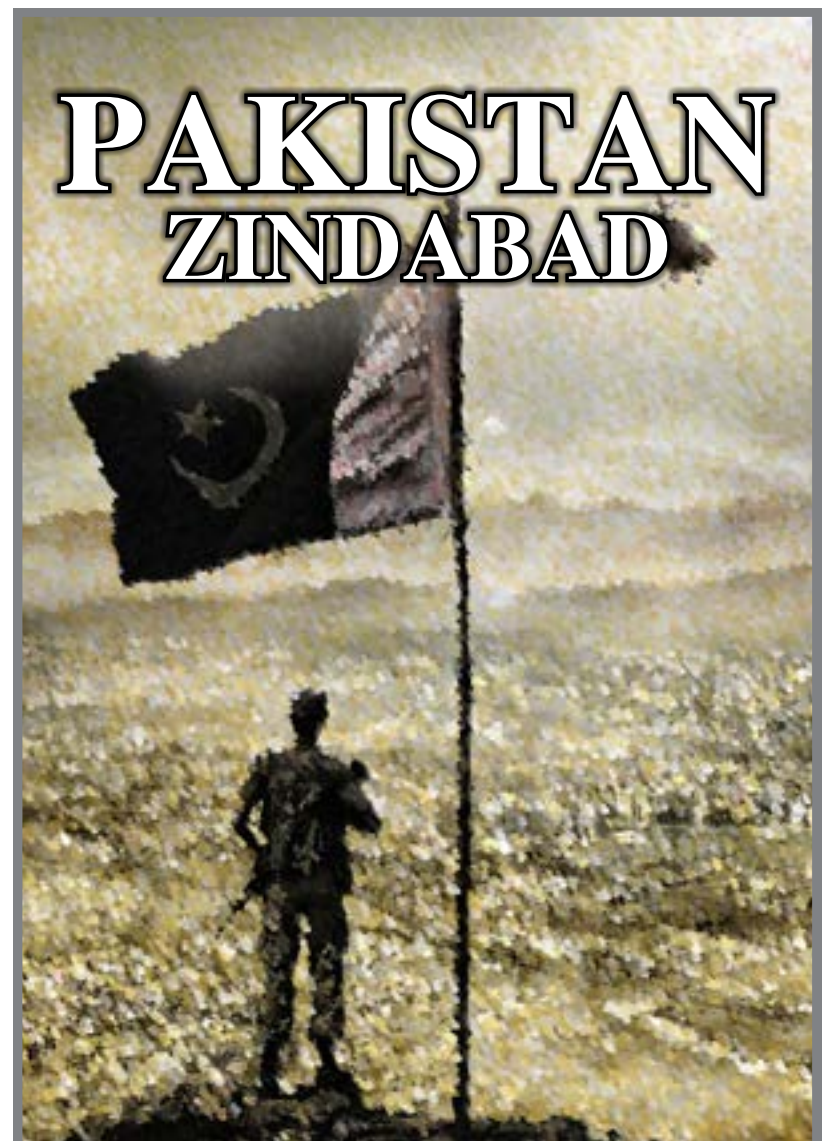
showing China's objective and fair stance as a responsible power, experts said. But they noted that China alone cannot solve the crisis, especially considering the US-led West's enhanced military support for Ukraine and the tough attitudes of Ukraine and Russia, urging more European partners that want peace to participate in peace mediation. Responding to an inquiry about the visit at a routine press conference on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin reiterated that China will, together with the international community, continue to play a constructive role in seeking a political solution to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Wang said China will release details of the visit soon.

UN for first time marks anniversary of Palestinian Nakba



NEW YORK CITY (Agencies): As the UN on Monday officially commemorated the Palestinian Nakba, or "Catastrophe," for the first time, President Mahmoud Abbas told representatives of member states that his people have the right to live in freedom and dignity in their own independent nation. He also called for Palestine to be granted full membership of the UN; it currently holds the status of non-member observer state, which was granted in November 2012. And he urged the organization to suspend Israel's membership of the UN if it continues to ignore UN resolutions condemning the occupation of Palestinian territories and the building of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land, which are considered

illegal under international law. Abbas was speaking during a meeting of the Special Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, the word Palestinians use to describe the mass displacement from their land when the state of Israel was established in 1948. Between 1947 and 1949, about 750,000 Palestinians from a population of 1.9 million were forced out of their towns and villages, which were taken over by Jewish immigrants. Most of the displaced Palestinians fled to neighboring countries, where they settled as refugees. The UN adopted a resolution this year to officially commemorate the Nakba for the first time, although 30 nations voted against it. Addressing the representatives of the many UN member states that attended Monday's meeting, Abbas demanded that Israel and its main state supporters, namely the UK and US, acknowledge their responsibility for the Nakba, apologize to the Palestinian people and compensate them.



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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.



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15 Killed over coal mine boundary dispute

PESHAWAR (APP): At least 15 persons were killed and several others injured during an exchange of fire between two tribes over a coal mine boundary dispute at Dara Adamkhel area of district Kohat. The police sources on Monday said the Sunni and Zarghoon Khel tribes

resorted to firing, resulting in the reported deaths of 15 individuals, 11 from one side and four from the other side. The deceased and injured were rushed to a hospital in Peshawar for medical treatment and postmortem examinations. The law enforcement agencies and se-

curity forces swiftly intervened to halt the gunfire and restore peace in the area. The police didn't register FIR as currently investigating the matter, and additional security measures have been put in place to prevent any further escalation of violence in the area.

KP Governor lauds FC role in fight against terrorism

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly appointed Commandant Frontier Constabulary (FC) Moazzam Jah Ansari Monday appreciated the role of the Constabulary in fight against terrorism and maintaining law and order at the province. The FC commandant called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali here and informed him about the professional services of Frontier Constabulary. Caretaker provincial cabinet members Fazl Elahi and Rahmat Salam Khattak, former Deputy Speaker

Khushdal Khan, along with the representative delegations of the business community, lawyers and doctors from Peshawar and other areas of the province also met the governor separately and discussed various issues including public welfare.The delegation during the meeting expressed regret over the heartbreaking incidents on May 9 and 10 and said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, are with the government and security forces against unrest.The governor said that this is

our country and it is the duty of all the political parties and activists to protect its sovereignty. He assured that soon the reconstruction and rehabilitation work on damaged national properties would be carried out besides the development works across the province. He urged the people to monitor all the development projects themselves and ensure transparency and quality. The governor congratulated Moazzam Jah Ansari on assuming the new responsibilities and expressed his best wishes.

Muqam led rally from KP to attend PDM’s protest in Islamabad

PESHAWAR (APP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Advisor to Prime Minister Engr. Amir Muqam on Monday led the caravans of thousands of party workers and reached Islamabad to attend Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) protest in front of the Supreme Court of Pa-

kistan. The main rally was started from Peshawar joined by thousands of workers from various parts of the province. Other caravans at Noshera, Mardan, Swabi and Swat Interchanges warmly received the main rally led by Amir Muqam from Peshawar. A huge number of party workers also joined the Caravan at Mardan Interchange. The party workers' caravans emerging from different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also joined the main rally at Karnal Sher Khan and Swabi Interchanges. Engineer Amir Muqam, spoke to the media before the PMLN caravans left for Islamabad. He said “We have come out for the supremacy of Law and Justice. “I am giving a message to the people that on one hand there are terrorists

in the country and on the other hand, there are people who love the country and its institutions,” Engr Amir Muqam added. “I ask the judges who are interested in politics, they can leave the court and come to politics,” he added. Justice and law should be the same for everyone, Engr. Amir Maqam said. On arrival at Islamabad, Engr Amir Muqam said that Imran Niazi is an Indian agent who is attacking country institutions. Later, the caravan comprised thousands of party workers led by Engr Amir Muqam warmly received at the venue of the protest rally. The caravan of people comprised of thousands of vehicles also chanted slogans in favor of Engineer Amir Muqam and warmly received him with rose petals on his car.

Consultative meeting on Annual Development Program held

PESHAWAR (Agencies): A consultative meeting on the annual development program for the year 2022-23 and 2023-24 was held in the Department of Planning and Development, on the special instruction of Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Hamid Shah. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, additional chief secretary and secretaries. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the annual development program for the years 2022-23 and 2023-2024. During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary Muhammad Zubair Asghar Qureshi provided a comprehensive briefing on the new annual development program, outlining the current

status of ongoing projects related to agriculture, endowment, BOR (Board of Revenue), clean water, environment, health, food, transport, tourism, and other key areas. The challenges faced by these development projects, given the limited resources, were also highlighted to the caretaker ministers. Syed Hamid Shah appreciated the cooperation and dedication displayed by the ministers. The provincial government aims to execute the annual development program efficiently, utilizing the available resources effectively, he added. He said the government remains dedicated to achieving its goals and objectives, thereby contributing to the overall socio-economic development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Traders express solidarity with Pakistan Army

PESHAWAR (APP): The trading community Monday staged a rally to express solidarity with the soldiers of Pakistan Army . The rally led by traders’ alliance president Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman was carried national flags and placards inscribed with slogans in Pakistan Army chanted slogans of Pakistan Zindabad (Long Live Pakistan)

and in favour of Pakistan Army. Addressing the rally participants, Rehman said armed forces are pride of nation and making accusation against it was not acceptable. He condemned the incidents committed by miscreants on May 9 and said the role of Pakistan Army in national security and natural calamities is highly commendable.

Dir Lower police arrest 174 PTI saboteurs

DIR LOWER (APP): The police of Dir Lower have arrested at least 174 accused for damaging, stealing and torching government properties in the garb of protest in the district on May 9 (Tuesday). Spokesman Dir Lower police on Monday informed that so far the police have arrested 174 accused out of 204 nominated in five separate cases from Chakdara, Balambat, Timergara and Munda areas. In case number 124 Chakdara police station, the police have arrested a total of 31

accused while in case number 64 of police station Balambat, a total of 67 accused have been arrested. In case numbers 188 and 189 of Timergara police station, a total of 36 accused were arrested while in case number 63 of Munda police station, a total of 14 accused have been arrested so far. The police in Dir Lower have also arrested 26 people under 3MPO Act while the Munda police have recovered various items stolen by the PTI workers during the protest.

