



## CPEC hydropower project achieves dam capping in Pakistan

**BEIJING (Agencies):** Pakistan's Suki Kinari Hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) achieved dam capping on Monday, as China and Pakistan vowed to jointly accelerate the construction of the CPEC as this year is its 10th anniversary. The capping of the concrete dam on the Kunhar River marks the substantial completion of the main structure of the dam and will advance the construction progress of the power station in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, said the China Gezhouba Group Co, which is investing in and implementing the project. As one of the first batch of priority projects under the CPEC, the facility is the largest overseas greenfield hydropower project financed by a Chinese company so far. With total investment of about \$1.96 billion, the project will generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, significantly optimizing Pakistan's energy structure and effectively easing its energy shortages, Gezhouba said in a press release. The Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project was recently inau-



gured by Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif after it was officially put into commercial operation in early February. It can meet the electricity demand of 4 million households in Pakistan, the Xinhua News Agency reported. These achievements reflect that the construction of the CPEC has

made steady progress over the past year, as the Pakistani side hopes to boost the project so as to bring greater socio-economic benefits to the South Asian country, Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China, told the Global

Times on Tuesday. During his visit to Pakistan on May 5-6, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said that China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), accelerate the CPEC construction, deepen coop-

eration in fields such as industry, agriculture and information technology, and help Pakistan restore its economy and improve people's livelihoods, according to Xinhua. In order to promote the high-quality development of the CPEC, the two sides should expand cooperation to emerging sectors such as new energy and information technology, Zhou said. He said the Pakistani side should safeguard domestic security, ensure smooth industry and supply chains and nurture a high-quality labor force for better cooperation with China. Recently, a seminar on China-Pakistan science and technology cooperation was held by the Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industry Promotion Association and the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, domestic news site chinahightech.com reported. Zhang Xiaodong, head of the association, said it will prepare a cooperation plan for China-Pakistan science and technology enterprises, dock the development needs of artificial intelligence, big data and other areas and prompt Chinese technology enterprises to develop in Pakistan.

### Egypt, Saudi, Iran account for 90% of global executions, says Amnesty

**CAIRO (Agencies):** Egypt executed 24 people in 2022 and was the fourth highest executioner worldwide, according to a new report by the advocacy group Amnesty International. However, executions did reduce significantly in the country, down from 83 the previous year. The top executioner was China, which executed thousands, followed by Iran which put to death more than 576 people and Saudi Arabia which executed 196. Executions in Saudi Arabia tripled from the previous year, the highest number recorded by Amnesty in three decades. Executions in Egypt, Saudi and Iran accounted for 90 per cent of all known executions. In Iran, executions increased by 83 per cent. Earlier this month, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights denounced the "deeply alarming" high number of executions carried out this year in Iran, which is averaging more than ten executions per week. Amnesty's report reveals that there was a spike in the number of people executed worldwide at 53 per cent, but also that several countries had taken "decisive steps away from the death penalty in 2022."

### WHO warns against bias, misinformation in using AI in health care

**GENEVA (Agencies):** The World Health Organization called for caution on Tuesday in using artificial intelligence for public healthcare, saying data used by AI to reach decisions could be biased or misused. The WHO said it was enthusiastic about the potential of AI but had concerns over how it will be used to improve access to health information, as a decision-support tool and to improve diagnostic care. The WHO said in a statement the data used to train AI may be biased and generate misleading or inaccurate information and the models can be misused to generate disinformation. It was "imperative" to assess the risks of using generated large language model tools (LLMs), like ChatGPT, to protect and promote human wellbeing and protect public health, the U.N. health body said. Its cautionary note comes as artificial intelligence applications are rapidly gaining in popularity, highlighting a technology that could upend the way businesses and society operate.

### Big Oil Could Face \$12 Billion Bill To Clean Up Nigerian Spills

The clean-up of oil spills in Nigeria's oil-producing Niger Delta could cost around \$12 billion, and oil majors including Shell and Eni should be held responsible for most of the environmental pollution, a new report by a local commission showed on Tuesday. The report by the Bayelsa State Oil & Environmental Commission said that decades of oil production has left the state of Bayelsa "in the grip of a human and environmental catastrophe of unimaginable proportions," as carried by Bloomberg. "The report finds failures of strategy, prevention, response and remediation by oil companies," the commission said in the report, as quoted by Reuters. A spokes-

person for Shell's Nigerian unit, Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, told Reuters that Shell was not privy to the final report and could not comment on its findings. Eni, for its part, attributed the oil spills in the Niger Delta to sabotage, oil theft to feed illegal refineries, and illegal exports. Still, Eni has moved to remedy all spills, a spokesperson told Reuters. According to the report of the Bayelsa State Oil & Environmental Commission, there are "strong reasons to believe that the official statistics significantly and systematically over-state the number of leaks caused by sabotage while downplaying those attributable to other causes."