Two-day SAR training concluded

PESHAWAR (Agencies): A two-day training workshop on “Self-Assessment Report Writing” concluded at Northwest School of Medicine here on Monday. The workshop was organized by the Quality Enhancement Cell of Northwest School of Medicine at Auditorium Hall for program team members to facilitate them in writing Self Assessment Reports (SAR) of academic and clinical programmes. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Syeda Asia Bukhari, Director, Khyber Medical University) Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC). The workshop was appreciated by the participants. On

the last day, Chairman Alliance Healthcare Professor Dr. Muhammad Tariq Khan attended the closing ceremony as a special guest and distributed certificates among the participants of the workshop. Principal Professor Dr. Noor ul Iman also addressed the opening ceremony of the workshop. She appreciated the role of QEC and assured the department of its full support in organizing such events and workshops. At the end of the workshop, Focal Person QEC Dr. Neelum Ali thanked the Chief Guest, Principal, Resource Person of the workshop, participants and management of the workshop.

Bringing reforms in KP’s judicial system her top priority: PHC CJ

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Peshawar High Court (PHC) Chief Justice Mussarat Hilali Monday said bringing improvement in the bar and justice system in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was her top priority. Addressing the Abbottabad District Bar Association, she said if the judiciary and the lawyers fraternity remained on the same page then her tenure as the PHC chief justice would be a golden era. It was an honour for her to become the PHC CJ and she wanted do something good for the judiciary and the lawyers, she added. Referring to the increasing population of the KP province, the chief justice said after the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the KP’s population had become equal to that of the Sindh province, but number of judges in the province were proportionally half. She requested the Pakistan Bar Council to help increase the number of judges so that the public could be provided timely justice. As regards the judicial reforms, CJ Mussarat Hilali said the number of additional judges and family court judges were low, while the other courts were currently working with full capacity. Efforts were being made to increase the number of those judges as well, she added. She advised the judges presiding over the family courts to better get the families reconciled instead of issuing divorce decrees.Musarat Hilali directed the

judges must attend their courts in uniform, saying except tea breaks, their absence from the court would not be acceptable. She said she was working to improve the conditions of prisoners through undisclosed visits to jails. She had directed the district judges to visit jails so that the cases of prisoners, who had been incarcerated for years, could be heard and decided. The CJ said all judges, including herself, would have to do justice with responsibly. Benches had been set up to identify the issues regarding the judiciary so the same could be sorted out, she added. Earlier, Justice Abdul Shakoor Khan, in his brief address, said the Abbottabad Bar had produced prominent judges and lawyers who were not only respected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but also in the entire country.District Bar President Sardar Basharat, Justice Kamran Hyat Midkhel, Justice Ajaz Ahmad Khan, President of High Court Bar Abbottabad Bench Jawed Tanoli, Additional Registrar, Deputy Attorney General, Deputy Advocate General, Senior Judges, Additional and Session Judges, Haripur, Mansehra, and Havelian bar members, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council members, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council, and former President of the Supreme Court Bar, Fazal Haq Abbasi, including a large number of lawyers attended the meeting.

Peshawar police urge public to help identify miscreants involved in violent protest

PESHAWAR (Agencies): The Capital City police on Monday urged the people to help identify miscreants involved in damaging public properties and vehicles during the violent protests in the provincial capital on May 9 and 10. In an official release issued here, the police said that damaging public property was a serious offense and do not deserve any leniency, add-

ing that being a patriotic citizen the general public should help in the identification of those who were involved in the attack on the building of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and setting fire to public and private vehicles. It assured that the names of the informers would be kept secret and they could also provide information by dialling 091-9210642.

Preparatory meeting held to discuss sports facilities in KP educational institutes

PESHAWAR (APP): A preparatory meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary held in anticipation of the 32nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Inter-Provincial Coordination. The meeting focused on several agenda points, with a particular emphasis on the provision of sports facilities in educational institutes across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They discussed the progress achieved thus far and provided updates on the current status

of this important matter. Recognizing the paramount importance of sports facilities for students and youth, the Chief Secretary reiterated their significance during the meeting. He issued directives to the Elementary and Education, Higher Education, and Sports Departments, urging them to enhance their efforts in improving sports facilities for future initiatives. This initiative aims to promote physical well-being, healthy competition, and overall development among students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Transporters demand compensation for losses incurred by PTI protestors

PESHAWAR (APP): The transporter community has suffered losses of millions of rupees due to the suspension of their businesses during the violent protests of PTI workers on May 10th, last and demanded the government to compensate their financial losses, enabling them to continue their transport services. President Public Transport Owners Association, Khan Zaman Afridi told media persons on Monday that due to the protest and ransacking spree

of the Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers, all the transport services remained suspended in the province causing losses of millions of rupees to the owners. He demanded of the provincial government to take notice of the situation as the transporter community adds its hefty share in the national exchequer through taxes and penalties. Afridi urged the government to provide security to transporters in future to run their businesses during such situations.

NCP items worth millions of rupees seized in Dera

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (Agencies): The Dera police have seized non custom paid (NCP) items worth millions of rupees here in the limits of Mughalkot police station. According to Police spokesman, a team of Mughalkot Police station led by SDPO Darazinda circle Inam Ullah Khan Gandapur recovered NCP items worth millions of rupees from three vehicles. The police team stopped a car bearing registration number (CAF-1488) coming from Quetta. During the checking of the vehicle, the police found NPC items including 60 sacks of plastic, 10 sacks of Dry-Milk, five roles of Ira-

nian Cloth in large size. In the second action, the police team stopped another vehicle bearing registration number (LWM-0984) for checking. During the checking, the police found 10 Submersible pumps and 13 sacks of plastic bags. Similarly, during the checking of third vehicle bearing registration number (LES-8637), the police recovered 41 cartons of Iranian colour, 15 canes of Iranian colour, 53 sacks of Chinese salt, 10 cartons of pots, 14 small size tyres and 10 big size tyres. Later, the police handed over the recovered non-custom paid items to the customs authorities.

WSSP employees end protest

PESHAWAR (APP): The employees of the Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSP) on Monday end their protest after surety given by the government to release their salaries within two days. The WSSP employees had announced the closure of all tube wells in the city due to non-pay-

ment of salaries. A meeting was held with the employees of WSSP with the government and ended their protest after successful negotiations. They started flowing water in tube wells and warned if their salaries were not released they would call again for protest.



- Courtesy: NATION

- Courtesy: Arab News

- Courtesy: Middle East Monitor

- Fahad Ahmad
- Peshawar

SC adjourns hearing of ECP’s plea seeking review of Punjab election order

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Election Commission of Pakistan’s (ECP) plea seeking review of its April 4 order of holding the Punjab Assembly elections on May 14 till Tuesday (May 23). A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case. During the course of proceedings, the chief justice said the ECP had raised a question regarding the court’s jurisdiction. The Commis-

sion had earlier contended before the court that it would conduct elections once funds were issued but now it had opened a Pandora box, he added. He asked whether the ECP could raise points in the review petition which were not raised before. Barrister Ali Zafar, counsel for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said the scope of a review petition was limited. May 14 had passed and the Constitution had been violated, while the caretaker governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were unconstitutional,

he added. The chief justice said the court wanted to hear the ECP’s arguments on the maintainability of the petition. He asked Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan why negotiations were not being held between the government and the PTI. He was the first person to suggest talks between the two opposing sides regarding holding elections in the country, he added. The CJP asked the AGP why the government could not restart negotiations with the PTI. At this, Ali Zafar said two members of

the PTI’s negotiating team had been arrested. The AGP said the government had taken the matter of holding negotiations seriously, but the PTI had ended the talks. The chief justice said the Constitution guaranteed political rights, while the court did not want to indulge in political matters. He said the bench hoped that negotiations would start again and a solution would be reached and asked the AGP to inform his clients in that regard. The court expected from both the parties that the political environment would improve,

he added. The CJP insisted that the process for dialogue be initiated once again. He called for addressing the narratives being put forward by both sides. The PTI lawyer could talk to his leadership if the government invited the opposition for talks, he added. CJP Bandial said the court knew how fundamental rights were to be implemented, however, peace was necessary for their implementation. Subsequently, the court issued notices to the AGP, Punjab and KP advocate generals and adjourned the hearing.

KE urged for uninterrupted power supply to pumping stations

KARACHI (Agencies): Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Ahmed Sheikh Monday urged K-Electric to ensure uninterrupted power supply to pumping stations of water supply and drainage systems. The minister issued the directives while chairing a meeting held here to review the overall situation of power supply to pumping stations. According to a statement issued here, Provincial Secretary Energy Department, Chairman K Electric Mark

G.Skelton, CEO Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi, Farha Naz and Nicholas Schwerzmiller attended the meeting. Imtiaz Sheikh said that power load shedding was affecting day to day operation of the water supply and drainage system in the city and creating hindrances in the timely supply of water to the people during the hot summer season. Besides, disruption in drainage of sewerage might pose a risk of spreading diseases, he added.

Autism centre to be established at DPS Vehari, Burewala

VEHARI (APP): District administration gave approval for the establishment of autism centres for special kids at divisional public schools in Vehari and Burewala. Similarly, building for the college block worth Rs 39 million was also approved in a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Syed Asif Hussain Shah. Two separate buildings at the college block will be constructed, for boys and girls of FSc classes. The meeting decided to depute the Principal at DPS Burewala very soon. An advertisement will appear in newspapers in this regard. Deputy Commissioner Asif Hussain Shah directed the provision of top quality education in the institutes. The meeting participants also reviewed the syllabus and administrative affairs of DPS and Grammar Schools.

ISSI, Balkan Studies Centre sign cooperation protocol

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a virtual ceremony on Monday, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Balkan Studies Centre (BSC) of the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) concluded a cooperation protocol. Signed by Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Rector of IUS Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yildirim, this is the first Cooperation Protocol of its kind between the think tanks of Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina. Dr. Shakaib Rafique, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Pakistan in Sarajevo, was also present on the occasion. Director of ISSI’s Center for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), Dr. Neelum Nigar, briefed the IUS participants about the working of the institute and its outreach program with various think tanks and research and educational institutions around the world. Welcoming the signing of the Cooperation Protocol, Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that it will help establish a long-term institutional relationship between ISSI and BSC and enable the two sides to fruitfully collaborate in producing quality research and fostering policy dialogue on issues of common interest. He also highlighted the cordial relations between Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina and stated that the signing of this protocol was consistent with the vision of the leadership of both countries in terms of forging closer linkages at the people-to-people level. He also thanked the Pakistan Embassy in Sarajevo for facilitating this initiative.