### Beijing university confirms five cases of Norovirus infection

**BEIJING (Agencies):** Five cases of Norovirus infection have been confirmed at a Beijing university on Tuesday after several students reported gastrointestinal discomfort since dining at the university canteen. Some students had reported gastrointestinal discomfort after dining at the university canteen on Monday. In response to the situation, the university has urged students and staff who experienced nausea and vomiting to seek medical attention and join the medical examination at the entrance of the university that day. An investigation by the Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication and health authorities confirmed four students and one canteen worker tested positive



for the virus, according to the latest notice released by the institute on Tuesday. A series of other measures were taken to protect the health and safety of the students and staff, according to the university. Public areas on the West Campus where the canteen is located have been thoroughly disinfected, and the canteen has suspended its services. Instead, free meals will be provided by another canteen located at the main campus of the university.

### Saudi Arabia to develop Madinah into a 'modern Islamic and cultural destination'



**MADINA (Agencies):** Saudi Arabia is planning to transform Islam's second holiest city of Madinah into a "modern Islamic and cultural destination" according to a report yesterday by Arab News. The project, which is part of the Kingdom's Vision2030 strategy, will be overseen by Rua Al Madinah Holding Co., a real estate firm owned by the Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund (PIF), in partnership with French hospitality

multinational, Accor Group. The Rua Al Madinah project is already currently underway, located eastwards of the Prophet's Mosque in the city and will include a 140-room Fairmont Hotel, 120 Fairmont branded residences, 466-room Swissotel and 328-room Novotel. "We are delighted to partner with a leading hospitality group that's known in the world over for its bespoke and inimitable style," said Ahmed Al-Juhani, Rua Al Madinah CEO. "The three new brands will enhance the appeal of the project's master plan and help us offer a broad selection of hospitality options to the city's visitors, providing something for everyone that meets their need and budget and enrich their experience."

### US slams 'targeted' attacks against Muslims, home demolitions in India in key report

**WASHINGTON, May 16 (APP):** The United States Monday denounced continuing "targeted" attacks against Muslims and other minorities in India that are outlined in its 2022 report on the state of religious freedom, and called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to hold the perpetrators accountable. "We'll continue to speak directly with our colleagues and counterparts in India regarding these concerns," a senior State Department official, who asked not to be named, told reporters after the release of its annual report, adding, "I've been saddened to see what is outlined" in it. The report was released by Secretary of State Antony Blinken who noted both progress and "continuation, and in some instances, the rise of very troubling trends". It was seen as a blow to India's standing in the international community as it prepares to hold G-20 meetings across the country, including in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In Geneva, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, warned that by holding a G20 meeting of the working group on tourism on 22-24 May in Srinagar, the Indian government was seeking to normalize what some have described as a military occupation. Varennes issued a statement, 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 with direct rule from New Delhi on 6 August 2019. Continuing his remarks, the senior State Department official added, "What we outline in today's (religious freedom) report is a targeted - continued targeted attacks against religious communities, including Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindu Dalits, and indigenous communities; dehumanizing rhetoric, including open calls for genocide against Muslims; lynching and other hate-fueled violence, attacks on houses of worship and home demolitions, and in some cases impunity and even clemency for those who've engaged in attacks on religious minorities - we're also continuing to see, at the state level, some restrictions on religious attire. "We're continuing to encourage the government to condemn violence and hold accountable and protect all groups who engage in rhetoric that's dehumanizing towards religious minorities and all groups who engage in violence against religious communities and other communities in India." The State Department's annual report has been critical of the state of religious freedom in India before, and, based on local news reports and accounts from civil society, it has listed numerous instances and cases of violations over the years.

### France issues arrest warrant for Lebanon Central Bank chief for failing to attend legal hearing

**PARIS (Agencies):** French prosecutors have issued an international arrest warrant for Lebanon's Central Bank Governor, Riad Salameh, after he failed to appear at a court hearing amid a series of legal cases against him. According to the news agency, Reuters, which cited anonymous sources close to the case, Salameh failed to show up at a hearing in the French capital, Paris, where an investigative magistrate was reportedly set to indict him over charges involving fraud and money laundering. The 72-year-old Central Bank chief - who has held his position for three decades and is blamed by many for being the architect of Lebanon's current and ongoing economic crisis - is suspected by investigators of misusing public funds and amassing a network of assets across Europe through the use of fraudulent

financial systems. Pierre-Olivier Sur, Salameh's lawyer, told the news agency that the Bank chief did not show up to the summons because they were sent to him too close to the day of the hearing. The sources also told it that the French prosecutors decided to issue the international arrest warrant instead of simply issuing a fresh summons. "By having notified the summons less than 10 days before the scheduled date of the interrogation, the rules were not respected", the lawyer said. "The summons is therefore null and void." Insisting that the warrant is a legal violation and the decision was taken based on "double standards" and "presumptuous ideas", Salameh revealed that he intends to appeal it, with his defence attorneys and assistant having reportedly sent an objection to the Lebanese judiciary over the French case.