Rector IUS Prof Dr Ahmet Yildirim, in his remarks, highlighted the scope of work of BSC, appreciated all those who had facilitated the present initiative, and stated that BSC looked forward to a fruitful partnership and joint activities within the framework of the Cooperation Protocol. He also alluded to the close, cordial ties between Bosnia & Herzegovina and Pakistan. Dr Shakaib Rafique, speaking on the occasion, congratulated the two institutes on signing the Cooperation Protocol, stressing that it was the first of its kind between think tanks of Pakistan and Bosnia & Herzegovina and would lead to more progress in the future. He underscored that this collaboration would be part of the growing fruitful bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Police claims to arrest PTI’s Fayyaz ul Hassan Chohan

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police on Monday claimed to have arrested senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former provincial minister Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chauhan. Chauhan was arrested outside a private

hotel near Liaquat Bagh, the police sources said. Meanwhile, the police also conducted a raid on Lal Haveli, the residence of the leader of Awami Muslim League (AML) Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, but failed to arrest him.

Development authority established to promote tourism in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has established a development authority to promote tourism and provide employment opportunities to the locals. The Ziarat Valley under the supervision of the Chief Minister would be developed on modern lines of a smart city to attract tourists, an official of the Balochistan government Monday said. A comprehensive policy has been formulated for the development

of tourism, he said. He said according to the nature and importance of the project, the government would increase the funds for the purpose. The Ziarat development project would resolve all the basic issues of the city to channel its present as well as future growth in a scientific and planned manner, he said adding that the Ziarat would emerge as one of the most beautiful tourist destinations in the country.

UNESCO signs MoU with edu deptt for transgenders project

MULTAN (Agencies): School Education Department (SED) South Punjab and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve quality education access to the transgenders here on Monday. The MoU is aimed to improving access of education facilities for trans persons with the help of the art laboratories being built by the SED in Multan and Bahawalpur schools for them. UNESCO Country Director, Youssef Fillali Mikanessi and Secretary SED South Punjab, Rana Saleem Ahmad Khan, signed an MoU at Education Secretariat. On this occasion Additional Secretary Schools, Agha Zaheer Abbas Shirazi, Deputy Secretaries, Saifullah Khan, Hina Chaudhary, while Administrative & Finance Officer, Daon Thi Dung, and Communication officer Anum Mansoori from UNESCO witnessed the signing ceremony. The UNESCO delegation was

apprised about SED initiatives on the Transgender project in Multan and Bahawalpur and the problems being faced by the Deptt besides other educational and development activities. Secretary School Education South Punjab Rana Saleem Ahmed Khan said that the SED would ensure the right of easy access to quality education with UNESCO support. The Secretary while informing the delegation said that the members of the transgender community were among the backward sections of society and the doors of formal education have always been closed to them adding that The Trans Education Project has been launched to educate this community, under the Accelerate Learning Program the students of this school are given free education and are taught better lifestyle skills along with writing, reading and basic numeracy. He stated that state of the art labs would help impart skills to the trans community.

Development projects in Rawalakot, other parts of State to be completed on priority: AJK PM

MIRPUR (AJK May 15 (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq Monday said the development projects in Rawalakot, besides other parts of the State will be completed on a priority basis. In a telephonic conversation with Member Legislative Assembly from Rawalakot Sardar Hassan Ibrahim Khan, the prime minister said that an immediate supply of necessary machinery including the equipment used for CT scan to Rawalakot CMH will be ensured. He said that the provision of funds would also be ensured for the construction of the District Headquarters Hospital. The release of funds by the federal

government would be helpful to speed up work on development schemes and other projects. Meanwhile, a representative delegation of local government from Rawalakot called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq. The representative delegation, on the occasion, informed the prime minister about the problems being faced by the urban government. During the meeting, the causes of the flour crisis in the area were also discussed. Speaking on the occasion the prime minister said that providing basic facilities to the people was his government’s top priority. “Whatever the problem will be solved by taking all the stakeholders on board”, he said.

Climate changes badly affect Thal area, reduce grams production: Dr Ishtiaq Hasan

FAISALABAD (Agencies): Additional Director General Agriculture (Farm & Training) Punjab Dr Ishtiaq Hasan said that climate changes had badly hit the Thal area and reduced the production of grams in Pakistan. Addressing a meeting here on Monday, he said that grams and lentil were important pulses crops which were helping in cater to domestic food requirements at a large extent. These commodities were very rich in protein and considered alternate of meat. The government was spending huge amount to import pulses for meeting food requirements of increasing population. If these commodities were promoted in Pakistan, these could help in reducing huge import bill, he added. He said that grams and lentil were cultivated in the country but the climate changes badly hit the Thal area and reduced grams production at a large extent. He urged

the agriculture scientists to introduce climate resilient gram and lentil varieties so that production of these commodities could be increased in the country. Addressing the meeting, Chief Scientist Agriculture Research Institute Arid Zone Bhakkar Dr Khalid Hasan said that the farmers should cultivate hybrid approved varieties of grams and lentil in arid areas. He said that the agri scientists introduced new grams varieties including Thal Chana Super, Anwaar-2023, Afzaal-2023, Bitai-2021, Bahawalpur Chana-2021, NIAB CH-104 and Rohi Chana-2021 which had sufficient resistance against harsh weather conditions as well as against pest attacks. He also emphasized on the use of latest technology which was imperative to increase per acre production and said that this technique could not only help farmers to get bumper yield but also help in mitigating their financial constraints.

Agreement signed for summer skills camps

LAHORE (Agencies): Punjab Industries Department/TEVTA, School Education Department and Higher Education Department here on Monday signed an agreement to organize summer skills camps in TEVTA institutions. The Skills Summer Camp was inaugurated at Government MAO College in Lahore, with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer and Provincial Education Minister Mansoor Qadir as the chief guests. The event was attended by Secretary Industries Ehsan Bhatta, Secretary School Education, Secretary Higher Education, COO TEVTA Ahmad Khawar Shahzad, Senior Director General TEVTA Akhtar Abbas Bharwana, and others. Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister SM Tanveer highlighted that the summer skills camp is a revolutionary initiative by the government, providing students with an opportunity to learn new skills during their summer break.

He emphasized the importance of this program in enhancing students’ skills and expressed confidence in its success based on the enthusiasm of the attendees. Education Minister Mansoor Qadir stressed the significance of utilizing time effectively and emphasized that learning skills are essential for a promising future. He acknowledged the neglect of technical education in recent years, resulting in a high unemployment rate. Mansoor Qadir called for the inclusion of vocational education in every district and tehsil, expressing his commitment to making the program successful. Secretary Industries Ehsan Bhatta said that summer skills camp would focus on 14 different trades across 10 major cities including Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Gujrat, Bahawalpur and Sialkot. The training would be offered to students from government schools and colleges, free of charge.

HR violations rise dramatically in Indian administered J&K

ISLAMABAD (APP): Human rights violations have risen dramatically in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir since 2019 when the government of India revoked the special status of the region,” warned a UN Independent Expert, one week before a G20 meeting to be held in Srinagar. “By holding a G20 meeting of the working group on tourism on 22-24 May,” warned Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, “the government of India is seeking to normalize what some have described as a military occupation by instrumentalising a G20 meeting and portraying it as an international “seal of approval”, despite what Volker Türk, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, told the U.N. Human Rights Council a few weeks ago about “worrying human rights situation in the Kashmir region”. The Special Rapporteur issued a statement on Monday describing the massive rights violations including torture, extrajudicial killings, denial of political participation rights of Kashmiri Muslims and minorities, following the suspension of democratic rights and local elections due to direct rule from New Delhi on 6 August 2019. “The situation there has - if anything - become much worse since myself and fellow UN independent experts transmitted a

communication to the Government of India in 2021. We then expressed our grave concerns that the loss of political autonomy and the implementation of the new Domicile Rules and other legislation could alter the demographic composition of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, may result in political disenfranchisement, and significantly reduce the degree of political participation and representation of the Kashmiri and other minorities previously exercised in the former state, undermining their linguistic, cultural and religious rights”, he said. “On all counts this seems to be occurring on the ground, in a repressive and sometimes brutal environment of suppression of even basic rights”. The Independent Expert noted that there have been reports of significant numbers of Hindus from outside the region moving into Kashmir. The dramatic demographic changes are underway in Jammu and Kashmir to overwhelm native Kashmiris in their own land. According to de Varennes, the G20 is unwittingly providing a veneer of support to a facade of normalcy at a time when massive human rights violations, illegal and arbitrary arrests, political persecutions, restrictions and even suppression of free media and human rights defenders continue to escalate.

Senator for referring Peshawar museum’s artifacts issue to PAC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Independent Senator Dilawar Khan on Monday demanded of the chair to refer the Peshawar Museum’s artifacts issue to the public accounts committee (PAC) or another parliamentary panel for carrying out an inquiry into the matter. “You will forget the £ 190 million scam if the transparent inquiry is carried out in Peshawar’s museum artifacts in which genuine precious artifacts worth billions of rupees are lifted by placing its copies, “ he claimed. He said the then director National Accountability Bureau (NAB), holding an inquiry into the issue was transferred back

to Islamabad besides placing him under suspension. The issue was raised by Senator Sitara Ayaz in the Senate but the judiciary did not allow inquiry by terming the matter as sub-judice, he said. Dilawar said that doing legislation was the prime responsibility of the parliament and no one could reject it. However, he said sometimes the judiciary stayed the legislation process or referred back to it. He said the PTI government did not honour the agreement with International Monetary Fund which resulted in trust deficit and created problems for the incumbent government.

RDA gives two weeks to regularize illegal commercial buildings in 14 days

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) here on Monday gave 14 days to the owners of illegal commercial buildings to regularize their units. According to RDA spokesperson, RDA on the directives of Director General, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa was taking solid steps to regularize the illegal buildings and also making the authority a business friendly organization. He said that on the directives of the DG, a survey of commercial areas was conducted and the illegal buildings were identified. He said that RDA wanted to give a chance to the owners of the illegal buildings and they had also been advised to get regularized their commercial buildings else strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the rules violators. RDA as a business friendly

organization was trying to facilitate the owners of such buildings, he said adding, the DG had directed the owners of such commercial projects to avail the chance, deposit the Land Use Conversion Fee and get regularized their illegal projects within 14 days. The DG also requested that the business community, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Traders Associations should cooperate with RDA. He said that the application could be submitted at RDA One Window Operation Center, E-Khidmat Markaz and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce to get the commercial buildings regularized. The DG had directed the authorities concerned to complete all the work within two weeks, adding, in case of any difficulty, the citizens could contact the DG office or register a complaint on 051-9334303.

BISE issues revised schedule for SSC

MULTAN (APP): The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) issued a revised date sheet of three postponed papers of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Part-I (9th) First Annual Examination 2023. BISE Controller Examination, Hamid Saeed Bhatti said that according to the revised schedule, the paper of Tarjama-Tul Quran Majeed/Ethics for Non-Muslims would be conducted on May 17 (Wednesday), Chemistry/General Science on May 18 (Thursday) and Islamiyat (Compulso-

ry) /Seerat Tul Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him) on May 19 (Friday). He stated that all those students who were appearing in composite Matric exams or improving marks will have to undergo the practicals of Physics and Physical Health according to the changed schedule. Their practical of Physics scheduled on May 18 and 19 has been rescheduled on June 6 and 7 respectively. However, the practical of Health and Physical Education which was to fall on May 18 and 19 has been rescheduled to June 6.

All institutions should work in their domains, no one will be allowed to disrespect Parliament: Fazl

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday said that the coalition government believed in upholding the Constitution and law, and no one would be allowed to disrespect the Parliament and the people. "All institutions should work within their constitutional domains, while politics is the exclusive domain of politicians and if anyone wants to do politics he must have to contest the election," he said while addressing a protest rally at the Constitutional Avenue. Maulana Fazl said the coalition government partners respected the national institutions. "We have pledged to protect the judiciary, the law and the Constitution." He said it was being speculated that the PDM would abandon its movement after the today's sit-in., but it should be clear that they would never budge from their stance, continue their such protest to safeguard the national interests, and if needed against resort to staging sit-ins. He said none of the protestors had even thought of "disrespecting the apex court" as the PDM leadership wholeheartedly respected the judiciary. He said there were rumors about the disqualification of the prime minister. "I want to clarify that we will protect our prime minister and the Parliament at all costs." Maulana Fazl accused Imran Khan of dividing the Pakistan Army, but the PDM would foil his all nefarious attempts in that regard. The coalition government had always stood by the armed forces and would continue doing so, he



added. Referring to the attacks on public buildings, he said India, the arch enemy of Pakistan, was jubilant today as Imran Khan was targeting the defence installations and also mocking the Pakistan Army. "We will protect the Islamic status of Pakistan at any cost and not allow to succeed the Jewish lobby," he added. He said strict action should be taken against the miscreants who had attacked the GHQ, Fort Balahisar, Mianwali Air Base, Corp Commander House and other public buildings. Later, he extended his gratitude for all the leaders of PDM, including Shah Zain Bugti, Khalid Magsi and Khalid Maqbool and thanked the workers for reaching at the protest venue on a short notice. PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, PPP General Secretary Syed Nayyar Bukhari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan chief Awais Ahmad Noorani, Balochistan National Party-Mengal chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Jamhoori Watan Party chief Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Awami National Party Secretary Information Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai and other also addressed the protestors.

NAB announces cross-regional transfers to strengthen anti-corruption efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has announced a series of transfers for several of its officials across different regional offices aimed at facilitating the sharing of expertise and experience among NAB officials to better combat corruption. Director Mohammad Rizwan Khan has been moved from NAB Rawalpindi to NAB Karachi, while Director Mohammad Obaidullah Azam has been transferred from NAB Rawalpindi to NAB Sukkur. Additional Director Asghar Khan has been relocated to NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from NAB Rawalpindi, and Additional Director Sheikh Muhammad Shoaib has been moved from NAB Rawalpindi to NAB Multan. Additional Director Zahid Shah has been transferred from NAB Multan to NAB Rawalpindi. Additional Director Haroon Rashid from NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to NAB Rawalpindi. Additionally, Deputy Director Eric Pal, Deputy Director Errol Philip Wingson, and Deputy Director Muhammad Shahid Mahmood



have been transferred to NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, NAB Multan, and NAB Sukkur respectively, from NAB Rawalpindi. Furthermore, Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon has moved to NAB Rawalpindi from NAB Multan, and Deputy Director Dayyam Baloch has been relocated from NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to NAB Rawalpindi. Deputy Director Mohammad Asif Munir has been transferred from NAB Karachi to NAB Rawalpindi, while Deputy Director Waqar ul Hasan Khan has been moved to NAB Rawalpindi from NAB Headquarters Islamabad. Finally, Assistant Director Mastanar Imam Shah has been relocated to NAB Rawalpindi from NAB Multan.

Justice should be delivered impartially; elections to be held on time: Maryam Nawaz



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz Monday said justice should be delivered impartially and emphasized that the general elections would be held in the country on time. Speaking at a demonstration organized by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) outside the Supreme Court (SC), she said the PDM had respect for the law, the Constitution and the apex court. They, however, would not accept the "decisions made by the minority judges. Imposing a lifetime ban on some politicians while granting a lifetime bail to others raises significant concerns", she added. Maryam, who is also the Chief Organizer of PML-N, commended the PDM leadership and workers for their massive but peaceful gathering. It was commendable that a massive crowd had gathered without causing any disruption or damage, she added. She said the PDM fully respected "the white building (SC) on the Constitution Avenue. However, its respect and sanctity are tied to the administration of justice. This building is meant to serve justice to the people and strengthen the Constitution, the democracy, and the Parliament. However, from it an elected prime minister was labelled as 'Sicilian Mafia and Godfather', while certain politicians are continuously being favoured and facilitated. "A person involved in a Rs 60 billion scam is welcomed to this building, while an elected prime minister is sent packing also from the same building." Instead of having equal scales of justice for all, she added, "some individuals receive capital punishment, are exiled, are disqualified for not withdrawing salary from their sons, or face a lifetime ban". Whether any dictator had ever been removed from office for the above, she questioned, mentioning, "The individuals sitting in this building had taken oaths under the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) and the Legal Framework Order (LFO)." Maryam alleged that the "doctrine of necessity" was always used in favour of the dictators. The rules of all the four dictators were legitimized from "this building". However, "the current military high-ups have no intention to impose martial

law, rather they stand with the democracy and the Constitution", she added. The PML-N leader said it was shameful that during a telephonic conversation of Imran Khan's lawyer Khawaja Tariq Rahim, it was lamented that why martial law was not being imposed in the country. Maryam Nawaz remarked, "Whether the 'doctrine of necessity' has ever been used for the common people or democracy. Those who refer to Justice Cornelius in their remarks are actually the followers of Justice Munir, and they are denying justice in a bid to protect Imran Khan." She said a thief, who had stolen a gifted watch, was granted bail in the Toshakhana case. Likewise, "his wife 'Pinky Peer-ni' received diamond rings as gifts, sold watches, and acquired land in the name of Al Qadir Trust, but when when questioned, she stated in the court, 'I am a housewife'." Maryam Nawaz pointed out that she, too, was a woman, but despite being a woman, she was not provided any privileges and was not spared from vindictive actions. "I did not even apply for bail and declared that anyone who wanted to arrest me should proceed. On the other hand, Peerni was escorted to the courtroom in a carriage wrapped in white sheets." She questioned whether there was no respect for the wives, sisters, and daughters of others. She recalled how she and others were pushed and taken to court during Imran Khan's tenure. She claimed that the Constitution was rewritten to favour Imran Khan. "Although it was a decision of 4 to 3, but it was insisted that the minority decision of 3 to 2 should be accepted. Why such a decision should be accepted when the judges who dissented against it argued that suo motu powers were being misused and that it had turned into a one-man show," she added. She pointed out that Hamza Shehbaz's government was toppled and Punjab was handed over to

Imran Khan, despite having the knowledge that he would dissolve the assembly. It was in fact a conspiracy against Pakistan involving not only Parvaiz Elahi and Imran Khan but also "other characters who had promised relief to Imran". She alleged that former chief justice Saqib Nisar could not go on the public since his son was caught selling PTI tickets in black. Another judge Asif Saeed Khosa, she claimed, had asked Imran Khan to approach him with an application for relief after the failure of his sit-in, implying that a favourable treatment would be granted. Maryam Nawaz said everyone was aware of the corruption stories associated with the Twin Towers on the Constitution Avenue. She emphasized that the PDM's protest demonstration was peaceful because it was not foreign funded but rather a gathering of patriotic people. She condemning the attacks and violence on May 9, which, she said, were the manifestation of the "fitna" (mischievous) that had been nurtured for long. "The gang of miscreants have done that job of terrorism which the arch enemy like India could not do in the country's 75-year history. Numerous public and private properties, including radio station and hospitals, were set ablaze. Even the Corps Commander House (Lahore), which was historically the house of Quaid-e-Azam, was also not spared. Maryam said the first attack on the General Headquarters was carried out by the TTP and now the PTI was behind the second one. Imran Khan had let loose his gang of criminals set the aircraft - the symbols of the courage shown by brave soldiers in the war, on fire. She asserted not more than 500 people had come out anywhere in Pakistan after Imran Khan's arrest. "The rioters had received training at the Zaman Park from terrorists released by Imran Khan," she claimed. She said Imran Khan claimed that he was in prison at the time of riots and that was why he knew nothing in that regard. He should tell about where he was imprisoned when he incited people to engage in civil disobedience on the Constitution Avenue, assaulted policemen, and attacked national institutions, she added.

SDPI organizes launching ceremony of "Europe Ki Diary" book

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Monday hosted a launching ceremony of the book "Europe Ki Diary" comprises of newspaper columns written by renowned columnist and lawyer Barrister Naseem Ahmed Bajwa. Speaking on the occasion, well-known columnist Khurshid Nadeem said that most newspaper columns failed to maintain relevance due to the short lifespan of current affairs writing and if a column remained relevant for a certain period, it inevitably encompassed an excessive amount of substance, knowledge, and a firm grasp on the subject of current affairs. "This book, 'Europe Ki Diary,' is a collection of various columns that predicted the current times years ago. Only an avid reader and travel enthusiast like Barrister Naseem Ahmad Bajwa could write such a book, as he has broadened his intellectual horizons to foresee the global perspective," he expressed while shedding light on the book. SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri said compiling columns was an indeed a brave act as the writers presented themselves accountable for the foresight expressed in their work in chronological order. 'Europe Ki Diary' was a compilation of columns not only which identified the issues and problems, but also presented the way forward and solutions of the issues, Suleri added. The author of the book, Barrister Naseem Ahmed Bajwa, stated that the book was not intended to be a popular work that would please readers with distorted history or trending rhetoric; instead, it was written with the aim of thought-provocation, seeking to uncover the true history and predict the future happening. 'Europe Ki Diary' was a political and social commentary by an elderly man who had been observing Pakistan's history since its inception with great attention. Therefore, the commentary would assist readers in comprehending both local and global politics adequately, the author said while divulging details of the book.