**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.



## Radio Pakistan’s attack: Rare hand written dramas scripts with catalogs,songs disks burnt to ashes

PESHAWAR (APP): By attacking Radio Pakistan’s building on May 10, the miscreants have deprived millions of listeners of the rare famous Pash-to and urdu songs of the renowned musicians and singers besides destroying handwritten dramas scripts authored by famous writers. Besides destruction of official records and equipment, the original hand written famous dramas scripts authored by renowned writers and famous Pash-to and Urdu songs disks songs sung by Ghazal mestro Ahmad Khan, Khyal Muhammad, Mashooq Sul-tan and Rafique Shinwari were also burnt to ashes during violent mob attack on the national broadcaster on May 10. Habibun Nabi, Program Manager, Radio Pakistan Peshawar told APP on Tuesday that the original rare handwritten Pashto and Urdu dramas’ scripts authored by famous writers Hamaza Khan Shinwari, Dr Muhammad Azam Azam, Younas Qayasi, , Arbab Abdul Wakeel, Ha-mayun Huma, Sahir Afridi, Begium AR Daud, Zaitoon Bannu and Syed Rasool Rasa were destroyed by the rioters. He said scripts of hundreds of rare dramas along with catalogs and books on different topics were also put on fire by violent mobs af-ter they burnt the Radio Pakistan’s central library located on its third

floor with piles of ashes scattered all around the building. Besides around 15-2000 historic books, the master-piece literary books of the renowned Sufi poet Rehman Baba and freedom fighter Khushal Khan Khattak were also torched. Habibun Nabi said the rare picture of renowned broadcast-ers Abdul Jan Magmoom and Aftab Ahmed, who announced Pakistan’s independence day at midnight of August 13-14, 1947 in Pashto and Urdu besides Qari Muhammad, who recited Holy Quran respectively, was no more. Similarly, the performance pictures of Ghazal mestros and dra-mas writers including Hamaza Khan Shinwari, Ajmal Khattak, Khatar Gaznvai, Samandar Khan Saman-dar, Qalandar Mohmand, Mum-taz Ali Shah, Shahzad Khan Johar and Abdullah Jan Magmom alias Marchakay were set ablaze. Radio Pakistan had started its transmission from a room at civil secretariat Pe-shawar in 1935 after the first radio transmitter gifted by Radio inventor Markoni to Sir Shabzada Abdul Qa-yyum Khan during the latter London was installed here. Later, Radio Pa-kistan was shifted to the old Radio Pakistan’s building (now Supreme Court registry) on Khyber Road in 1942. The national broadcaster was later shifted to the existing building



after it was inaugurated by the for-mer President General Zaiul Haq in 1985. Tufail Muhammad, program manager Radio Pakistan said that historic performance pictures of great Pashto singers, Ahmad Khan, pride of performance Mashooq Sul-tan, musician/singer Rafique Shin-wari, pride of performance Khayal Muhammad and Fazl Rabi were also purnt to ashes by the mob whom have no regard for culture and humanity. Besides dramas and literary works, he said rare feature documentaries on national and in-ternational issues besides human interest stories, religious books and national songs that were converted from conventional taps to computers for digitalizations were also severe-ly damaged. “Radio Pakistan is the custodian of our cultural heritage. Attack on this historic building was

tantamount to an assault on our national heritage, culture, dramas and music,” said Ghazal maestro and pride of performance, Khyal Muhammad while talking to APP. Associated with Radio Pakistan for several decades, Khyal Muhammad said that resuming of transmissions of Radio Pakistan Peshawar within hours after the attack showed the hard work, dedication and profes-sional commitment of its officers and employees besides passed a strong message that the national broad-caster’s voice could not be silenced through such terror incidents. Tufail Ahmad, program manager PBC told APP that after the attack, the Radio Pakistan Peshawar’s transmissions were resumed from four transmis-sion lines including 1260 Khz, 24 hours from FM 101, Soratul Quran and News- Current Affairs within

few hours on emergency basis and was smoothly continued providing quality entertainment, informa-tion and education services. Amin Marshall, a newscaster in a private tv channel who is also associated with Radio Pakistan Peshawar since 2012 said that the attack on Radio Paki-stan Peshawar and APP Office was an attempt to silence the media and deprive people from information. He said ransacking and burning of the vehicle of Radio Pakistan and APP’s employees was an attempt to terror-ize journalists and stop them from their professional duties. He said that Radio Pakistan’s building was set on fire during PTI’s workers pro-test demonstrations and it was unfor-tunate that not a single leader of PTI had visited the national broadcaster to express sympathies with its em-ployees. He said Radio Pakistan was the voice of the nation and demand-ed for its immediate reconstruction in its original shape. Tufail Khan said that disks containing pre-partition Pashto and Urdu songs of 1901-1947 were saved, however disks of digi-talized songs were destroyed due to burning of computers. Similarly, the voice record disks of the religious scholars including renowned Mau-lana Saeeduddin Sherkoï were also destroyed.