Gov't cut petroleum prices by up to Rs 30 per liter

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday announced to reduce the per liter price of High Speed Diesel by Rs 30 while that of Petrol by Rs 12 with effect from May 16. In view of the declining price trend of petroleum products in the international market, the government has decided to reduce the existing prices of petroleum products in order to pass on the benefits of decreasing prices trend and provide maximum relief to the masses," the finance minister said in a press conference here. He said the

price of petrol had been reduced by Rs 12 per liter from Rs 282 to Rs 270 per liter while that of High Speed Diesel had also been cut by Rs 30 per liter from Rs 288 to Rs 258 per liter. Similarly, he said the price of Kerosene oil and Light Diesel Oil had also been slashed by Rs 12 per liter each and the new prices would be Rs 164.07 and Rs 152.68 per liter respectively. Ishaq Dar stressed the transporters and other relevant institutions to fully pass on the relief announced by the government to the people.

High Commissioner Janjua lauds diaspora's role in strengthening ties between Pak, Canada

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua has lauded the Pakistani diaspora in Canada for their role and contribution in strengthening cultural and trade ties between the two countries. He attended a community's fun gala of Pakistani diaspora in Ottawa. The event was arranged by Friends Cafe Club of Canada at a local community center and attended by a large number of Pakistanis and Canadians of Pakistan origin living in and around the Canadian capital, a press release on

Monday said. The high commissioner lauded the organisers for arranging the event and providing the community with an opportunity to celebrate their culture, food and dress under one platform. On the occasion, he also mingled with the guests and participants. Earlier, Friends Cafe Club Canada's Secretary General Bilal Riaz welcomed the guests and thanked them for their participation in the fun-packed event. Various cultural activities, quiz and skits were also performed by participants on the occasion.

CM visits PAF base, judicial complex Mianwali

LAHORE (Agencies): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to PAF Base Mianwali and the Judicial Complex on Monday, accompanied by the Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police. They received a comprehensive briefing over the terrorist attack and the resulting damages caused by the agitators, said a handout issued here. Mohsin Naqvi expressed his deep admiration for the courageous police and security forces jawans who successfully thwarted the terrorist attack on PAF Air Base Mianwali. He highly praised their bravery and unwavering dedication to the duty. During the visit, he inspected the site where a fixed aircraft stood outside the airbase, taking note of the damages caused by the attack. Additionally, he witnessed the devastating

effects of the fire and destruction in the judicial complex, providing necessary instructions to the relevant authorities for its reconstruction, repair, and maintenance. Addressing the media outside the PAF Airbase, Mohsin Naqvi asserted, "Our brave jawans demonstrated exceptional courage in defending the airbase and averting a potentially catastrophic situation. The planning behind this terrorist attack had the potential for immense damage. Thanks to Allah Almighty, the officers and jawans of the Pakistan Air Force and Punjab police have set a remarkable example by safeguarding the airbase. We will strongly recommend medals for those officers and jawans who bravely thwarted this attack. Any individual who violates the law will face legal consequences."

Arab-Chinese conference to explore business synergies, investment opportunities

RIYADH (Agencies): Investment opportunities, economic growth, and closer trade relations will be on the agenda at the 10th session of the Arab-Chinese Businessmen Conference scheduled to take place in Riyadh on June 11 and 12. According to the Saudi Press Agency, the event will also explore synergies in technology, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, agriculture, real estate and strategic minerals. Organized by the Saudi Ministry of Investment in partnership with the Chinese Council for the Promotion of International



Trade and a host of other regional associations, the conference will welcome more than 2,000 private sector leaders and government officials. The SPA report added that Chinese investors would also get to examine emerg-

ing markets in the Kingdom through the “Invest Saudi” platform. The conference comes hot on the heels of the economic potential of the Middle East-China trade corridor discussed at an exclusive International Connections briefing organized by HSBC and the UAE China Business Council last week in Dubai. The UAE stands as China’s second-largest trading partner in the Arab world and the largest investment destination, and there is significant potential for further cooperation between the two countries.

How Wall Street is preparing for possible US debt default

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - As talks over raising the U.S. government’s \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling intensify, Wall Street banks and asset managers have begun preparing for fallout from a potential default. The financial industry has prepared for such a crisis before, most recently in September 2021. But this time, the relatively short time frame for reaching a compromise has bankers on edge, said one senior industry official. Citigroup (C.N) CEO Jane Fraser said this debate on the debt ceiling is “more worrying” than previous ones. JPMorgan Chase & CO (JPM.N) CEO Jamie Dimon said the bank is convening weekly meetings on the implications.

- WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE U.S. DEFAULTED?

U.S. government bonds underpin the global financial system so it is difficult to fully gauge the damage a default would create, but executives expect massive volatility across equity, debt and other markets. The ability to trade in and out of Treasury positions in the secondary market would be severely impaired. Wall Street executives who have advised the Treasury’s debt operations warned that Treasury market dysfunction would quickly spread to the derivative, mortgage and commodity markets, as investors would question the validity of Treasuries widely used as collateral for securing trades and loans. Financial institutions could ask counterparties to replace the bonds affected by missed payments, said analysts. Even a short breach of the debt limit could lead to a spike in interest rates, a plunge in equity prices, and covenant breaches in loan documentation and leverage agreements. Short-term funding markets would likely freeze up as well, Moody’s Analytics said.

- HOW ARE INSTITUTIONS PREPARING?

Banks, brokers and trading platforms are prepping for disruption to the Treasury market, as well as broader volatility. This generally includes game-planning how payments on Treasury securities would be handled; how



critical funding markets would react; ensuring sufficient technology, staffing capacity and cash to handle high trading volumes; and checking the potential impact on contracts with clients. Big bond investors have cautioned that maintaining high levels of liquidity was important to withstand potential violent asset price moves, and to avoid having to sell at the worst possible time. Bond trading platform Tradeweb said it was in discussions with clients, industry groups, and other market participants about contingency plans.

- WHAT SCENARIOS ARE BEING CONSIDERED?

The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA), a leading industry group, has a playbook detailing how Treasury market stakeholders - the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Fixed Income Clearing Corporation (FICC), clearing banks, and Treasuries dealers - would communicate ahead of and during the days of potential missed Treasuries payments. SIFMA has considered several scenarios. The more likely would see the Treasury buy time to pay back bondholders by announcing ahead of a payment that it would be rolling those maturing securities over, extending them one day at a time. That would allow the market to continue functioning but interest would likely not accrue for the delayed payment. In the most disruptive scenario, the Treasury fails to pay both principal and coupon, and does not extend maturities. The unpaid

bonds could no longer trade and would no longer be transferable on the Fedwire Securities Service, which is used to hold, transfer and settle Treasuries. Each scenario would likely lead to significant operational problems and require manual daily adjustments in trading and settlement processes. “It is difficult because this is unprecedented but all we’re trying to do is make sure we develop a plan with our members to help them navigate through what would be a disruptive situation,” said Rob Toomey, SIFMA’s managing director and associate general counsel for capital markets. The Treasury Market Practices Group (TMPG) - an industry group sponsored by the New York Federal Reserve - also has a plan for trading in unpaid Treasuries, which it reviewed at the end of 2022, according to meeting minutes on its website dated Nov. 29. The New York Fed declined to comment further.

In addition, in past debt-ceiling stand-offs - in 2011 and 2013 - Fed staff and policymakers developed a playbook that would likely provide a starting point, with the last and most sensitive step being to remove defaulted securities from the market altogether. The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, which owns FICC, said it was monitoring the situation and has modeled a variety of scenarios based on SIFMA’s playbook. “We are also working with our industry partners, regulators and participants to ensure activities are coordinated,” it said.

Microsoft wins EU antitrust nod for Activision deal

BRUSSELS (Reuters): Microsoft has won EU antitrust approval for its \$69 billion Activision takeover, which was vetoed by Britain, after regulators said its offer of free 10-year licensing deals to gamers and cloud streaming rivals addressed their concerns. The European Commission said on Monday that the biggest-ever deal in gaming was pro-competitive due to Microsoft’s (MSFT.O) licensing deals, confirming a Reuters report in March. Such licenses are “practical and effective”, European Union antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager told reporters. “Actually they significantly improve the condition for cloud



game streaming compared to the present situation, which is why we actually consider them pro-competitive,” she added. The EU watchdog said Microsoft has offered 10-year free licensing deals to European consumers and cloud game streaming services for Activision’s (ATVI.O) PC and console games.

Sanctions on Russian diamonds could disrupt global jewelry market – analyst

NEW YORK (Agencies): Sanctions on exports of Russian diamonds that have been debated by the G7 countries for more than a year may send gem prices soaring globally, CNBC reported on Friday, citing analysts. So far, importing Russian rough diamonds has been banned by the US. At the same time, Washington still imports gems extracted in Russia if they have been substantially altered in other countries. The UK, Canada, and New Zealand followed suit, adopting similar measures against Russian mining giant Alrosa. The European Union and G7 have been seeking new ways of hunting down Russian diamonds across borders. However, the proposed step is strongly opposed by major importers of gems, such as Belgium, which is home to the world’s biggest diamond trading hub in Antwerp. According to data from the Observatory of Economic Complexity, Russia – the world’s largest producer of rough diamonds – raked in around \$4.7 billion from exports of precious stones, making it the eighth biggest exporter globally. “The debate has been going on for some time because



there is a clear risk that Russia could simply divert its exports to non-participating countries,” Edward Gardner, a commodities economist at Capital Economics, told CNBC. “If sanctions were implemented in a way that made circumvention difficult, though, then we could see less Russian supply coming onto the market and higher prices.” Opponents of the measure also argue that imposing sanctions without building a global system to track the gems would be pointless, as trade could easily shift to other markets, such as India and China, the same way as Russian crude. The latest package of Ukraine-related sanctions that is currently being discussed by the EU isn’t likely to target Russian diamonds.