### GOLD PRICE IN PAK

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
Per Tola Gold	Rs 235,835	Rs 216,182	Rs 206,355	Rs 176,876
Per 10 Gram	Rs 202,138	Rs 185,293	Rs 176,871	Rs 151,604
Per Gram Gold	Rs 20,213	Rs 18,529	Rs 17,687	Rs 15,160
Per Ounce	Rs 573,079	Rs 525,323	Rs 525,323	Rs 429,809

### FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	294	298
China Yuan	42.07	42.47
Japanese Yen	2.25	2.3
Saudi Riyal	78.5	79.3
U.A.E Dirham	80.5	81.4
UK Pound	359	362
Euro	366	369
Australian Dollar	192.5	194.5
Canadian Dollar	214	216.2

### Emergency Numbers

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

## Senator Mushtaq calls for punishment for attackers of GHQ gate, public properties

PESHAWAR (APP): Senator Mush-taq Ahmed Khan of Jamaat e Islami Pakistan on Tuesday condemned violent protests on May 9 and 10 in big cities of the country and called for exemplary punishment to the culprits who attacked GHQ gate, Jin-nah House Lahore, Radio Pakistan Peshawar building and other pub-lic properties. He said that the ele-

ments involved in the heinous crimes should be brought to justice and there should be no leniency in this regard, adding that peaceful protest was right of every individual and po-litical party however vandalising the public properties was unacceptable. Senator Mushtaq urged the govern-ment to take notice of the reports of arresting political leadership.

## Power shutdown notified for areas of Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) has announced the schedule of pow-er suspension for suburban areas of the city, Mardan and Charsadda due to necessary maintenance and repair work. According to a press release issued on Tuesday, power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Cantt Grid Station on May 17, 24 and 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Resultantly consumers of 11KV Tehkal, Islamia College, KTH, Commercial, Jahangir Abad, Uni-versity Town, NCR, Airport Road, PAF Base, Saddar Road, Mall Road, MES 2, MES Old, Babu Ghari, Mar-ble Industrial , CAA, Palosi 1, Behria Colony, Tehkal Payan feeders will face inconvenience. It said the pow-er supply would remain suspended

from 132 KV Pesco Colony Grid Station on May 17, 24 and 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. As a result, consum-ers of 11 KV Warsak Road, Sarband, Shabkhel and Sheikhan feeders will face inconvenience. Similarly, the power supply will remain suspended from 220 KV Mardan Grid Station on May 17, 23 and 30 May from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., inconveniencing con-sumers of 11 KV Nisata Road, Nawa Kale, Ahmad Abad, Taru, Eid Gah, Rural 1 and Dang Baba feeders. It added that power supply would also remain suspended from 132 KV Mardan 2 Grid Station on May 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 29 and 30 from 9 a.m to 3 p.m., due to which consumers of 11 KV Col Javaid, Shah Dhandh and Tawas Babini feeders will face inconvenience.

## New spell of rain forecast in KP till May 18

PESHAWAR (APP): The Met Office has predicted a new spell of intermit-tent rains with chances of hailstorm in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Tues-day evening to May 18. Wind-dust, thunderstorm rain with isolated hail-storm is expected in Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir, Malakand, Buner, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan, Battagram, Torghar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Bajaur, Kurram, North & South Waziristan, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan

districts. Dust raising winds are like-ly to occur over plain areas of the province, it added. In view of thunder and hailstorm, the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) had issued instructions to the district ad-ministrations and concerned insti-tutions to ensure the availability of small and heavy machinery by the district administration. The farmers were advised to make proper ar-rangements for their activities keep-ing in view the forecast as the crops especially wheat could be affected by strong winds and hailstorms.

## Traders express solidarity with Pak armed forces

PESHAWAR (APP): Mutahida Anju-man-e-Tajran on Tuesday carried out a rally here to express solidarity with the armed forces of Pakistan and to condemn the violent protests on May 9 and 10. The rally started from Yadgar Chowk and ended at Qisa Khwani Ba-zar wherein the participants chanted slogans in favor of Pakistan Army and termed the force a valuable asset of the

nation. The speakers said that negative propaganda against Pakistan Army would not be tolerated and any such move would be countered strictly, adding that the whole nation stands united with Pak Armed forces. They also condemned the mob attacks on public properties in Peshawar and other cities of the country and appreciated the pa-tience shown by Pak Army at that time.

## Student killed,six injured in accidental school firing

SWAT (APP): A school student was killed while six others were injured when firing took place at a school in Sangota area of Swat district on Tues-day. According to police, the firing in-cident occurred when a rifle accidentally went off in the hands of a police offi-

cial, deployed at school security. The injured students were rushed to Said Sharif Hospital where one of the stu-dents succumbed to his injuries. The police official responsible for the firing was arrested and shifted to the police station for interrogation.

## 4.5 magnitude quake jolts Swat, Malakand

PESHAWAR (APP): A mild earth-quake measuring 4.5 on the Inter-national Richter scale was reported in Swat, Malakand and adjacent areas in the afternoon on Tuesday. According to the Met Office, the

epicenter of the earthquake was in the bordering area of Afghani-stan and Tajikistan at a depth of 91 kilometers. No loss to life or prop-erty was reported till filing of the report.

## Protesters block Kohat–Peshawar road

PESHAWAR (APP): The protesters of a local tribe on Tuesday blocked the Kohat Peshawar Road near the Kohat tunnel in a protest against the killing of 11 persons of their tribe in an armed clash in Dara Adamkhel area of the district. The people of the Sunikhel tribe lost 11 persons due to firing by a rival tribe of Zargunkhel

over a dispute related to the demarca-tion of a coal mine the other day. The protesters placed the dead bodies on the road and blocked the traffic. It is worth mentioning here that at least 15 persons were killed and several oth-ers injured during an exchange of fire between the two tribes in the Dara Adamkhel area of Kohat district.

## Excise Mardan recovers precious artifacts, firecrackers in two actions

PESHAWAR (APP): The Excise Police Mardan during an opera-tion near Charsadda Interchange recovered artifacts worth millions of rupees from a car, informed Spokesman Excise police on Tues-day. He said the valuable artifacts were being smuggled to Charsadda from Baluchistan. The 19 small and big recovered artifacts were later handed over to the Archeology De-partment Mardan. The spokesman

said that further legal proceedings regarding the recovered artifacts would be carried out by the Arche-ology Department Mardan. In an-other action, the police recovered a large quantity of banned firecrack-ers from a car near Rashakai Inter-change. The spokesman said the recovery was made during general checking. Two accused were taken into custody and a case was regis-tered at Risalpur police station.

## Gomal University gets nod for admission to Allied Health Sciences faculty

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The Higher education Commission (HEC) has formally allowed Gomal University for admission to various programmes of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. “The Gomal Uni-versity has received a no objection certificate(NOC) in this regard, al-lowing it to enroll 150 students in each programme of the faculty of Allied Health Sciences,” said the university’s spokesman. He said the milestone was achieved as a result of a long struggle of the team spear-headed by Vice Chancellor Gomal University Professor Dr Shakibullah and Dean Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Dr Asif Nawaz. On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Professor

Dr Shakibullah congratulated all the employees of Gomal University and expressed gratitude to HEC for re-solving the long-standing issues of the university. The VC said that the university was granted the NOC fol-lowing a series of visits by the team concerned of the HEC which guid-ed and inspected all required facili-ties. “The role of the entire team is remarkable and admirable and today I congratulate all the employ-ees and students of Gomal Univer-sity for this success and hope that in the future also all the employees will play their positive role in the de-velopment and prosperity of Gomal University and journey of successes would continue,” the VC observed.

## Minister Excise visits Radio building to assess damages

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakh-tunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi visited the Pakistan Broadcasting House here and inspected its burnt parts which were set on fire by some miscreants. During his visit the other day, he ex-pressed deep grief and sorrow over the burning of this historical media building as well as all the other ugly incidents of 9th and 10th May. On this occasion, he said that the provincial government will provide all possible assistance to Radio Pakistan Peshawar in the restoration of its decrepit

building. He said the Chief Minister has already summoned a report of the damages to provide all-out help in this regard. The minister, accompanied by Secretary Excise KP Ihsanullah, was briefed by the station director PBC Peshawar Ijaz Khan. Similarly, Falak Niaz Khan from news Section and Engr Saifullah Khan from Engi-neering Section were also present. Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi was given complete details of the damages. He especially lauded the valiant role of the PBC officials for restarting rou-tine transmission of the broadcasting house on an emergency basis.







## UK govt put on notice over G20 meet in IloJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Strongly urging against participating in the so-called G20 meet in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK), the UK government has been put on notice against such a move which violates international law and UN mandate on IloJK. Fahim Kayani, president Tehreek-e-Kashmir (TeK) UK, alongwith Muhammed Ghalib President TeK EU, Haji Muhammad Sadiq, Rehana Ali, Ch Ikram ul Haq and Yasir Alam submitted petition at 10 Downing Street – the governance center of

British government in London – calling on the UK government to reject Indian invitation to the G20 meet in IloJK, said a press release received from London here on Tuesday. In its yet another mischievous attempt to mislead international community, India has invited G20 officials for a tourism-related meeting in the occupied valley between May 22 and 24. “Through this petition, we demand the UK government to not send its representative to the so-called G20 meeting in IloJK on the invitation of India,” Kayani said af-

ter submitting the petition to the PM UK’s office. “Through this meeting,” the Kashmiri diaspora leader said: “the Hindu fascist regime in New Delhi led by murderous Narendra Modi wants to cover its illegal actions taken on IloJK on August 05, 2019.” “IloJK is a UN-designated disputed territory and any such event in IloJK is violation of UN resolutions on Kashmir,” said Kayani, reminding the UN has granted Kashmiris right to self-determination to choose their political future.