Majority of UK gig workers paid below minimum wage – study

LONDON (Agencies): More than half of British gig-economy workers have been earning less than the national minimum wage at a time when the cost of living in the UK continues to spiral, new research has revealed. The gig economy is a large and growing section of the working population where short-term flexible workers are paid on the completion of tasks (known as gigs) instead of being paid for the amount of time that they work. The UK gig economy workforce was estimated at 7.25 million as of the end of 2022, with one in six adults in the country working a gig job at least once a week. According to a study published on Thursday by the University of Bristol,

52% of gig workers, whose jobs included food delivery, private-hire driving and data entry, were on average earning £8.97 (\$11.28) an hour. That’s about 15% below the current UK minimum wage, which rose to £10.42 (\$13.10) this month. More than three-quarters (76%) of survey respondents also reported experiencing work-related insecurity and anxiety. “The findings highlight that working in the UK gig economy often entails low pay, anxiety and stress. As food, fuel and housing costs keep rising, this group of workers is especially vulnerable and needs to be more adequately remunerated and better protected,” the study’s lead author Alex Wood said.

Ma’aden buys 9.9% shares in Ivanhoe Electric to undertake one of the largest mining explorations

RIYADH (Agencies): Saudi Arabian Mining Co., also known as Ma’aden, finalized a deal to purchase 9.9 percent shares of American mining technology company Ivanhoe Electric Inc. for \$126.5 million and form a 50-50 joint venture to undertake one of the largest exploration projects ever. The joint venture will deploy \$66 million of the \$126.5 million to fund the exploration activities of at least 48,500 sq. km area and purchase three new-generation Typhoon machines. “We are launching one of the largest exploration programs in the world in partnership with Ivanhoe Electric,” said Robert Wilt, CEO of Ma’aden. “It’s great to see companies like IE recognize the scale of the opportunity here,” he added. Ma’aden will utilize IE’s Typhoon geophysical survey technol-

ogy to accelerate the exploration of an estimated \$1.3 trillion of untapped minerals. Wilt added that IE’s technology would put Ma’aden on track to meet its growth targets of 10 times the current value and fast-track the development of the Kingdom’s minerals. “We have only scratched the surface of the potential in the Kingdom, and we need to explore faster, smarter, and cover more ground to meet our long-term growth objectives. IE’s Typhoon technology will enable us to accelerate our exploration efforts by six times and de-risk and advance the development of a significant exploration hub in the Kingdom,” Wilt said. IE’s Typhoon transmitter provides an accurate and robust geophysical survey system to accelerate and de-risk mineral exploration.

Tech billionaire to buy Forbes – media

NEW YORK (Agencies): Austin Russell, a 28-year-old automotive tech billionaire, will buy a majority stake in Forbes Global Media Holdings from its current owner, Hong Kong-based Integrated Whale Media Investments (IWM), the Wall Street Journal and Reuters reported on Friday. Russell is the CEO of Luminar Technologies, a tech company that provides autonomous driving technology to the auto industry and has a \$2.1 billion market capitalization. According to the reports, which cited statements from both Russell and

IWM, Russell has agreed to acquire an 82% stake in Forbes, including the remaining shares that belong to the Forbes family. IWM will keep a minority stake. Steve Forbes, chairman and editor-in-chief of the business outlet, reportedly plans to stay on with the company. The deal is evaluated at roughly \$800 million. The reports say that Russell does not plan to take part in Forbes’ news coverage and daily operations but will instead focus on boosting its growth and pursuing his philanthropic interests within the business.

Biggest crypto exchange forced out of Canada

TORONTO (Agencies): Binance, the world’s largest cryptocurrency exchange by volume, announced in a tweet on Friday its intention to cease operations in Canada. The exchange cited a new set of regulations governing the crypto industry in Canada, which complicates its operations in the country. “Today we are announcing that Binance will be joining other prominent crypto businesses in proactively withdrawing from the Canadian marketplace... We had high hopes for the rest of the Canadian blockchain industry. Unfortunately, new guidance related to stablecoins and investor limits provided to crypto exchanges makes the

Canada market no longer tenable for Binance at this time,” Binance tweeted. The exchange noted that it had been putting off the decision to quit Canada for some time, due to its “sentimental value” as the home country of Binance founder, Changpeng Zhao. However, it stated that the new guidance has left Binance without “reasonable avenues to protect our Canadian users.” “Our remaining Canadian users are receiving an email with comprehensive information on how this will impact their accounts going forward. We hope to continue to engage with Canadian regulators aimed at a thoughtful, comprehensive regulatory framework,” the

exchange stated, adding that it may someday return to the Canadian market “when Canadian users once again have the freedom to access a broader suite of digital assets.” In February, the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) unveiled new guidance demanding “enhanced investor protection commitments” from crypto asset trading platforms amid “insolvencies involving several crypto asset trading platforms.” Among other things, it set investor limits and mandatory registrations for crypto exchanges, and prohibited them from allowing customers to buy or deposit stablecoins within the country without the CSA’s permission.

Vice Media files for bankruptcy as ad business suffers

NEW YORK (Reuters): Vice Media Group, popular for websites such as Vice and Motherboard, filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday to engineer its sale to a group of lenders, capping years of financial difficulties and top-executive departures. The bankruptcy filing is a fallout of a challenging period for many technology and media companies that have been cutting costs to survive a weak advertising market amid slowing economic growth. Vice said the lender consortium that includes Fortress Investment Group, Soros Fund Management and Monroe Capital will provide about \$225 million in credit bid for almost all of its assets and also assume significant liabilities at closing. Under a credit bid, creditors can swap their



secured debt, rather than pay cash, for the company’s assets. Vice listed both assets and liabilities in the range of \$500 million to \$1 billion. “Creditors are taking it (Vice) over at a steep discount and we will find out whether they can become viable with a much slimmer capital structure coming out of bankruptcy,” said Thomas Hayes, chairman at investment firm Great Hill Capital. Vice was among a group of fast-rising digital media ventures that once had rich valuations as they

courted millennial audiences. It rose to prominence alongside its co-founder Shane Smith, who built his media empire from a single Canadian magazine. Vice has received commitments and consent from the lenders to use more than \$20 million in cash, which it said will be “more than sufficient” to fund its business through the sale process. The company had on April 27 said it would cancel popular TV program “Vice News Tonight” as part of a broader restructuring of its news division. A week before that, BuzzFeed Inc (BZFD.O) said it would shutter its news division. “This climate coupled with a difficult equity raising environment due to higher rates is taking some of the smaller players out to pasture,” Hayes said.

Johnson recovers from triple bogey to win LIV Golf Tulsa in playoff

OKLAHOMA (Agencies): Dustin Johnson overcame a triple bogey Sunday by making birdie on the 18th hole to join a playoff and another birdie on the 18th to win LIV Golf Tulsa for his first win this year. The victory was Johnson's second since he joined LIV Golf a year ago. He also won outside Boston in a three-man playoff. This one required some clutch shots on the closing hole at rain-soaked Cedar Ridge for Johnson to take down British Open champion Cameron Smith and Branden Grace. Johnson, who closed with a 3-under 67, was trailing



Smith (61) and Grace (65) by one shot when he hit his drive into the left rough on the 18th, partially blocked by a tree. He hit sand wedge over the corner of

the tree to about 12 feet and made the birdie. Smith was on the range waiting, having already birdied the 18th for his 61, tying the LIV record that Grace set in the opening round. Grace two-putted from 35 feet on the final hole, which put him in a playoff and assured his South African team "Stinger" its first team win of the year. In the playoff, all three players were roughly on the same line, with Grace putting from the fringe. Grace missed to the left, Johnson holed his putt from 15 feet and Smith missed from 12 feet to the right of the hole.

Barcelona win La Liga title with Espanyol rout

CORNELLA DE LLOBREGAT (Agencies): Barcelona won La Liga for the first time since 2019 by thrashing Espanyol 4-2 on Sunday, wrestling the title back from rivals Real Madrid. The Catalan giants clinched their 27th Spanish championship at the home of their neighbors, with scenes turning ugly at full time as celebrating Barcelona players were chased from the field by pitch invaders. Robert Lewandowski struck twice for Barcelona, along with goals for Alejandro Balde and Jules Kounde. Barcelona have endured a troubled period on and



off the pitch in recent years but their triumph signals significant improvement, with coach Xavi Hernandez winning his first major trophy since taking over in November 2021. President Joan Laporta's rebuild was wide-

ly criticized last summer in light of the club's perilous financial situation. Early Champions League elimination was a blow, but the club won the Spanish Super Cup in January, before sealing La Liga glory with four games to spare. Xavi did not spring any surprises with his lineup and Barcelona's first team took to the pitch with one goal firmly in mind, the end finally in sight. They conjured an electric display, one of their finest this season, to seal their triumph and leave their city rivals 19th, four points from safety with four matches remaining.

Saudi Sports for All hosts 3x3 basketball tournament in Jeddah

JEDDAH (Agencies): A 3x3 basketball tournament organized by the Saudi Sports for All Federation will be held in Jeddah at the University of Business and Technology on Saturday. The championship, hosted by Jeddah United Club, is backed by the Ministry of Sport and is being held in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 "Quality of Life Program," which aims to increase sports participation and physical activity in Saudi



society, a statement said. Next week's tournament follows the hosting of a men's 3x3 championship for over-

40 athletes in Saudi Arabia, which was affiliated with the International Basketball Association or FIBA. Lina bint Khaled Al-Maeena, chairman of Jeddah United Club, said she was "proud" of the education partnership with the University of Business and Technology and the "societal role it offers in serving sports in general and women's sports in particular." She lauded Jeddah Municipality for hosting the tournament.

Arsenal's title hopes almost over after 3-0 loss to Brighton

LONDON (Agencies): Arsenal's Premier League title hopes are almost over after losing 3-0 to Brighton on Sunday. Second-half goals from Julio Enciso, Deniz Undav and Pervis Estupinan consigned Mikel Arteta's once long-time league leaders to a punishing defeat at Emirates Stadium. The loss means Manchester City, who beat Everton 3-0 earlier in the day, can be crowned champions with a win against Chelsea next Sunday. City have 85 points — four more than Arsenal —



and also have a game in hand. Arsenal only have two more games to play this season and the most points they can get is 87. City need only one more victory

from the final three games to retain their title, but won't even need that if Arsenal lose against Nottingham Forest on Saturday. Arteta admitted pre-match it was a must-win for his team and defeat came after a promising first half. Enciso's 51st-minute header was followed by late efforts from Undav and Estupinan. Meanwhile, Brighton's win keeps alive their slim hopes of a top-four finish after moving up to sixth with games in hand on Liverpool, Manchester United and Newcastle.