## About 260,000 children being given polio drops in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A five-day polio vaccination drive kicked off in Kot Addu like rest of the country where over 21 million children were being given polio drops, according to the health department source. Assistant Commissioner Asghar Laghari administered polio drops to a child here among 260,000 children of five years

and below of the age registered with the local health department. Talking to people, AC said just two drops of polio could save children from life-long crippling. He pinned hope that the target would be achieved as health department teams were reaching out every child in different nooks and corners of the district.

## PAF contingent lands back after successful participation in exercise Anatolian Eagle-2023



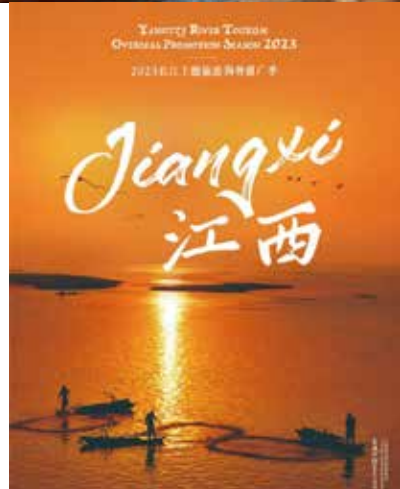
ISLAMABAD (APP): The contingent of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) landed back on Tuesday at an operational air base of PAF after successful participation in International Flight Tactical Exercise Anatolian Eagle-2023 held at Konya, Turkiye. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmad, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Projects), Pakistan Air Force, witnessed the closing ceremony of the exercise and appreciated the efforts of the PAF contingent for making the exercise a great success, a PAF news release said. He also lauded the PAF air and ground crew for the smooth and professional conduct of this significant exercise which was aimed at validating interoperability in the face of realistic contemporary air combat scenarios. While interacting with the combat crew he said, “The existing

global security scenario coupled with the evolving dynamics of air warfare calls for an enhanced partnership between Pakistan and friendly countries. International and regional strategic situation is undergoing profound changes with growing complexity in the security environment and such exercises provide an opportunity to enhance interoperability in the face of shared challenges”. The Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Projects) congratulated the Turkish Air Force on the culmination of yet another successful international air exercise. He added that both air forces have a long history of enviable cordial relations and hoped that the exercise would certainly enable the combat crew of both air forces to learn from mutual experiences in addition to promoting interoperability.

## 2023 Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season Kicked off In Pakistan



ISLAMABAD (APP): The opening ceremony for the 2023 Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season took place in Yichang, in Hubei Province of Central China, on May 5. The 2023 “Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season” is jointly organized by the Network of International Culturalink Entities in cooperation with the competent departments of culture and tourism in ten provinces (municipalities), embassies and consulates, Chinese Cultural Centers and overseas tourism offices and other institutions of China. China Cultural Center in Pakistan is organizing series of online videos and theme exhibitions to celebrate 2023 “Yangtze River Tourism Overseas Promotion Season” by the Center’s Facebook Page, Wechat Channels and Wechat Official account, including the Director’s personal Twitter account. The event, with a focus on the theme “Guarding the Golden Waterway and Promoting Green Development,” aims to showcase the



successes of ecological civilization construction and sustainable development in the Yangtze River basin while also promoting the Yangtze River culture to the people of Pakistan as well as to the global community. This year, the promotion season will last through the end of June.

## Indian troops martyr woman in Baramulla

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred a woman in Baramulla district, In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The woman was martyred by the troops during a violent cordon and search operation in Kamalkote area of the district, Kashmir Media Service reported.

## IRSA releases 154,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 154,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 131,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1429.47 feet and 31.47 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 33,700 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1117.40 feet, which was 67.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 42,600 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 61,300, 62,200, 44,000 and 13,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 29,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 15,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## Sargodha achieves 64 pc wheat target

SARGODHA (APP): Deputy Director food Allah Ditta Saqib said on Tuesday that 193,992 metric tons of wheat had been procured in four districts of Sargodha division so far, which was about 64 percent of the set target. Talking to media here, he said that this year, the wheat procurement target had been increased to 302,860 metric tons. In Sargodha district, so far 103,400 metric tons had been procured which was 95 percent of the set target of 107,867 metric tons, he added. A target of 21,068 metric tons of wheat had been set for Khushab district and so far 16,934 metric tonnes had been purchased, which was 80 percent of the set target.