Sepak takraw squad miss out on gold again

PHNOM PENH (Agencies): The national sepak takraw squad missed out on the gold medal again after losing 1-2 to Indonesia in the men's doubles final at the 2023 SEA Games here today. The game was a repeat of last year's in Hanoi, Vietnam where Indonesia had also forced the squad to settle for a silver medal. In the intense match at the NSTC Basketball Hall, the Malaysian pairing of Aidil Aiman Azwawi and Nor Aizat Nordin with Hafizul Hayazi Adnan as the reserve,



started well when they won 21-16 in the first set. But they failed to maintain the momentum and lost 16-21. In the decider, the team went down

13-21 in a match that lasted about an hour and a half. Commenting on today's match, Nor Aizat admitted to being disappointed for failing to make amends for the defeat at the Games in Hanoi. However, he was grateful for the silver medal and promised to perform better at the next tournament "In the first set, we were lucky to win but in the second we lost our focus, (our) serving and striking (libasan) didn't even work. That is the reason for our defeat to Indonesia today.

Marseille beat Angers to keep Champions League hopes alive

MARSEILLE (Agencies): Olympique de Marseille maintained their hopes of securing a Champions League group stage spot for next season when they beat already-relegated Angers 3-1 in Ligue 1 on Sunday. Alexis Sanchez cancelled out Abdallah Simah's surprise opener in the first half before Dimitri Payet and Jordan



Veretout's penalty after the break put third-placed OM on 73 points with

three matches left. They trail second-placed RC Lens, who are now sure of finishing in the top three, by two points and leaders Paris St Germain by eight. The first two teams in Ligue 1 qualify for the Champions League group stage while the third-placed team goes into the third qualifying round.

Hamza,Shahzaib half-centuries give Pakistan U19 80-run win

ISLAMABAD (APP): Half-centuries from Hamza Nawaz and Shahzaib Khan and three-fers by Ali Asfand and Arafat Minhass helped Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by 80 runs in the fifth one-day at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi, Bangladesh on Monday. The win ended the five-match series by 4-1 in tourists' favour. Chasing 245 to win, Bangladesh were dismissed for 164 in the 37th over. Bangladesh's Mohammad Shihab James (56, 79b, 9x4s) and captain Ahrar Amin (53, 58b, 8x4s, 1x6) struck half-centuries in the losing cause, according to information made available here by Pakistan Cricket Board. For Pakistan, left-arm spinners Ali and Arafat took three wickets apiece and Sajjad Ali bagged two wickets. Earli-



er, after being put into bat, Pakistan managed to score 244 for eight in 50 overs. Player of the match Hamza top-scored with a 76-ball 72, hitting six fours and three sixes. Opening batter Shahzaib, who was named player of the tournament (264 runs, 1x100, 2x50s), scored 67 off 93 deliv-

eries, smashing eight fours and one six. Azan Awais (41, 61b, 5x4s) and Arafat (40, 42b, 5x4s, 1x6) were other notable contributors with the bat. For Bangladesh, Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby took four wickets. The two teams will compete in a solitary T20 match at the same venue on 17 May.

Tatum propels Celtics to game 7 win over Sixers for Eastern Conference finals berth

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Jayson Tatum poured in a historic 51 points on Sunday to lead the Boston Celtics to a 112-88 game-seven victory over the Philadelphia 76ers and into the NBA Eastern Conference finals. Tatum added 13 rebounds five assists and a couple of steals and the Celtics' suffocating defense neutralized newly minted NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid as Boston booked a return date with the Miami Heat — the team they beat in seven games in last year's conference finals. Jaylen Brown added 25 points for Boston, who broke open a close game in the third quarter as they outscored the 76ers 33-10. Philadelphia went six minutes of the period without a basket and trailed by 26



heading into the fourth, when Boston pushed the lead to 30 with less than four minutes to play. His 51 points eclipsed the game-seven record of 50 set by Golden State's Stephen Curry against the Sacramento Kings in the first round this month. It was another crushing playoff exit for the 76ers and Embiid, who was held to 15 points on five-of-18 shooting.

Morocco,Lebanon score big wins in 2023 Arab Beach Soccer Championship



JEDDAH (Agencies): The Moroccan beach soccer team notched up a 5-4 victory against Mauritania and Lebanon beat Saudi Arabia 7-4 in the second round of the group stage of the 2023 Arab Beach football Championship. Badr Al-Freishli, Anwar Frindi, Ibrahim Abghli, Suhail Bassak and Mohamed Ghailani scored the Moroccan goals, while Mauritania's were scored by Sheikh Belkhair (with 3

goals) and Mohamed Al-Haddad (an own goal). Hassan Salameh (a hat-trick), Muhammad Haidar, Ahmed Jarada, Muhammad Al-Saleh and Muhammad Marei got the Lebanese strikes, while Saudi Arabia's Bilal Bouda (two goals), Faisal Al-Yami and Islam Siraj were on the scoresheet. The second round of the group stage will be completed on Monday, when Libya meet Kuwait, Comoros take on UAE, Palestine come up against Kyrgyzstan and Egypt clash with Oman. The tournament, organized by the Arab Football Association, is being played at Al-Hamra Corniche Stadium in Jeddah, on the Kingdom's Red Sea coast, and the final will take place on May 20, 2023.

Djokovic,Swiatek into Italian Open last 16

ROME: Novak Djokovic reached the last 16 of the Italian Open on Sunday after winning a battle with Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, while blistering Iga Swiatek thrashed Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 6-0. Six-time Rome champion Djokovic initially looked in improved form compared to his sluggish tournament opener against Tomas Etcheverry but again had a fight on his hands against the former world No. 3 "I think I'm getting close to the desired level. You can always play better but today I had a really good quality opponent and I think I delivered," Djokovic told reporters. No longer wearing the elbow brace he had in Friday's second round match, Djokovic looked to have shaken off the injury which forced him to miss last week's Madrid Masters. The 22-time Grand Slam title winner lost his serve in the first game of the



match but broke back immediately and in game four broke again to tip the first set in his favor. Djokovic served out to take the lead and in game three of the second set broke former world No. 3 Dimitrov, who handed the initiative to the Serb with a weak backhand into the net. However, Dimitrov leveled the set at 4-4 with a break of his own, angering Djokovic who was convinced that the shot which won the game was long, and drew huge roars from the Foro Italico crowd when he claimed the set.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: MAY 16, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES**: You need to be first to get in line for tickets, try that new restaurant, or just win the high score on your new video game. Whatever it is, your great energy should help a lot!
– **TAURUS**: People at work or home might be impatient with you today, but you'd much rather do things right than do them quickly. Explain it to people, but don't expect them to relent just yet!
– **GEMINI**: If your coworkers or family are all sitting around staring at each other, it's up to you to break the ice and make something happen. You may need to try a little cajoling to get them to notice.
– **CANCER**: Your mouth may be working faster than you'd like, and that could land you in hot water if you don't find a way to keep the worst of it in check. Hang out with people who already know you!
– **LEO**: Today is all fun for you and your friends or coworkers or anyone else who's willing to play along. You can make a game out of almost any-

thing and should find that it all works out for the best.
– **VIRGO**: Someone you don't know well proposes a new plan, and you feel that you're giving up more than you're getting. It's a good time to fight tooth and nail for what's rightfully yours.
– **LIBRA**: You're feeling pretty strongly connected to one person, though it might have nothing to do with romance. See if you can get them to work with you on something new. It should be worthwhile.
– **SCORPIO**: Try to de-escalate any conflict you see arise or at least put them off until tomorrow or even later! You've got the sense that people need to chill right now or things might get really bad.
– **SAGITTARIUS**: Your fiery energy is inspiring you to try new, creative endeavors. Whether you're making art, starting a business, playing with kids, or just messing around, it's all fun to you.
– **CAPRICORN**: You need to put off an appointment you were looking forward to, but sometimes circumstances have to dictate reality. You can easily get past this, but you need to look forward too.
– **ACQUARIUS**: You are way out on the cutting edge today, but the people who matter most are right behind you! It's a really good time to experiment with new ideas and ways of living to see what you like.
– **PISCES**: Something or someone is hiding in plain sight and you need to try to figure out what's going on. It could take all day (or longer), so you might need to postpone some other engagements.

Bilawal links negotiations with PTI until apology for Jinnah House torching

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday stated that any talks or negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will not take place unless the party tenders an apology for the torching of Jinnah House in Lahore. Speaking in the National Assembly, he stated that the recent events, including the torching of the Corps Commander House and the attack on Radio Pakistan and GHQ and others, are unparalleled in the history of Pakistan. He believed that these incidents will be remembered in history for a long time to come. He urged the institutions to work within their constitutional ambit so that the government could concentrate on resolving the issues of the poor people. In 1986, he



said over three million people gave a warm welcome to former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, despite former President General Zia ul Haq being in power in Islamabad at the time. Benazir Bhutto did not use the occasion to incite violence against Zia-ul-Haq. The PPP has faced various incidents over the years but has refrained to resort to acts of violence. Imran Khan has been accused of involvement in the putting

opposition leaders, including PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz and PPP leader Faryal Talpur behind bars. Despite Talpur's illness, doctors were pressured to hand her over to Imran Khan, who then allegedly changed the hospital's medical superintendent and put Talpur in jail. Bilawal went on to say that PPP did not oppose the elections, as they believed that Imran Khan could be challenged through a fair election, and that the ruling coalition would contest and defeat him. The incumbent coalition government candidates had already defeated PTI chief and its candidates in several by-elections. The coalition was committed to protect the parliament and constitution, he added.