## AIOU reschedules postponed exams

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has postponed the final examination of BA (Associate Degree), BS, B.Ed (ODL) programmes, to be held from May 10 to 13 of the autumn semester 2022, due to the of the law and order situation in the country. According to the new schedule, exams postponed on May 10 to 12 will now be held on June 22 to 24 and exams scheduled on May 13 will now be held on June 26. Pre-issued roll number slips would be valid for the new dates. There was no change in exam timings or centers, it added.

## Traffic police issues diversion plan on various roads

FAISALABAD (APP): Traffic police have released diversion plan on various roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. A spokesperson at traffic police said here on Tuesday, that due to high pressure of traffic volume in Chenab club chowk, Railway station, Hilal Ahmar chowk and GTS chowk, the traffic managers have decided a diversion plan to ensure uninterrupted flow of traffic on the roads.

## President directs banks to refund over Rs 0.5 mln to bank fraud victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday directed two private banks to refund an amount of Rs 564,469 to three victims of bank fraud in cases of online funds transfers and fraudulent ATM transactions. The President gave these directions while deciding on three separate representations filed by Allied Bank Ltd (ABL), United Bank Ltd (UBL), and a citizen against three different verdicts of the Banking Mohtasib (BM). The complainants named Muhammad Saleem Zafar, Hidayatullah, and Ghulam Muhammad maintained separate accounts with ABL in Lahore, UBL in District Karak, and ABL in Peshawar

respectively. Zafar, on receiving a call from a number similar to ABL’s helpline, shared his banking information with the caller who introduced himself as the bank’s representative. Similarly, Hidayatullah lost Rs 170,969 to some unknown person using UBL Digital App even though he had neither requested for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Facility nor had he ever used it. Ghulam Muhammad lost Rs 45,000 when his card was captured by an ATM machine and he later found out that some fraudsters got hold of his card through deception, conducted ATM transactions, and withdrew funds from his account unauthorizedly.

## ANF seizes over 1551 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug smugglers managed to seize over 1551 kg of drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in a raid at a private courier office in Lal Kurti Rawalpindi, 64 grams of weed was recovered from a parcel sent from Jhelum. In an operation at Lahore International Airport, 42 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a Bangkok-bound passenger, a resident of Pakpattan. In the third operation at Lahore International Airport, 586 grams of heroin was

recovered from the trolley bag of a Bahrain-bound passenger, a resident of Muzaffargarh, going on flight no GF-767. The spokesman informed that in a raid conducted near Kasur road, 12 kg charras was recovered from the CNG cylinder of a car. ANF recovered 3.6 kg charras from the possession of an accused resident of Khyber netted from the Peshawar Hayatabad Toll Plaza area. ANF and FC in a joint operation conducted in the Nokundi Balochistan area managed to recover 1529 kg of opium while in another operation six kg of heroin was recovered from bushes in the Dalbandin Cirgil area.

## Secretary IT & Telecom visits Huawei Smart Office

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom Navid Ahmed Shaikh along with a delegation on Tuesday visited Huawei Smart Office. The delegation was received by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Hua-

wei Pakistan Ethan Sun along with the senior management, said a news release issued here. The delegation from the Ministry Of IT & Telecom included Additional Secretary Aisha Humera, Member IT Junaid Imam and DG Wireless Jahanzeb Rahim.

## World Telecommunication and Information Society day tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Information Society Day will be marked on May 17 (Wednesday) across the globe to remind the world of the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society to build “a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society” based on fundamental human rights. World Information Society Day aims to alert people about how information and communication can help improve societies worldwide. World Information Society Day promotes people’s awareness of the power of information and communication to build societies in which they can create, access, use and share information and knowledge to achieve their full potential. Organizations such as UNESCO actively take part in the day by inviting people to engage in various activities to promote campaigns centred on this event. The annual observance of World

Telecommunication Day, which marks the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1865, drew attention to the work of ITU and the challenges of global communication. In March 2006, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 17 as World Information Society Day to recognize the efforts made to advance communication and ITU’s role in helping people connect around the world. The UN’s first World Information Society Day took place on Wednesday, 17 May 2006. Before World Information Society Day, World Telecommunication Day, which was first held in 1969, was celebrated on May 17 by people and organizations such as ITU. Many now refer to this day as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, taking into account the UN’s observance of World Information Society Day.

## Heat stroke counters to be set up at govt hospitals

FAISALABAD (APP): The district health authority has decided to set up heat stroke counters in government hospitals in the wake of scorching heat and dry weather during current week. Chief Executive Officer Health Dr Asfand Yar said here on Tuesday that the local meteorological department had predicted 45-49

Celsius temperature for next 15 days and citizens could be affected from heat stroke. He said that the counters were set up as precautionary measures at all government hospitals. He however appealed to the people to adopt all safety measures while leaving their homes, offices and work points for their safety.