Del refunds it's dealers penalty imposes for Non-compliance with respect to RPM

ISLAMABAD (APP): On 11 March 2022, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) passed an order holding that RPM arrangements, including those that limit discounts, fix the price, and/or set a minimum or maximum price floor or ceiling, fall under the purview of Section 4(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010 (the Act), constitute a fixation of the selling price of a good or service, and should be regarded as anti-competitive because they harm both intra-brand and inter-brand competition. Del Electronics and Haier Pakistan were both found to have violated Section 4 of the Act by imposing pricing and other restrictions through RPM (resale price maintenance) agreements, and any agreements or arrangements that these firms had in place were deemed null and void, said a press release issued here. The matter concerned a CCP's inquiry into the price control circulars released by Del Electronics (Private) Limited and Haier Pakistan (Private) Limited. Four Haier Pakistan circulars dealt with the implementation of a fixed price list for products and the levying of fines against select dealers for disregarding the fixed price lists. Regarding Del Electronics, two circulars that were similar to one another were discovered, in which dealers were fined for selling appliances for less than the amounts set by Del Electronics. Del Electronics stated that it will abide by the CCP's

ruling and reimburse its dealers for any fines or punishments imposed and that the anti-competitive practice had been stopped following a management change at the company. Due to Del Electronics' compliance-focused approach, a penalty of Rs. 100 million only was imposed. The reduced fine was made contingent upon Del Electronics honouring its promise to reimburse its dealers for the penalties and fines within the CCP's mandated time frame in terms of its order. Del Electronics later challenged the CCP's order in the Competition Appellate Tribunal under Section 42 of the Act, and it was admitted for a regular hearing. The Tribunal directed Del Electronics to pay refunds of the penalty amounts/sanctions to its dealers under the CCP's order after hearing the parties. In pursuance of the directive of the Competition Appellate Tribunal and in compliance with the order of CCP, Del has refunded its dealers the amount of the fine it had imposed on them for failing to abide by its fixed price lists. This practice is known as Resale Price Maintenance (RPM) and is forbidden by Pakistani competition law. The electrical company, Del Electronics, has informed the Tribunal that, out of 451 dealers, Del Electronics has issued refunds of penalty amounts/sanctions to 143 dealers totalling Rs. 8,134,000/- following the orders of the Tribunal and CCP. Del Electronics added that because the remaining dealers

(a total of 308) could not be found or tracked down, penalties and sanctions had not yet been returned to them. Del Electronics stated that, as a backup plan, it was prepared and willing to pay CCP the balance of the penalty, which comes to Rs. 16,105,500. CCP bench in its order cautioned all retailers, suppliers, manufacturers, dealers or any other undertaking as RPM agreements are 'by object' anti-competitive in nature and a violation of Section 4(2)(a) of the Act. The bench considered the same to be a serious violation of competition law. Any party wishing to implement the same has been required to notify such agreements/arrangements and first seek clearance from CCP through exemption under Section 5 of the Act addressing the efficiencies specified under Section 9 of the Act. In the absence of such exemption, such agreements/arrangements are void. RPM, in whatever form, be it maximum or minimum price floors or discount restrictions, are all forms of price-fixing under Section 4(2)(a) of the Act, i.e., a fixation of the selling price of a product/good and are treated as by object anti-competitive. In America, several States still prohibit RPM arrangements, and other jurisdictions reviewed including the UK, Australia, EU, India, and China, RPM arrangements/practices have been heavily penalized and are considered to be serious violations of competition law.

SBP, MoFA jointly conducted training program for ASEAN member states

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), a subsidiary of State Bank of Pakistan, in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a 5-day training program on 'Digital Payments Landscape and Financial inclusion in Emerging Markets' for ASEAN Member states. The program was held on May 8-12, 2023, which was attended by 24 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat and Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Monday. The

training program was part of efforts to improve Pakistan's status on ASEAN platform from Sectoral Dialogue Partner to Full Dialogue Partner. The program, designed for the personnel of central banks of ASEAN member states, provided an orientation of Digital Payment Systems infrastructure and its constituent components in Pakistan. In addition, deliberations were made about the critical role of SBP in democratization of digital financial services. Program participants also discussed their experiences regarding Central Bank Digital Currency,

cryptocurrencies, disruptive potential of fintechs and culture of entrepreneurship in emerging markets. The program came to a close with an endeavor to reinforce the view of financial inclusion as a key enabler to reduce poverty and enhance economic growth in developing countries. National Institute of Banking and Finance, State Bank of Pakistan Digital payments landscape and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets Training program organized by NIBAF for ASEAN Member States May 8 – 12, 2023 Held at NIBAF Islamabad.

CM inaugurates Sindh Institute of Advance Endoscopy, Gastroenterology

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while speaking at the Inauguration ceremony of the Sindh Institute of Advance Endoscopy & Gastroenterology (SIAG) at Civil Hospital, congratulated Prof. Saad Khalid Niazi and his team for achieving this historic milestone in the field of advanced Endoscopy. He also thanked the philanthropists, who supported the project. The CM said that his government firmly believed that affordable, high-quality health care was the basic privilege of every citizen. "It is not only ethically and socially imperative but also a necessary ingredient for the sustainable long-term development of our economies and society," he said and added that the foremost challenge of the health

system was to provide effective health coverage and equal access to medical services for all. Mr. Shah said that when people have to pay for health care out of their pockets, they may delay or relinquish necessary treatments and risk becoming impoverished, especially by chronic diseases which require long-term care. Liver and Gastrointestinal diseases are one of the leading causes of illness and death in our country and interventional and advanced endoscopic procedures are not only lifesaving but save patients from major invasive surgical procedures alleviating their pain and suffering, Murad Shah said and added that considering our social strata, a large number of patients were unable to receive endoscopic treatment due to

the high costs, lack of availability, and expertise. The CM said that the allocation of funds by the Sindh government along with support from philanthropists has paved the way for the development of the Sindh Institute of Advance Endoscopy and Gastroenterology, SIAG. Mr. Shah said that these services were started in 2006 in Surgical Ward 4 and have finally converted into the first-ever Advance Endoscopy facility providing high-quality services in the province and the whole country. According to the CM, the SIAG is at par with the world's best in structure services and equipment. It has also introduced the treatment of Pancreatic stones through a dedicated ESWL machine for the first time in Pakistan and second in this region.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, GOR, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, Anguri, NCP, Mangyal,

Shahdara, Shahpur, Khayaban Iqbal, Pir Suhawah, Quaid-e-Azam University, Punjab House, Bari Imam, Mandala, Athal, NIH Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, RCCI-I, II, III, IV & V, Chowk Pindori, Sehala, IST, New Rawat, Shah Pur, Dhok Najo, Chahan, Chontra, Rajar, Chakri, SPD, SPF, Kahota City, II, Hanif Shaheed, Army Flats, RA Bazar, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Basali, Pind Jatla, Lab-I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Industrial, Bhal, Jarrar

Camp Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Kayani Road, Tench Bhatta, Dhok Chaudhry Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Garmala, Sanghui, Chotala, Domeli, Mumtaz Shaheed, Col. Akram, Dinah City, Riaz Shaheed Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Murat, Bisharat Feeders, from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM, Attock Circle, Shadi Khan, Shamsabad, Sarka, Ghorghashti, Bara Zee, Maskinabad, Shah Dir, Radio Pak-I&2, Lawrencepur, Qaziabad, GBHP Colony feeders.

24 brands of bottled water found unsafe

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) identified 24 brands of bottled water as unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination. The government, through the Ministry of Science and Technology, has assigned the task to the PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled or mineral water brands and publicising the results in the best interest of public health. For the 1st quarter of the year 2023 (January to March), PCRWR collected 174 samples of mineral/bottled water brands from 21 cities. Out of total of 174 samples, 24 brands were declared unsafe after testing as per quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), a press release on Monday said. Ten brands include, Natural Pure Life, Indus, Barsay, Pure Life, Aqua Sharav, Al Saeed Water Life, Blue Plus, Natural

Punjab, Vivo Water, Best Natural) were found to be unsafe due to the presence of higher levels of sodium, one brand (Imperial Water) was found unsafe due to the presence of high level of TDS than the permissible limit. Similarly, three brands including Imperial Water, Smart Water and Natural Punjab were found unsafe due to the presence of high levels of Potassium than the permissible limit, nine brands (Aqua Pack, Perfect Taste, Douro, Salsabeel, K&S, Al mena, Al shalal, Crystal water and Heavenly) were found contaminated with bacteria. Two brands (Noble & Arfa) were found contaminated with high levels of Arsenic whereas one brand Eagles Blue was found contaminated with Nitrate. The general public was encouraged to look at the detailed report on the PCRWR website www.pcrwr.gov.pk to know about the status of water quality of bottled water brands they consume.

NA condemns act of vandalism, demands action against PTI leadership

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Monday adopted two resolutions to express its deep concern and strong disapproval of the recent acts of vandalism and arson, particularly against government and defence establishments, and called for severe action the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) and its leadership. Through the first resolution presented by Ms Wajihah Qamar, the House expressed profound remorse over the loss of lives and injuries, and the harm caused to both public and private properties due to the incidents of vandalism. The House also acknowledged and commended the crucial contributions made by the armed forces and security agencies, particularly the Ranger and Police, in protecting public order, upholding sovereignty, and ensuring the safety and security of the citizens. The resolution reiterated the importance of upholding the rule of law, safeguarding human rights, and protecting fundamental freedoms such as peaceful assembly and expression, as enshrined in the Constitution. The House strongly denounced the incidents of vandalism, destruction, and arson that occurred throughout Pakistan after the detention of Imran Khan Niazi, a suspect in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) case. It also denounced the acts of fascism witnessed in the country, particularly the burning of Jinnah House, the official residence of the Lahore Corps Commander, where items belonging to the Founding Father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, were also destroyed. Additionally, the House strongly condemned the violent attacks on various sites, including the General Headquarters (GHQ), memorials honouring the martyrs, historic buildings, mosques, and schools, which were set on fire and suffered damage. The House acknowledged the critical importance of maintaining an independent and impartial judiciary in upholding the rule of law, ensuring justice, and safeguarding the democratic principles of the nation. It emphasized the "need for the judiciary to function without prejudice or favoritism, thereby maintaining the public's trust and confidence". It expressed its "concern over the Supreme Court's apparent bias in its decisions, which have undermined its credibility and impartiality, particularly in cases where it appears to favour one political party over another". Moreover, the House also expressed its concern over the "overt bias decision by the Supreme Court which undermines its credibility and impartiality, particularly it favours one political party or others". Through the second resolution, tabled by Sabir Qaimkhani of MQM, the House condemned a political party for levelling unfounded accusations against the defence institutions, and demanded that the individuals involved in the desecration of the monuments of Shuhada (martyrs) should face severe legal consequences. It urged the government to take decisive measures, in accordance with the law, against the violent protesters. The House also called for the enactment of laws aimed at eliminating such elements from the country. The House expressed solidarity with the armed forces and pledged its support for the defence of the nation, reaffirming its commitment to stand by the armed forces.

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ESTB: 2020





MILK

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


Also provide:


 Cheese


 Desi Ghee

 Yogurt

 Pure Honey

 Desi Eggs

 Mutton/Beef

 Chicken

0336-9036364

This Newspaper has been
digitally printed at



Khyber Prints

- Instant Digital Printing Solutions -

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