## Only two cases of Monkey Pox registered since April 17: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro Tuesday informed the National Assembly that only two cases of Monkey Pox had been registered in the country since April 17. Replying to a calling attention notice raised by Aliya Kamran regarding spread of Monkey Pox in the country, she said the border health service, all provincial health ministries and National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) were also put on

high alert after surfacing of two cases in the country. She said the first case was reported in passenger arrived from Saudi Arabia who was kept in isolation. Tests of all other passengers on board the flight were also carried out, she added. She said Monkey Pox was an infectious disease and same standard operative procedures (SOPs) were followed like COVID-19. To a supplementary question, she said unfortunately, neither ‘Imran Pox’ could treated so far nor any vaccine developed to treat the disease.

## Section 144 imposed for 7 days in Sialkot

SIALKOT (APP): The district administration enforced Section 144 for next seven days here in the district. According to the notification issued on Tuesday, there would be a com-

plete ban on all kinds of public gatherings, rallies, processions, sit-ins and any kind of protest under Section 144 within the limits of Sialkot district.



## Pakistan declared the most expensive country in South Asia region

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan has been declared the most expensive country among the eight countries of South Asia, while Sri Lanka has been placed in second place. According to the outlook report of the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan's economy is facing many challenges including high inflation, and a foreign exchange crisis. The economic growth rate this year is likely to be only 0.6% but Pakistan can bounce back through economic and structural reforms. If the IMF program remains on track, the fiscal deficit is expected to decrease. According to the report on

the economy of Pakistan, the average rate of inflation this year will be 27.5 percent. Industrial production will remain low due to strict monetary, and fiscal policy and the high cost of electricity and oil, while cooperation for economic recovery and development projects will continue. According to the report, Sri Lanka is ranked second with 24.4 percent while Afghanistan is ranked third with 13.8 percent. Bangladesh ranks fourth among eight South Asian countries with 8.7 percent. Apart from this, the inflation rate in India this year is likely to be five percent.

## ACS South Punjab directs digitalization of Central Library Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Punjab Information Technology board would digitally secure the rare books and old newspapers in the Central Library Bahawalpur for coming generations to benefit from them. Apart from rare books and newspapers published before the partition, 150,000 books are also part of the Central Library. In this regard, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain (Rtd) Saqib Zafar visited Central Library Bahawalpur and Chief Librarian Rana Javed Iqbal was also present with him. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab said that the

libraries represent living nations. He said that Central Library has centuries-old intellectual and academic assets, which will be digitalized. Capt (ret'd) Saqib Zafar said that funds will be allocated for the project in the coming budget. Chief Librarian in his briefing told that the library has more than 150,000 books. He said the collection of books published before the creation of Pakistan is also part of the library. Chief Librarian said Central Library Bahawalpur was established in 1924 and to date, countless students and PhD scholars have benefited from the library.

## Sherry Rehman exhorts masses for precautionary measures against heatwave

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday advised the people to take precautionary measures to avoid heatwaves and stroke as extreme temperature rise was to prevail in southern parts of the country. In a series of tweets, she said the weather was likely to remain hot and dry in most of the plains of the country for the next few days. The federal minister said the weather was expected to remain extremely hot in Sindh and Balochistan. "This increased heat also increases the

risk of heat stroke. We have sent guidelines to the provinces and related institutions to avoid heatwave," she said. However, people were requested to take timely and preventive measures to avoid heat stroke, she added. "The people of vulnerable communities and areas should stay in the shade in the afternoon, and keep a wet cloth on their heads and shoulders if they go outdoors in the sun. Wear light and full-sleeved clothing, drink plenty of water, and be careful of direct sunlight," Sherry Rehman mentioned.

## NA adopts resolution to constitute committee for reviewing Hajj arrangements

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution recommending that a Hajj advisory committee be constituted to oversee this year's Hajj arrangements. According to the resolution, the committee should comprise the Minister

for Religious Affairs, chairmen of the standing committees of the National Assembly and the Senate for Religious Affairs and members of both the houses. The resolution was moved by PPPP lawmaker Shagufta Jamani and was adopted by the House.

## Revenue staff directed to resolve citizens' problems at earliest

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Assistant Commissioner Pharpur Tehsil Aneeq Anwar on Tuesday paid a visit to several Patwar Khana in Tehsil and instructed the revenue officials to take pragmatic measures for resolving problems of citizens at the earliest. During the visit, he checked attendance of the revenue staff and the revenue record of various areas of the Tehsil. Speaking on the occasion, he said that district administration was making all out efforts to ensure efficient service delivery and in that regard no negligence or hurdles

would be tolerated. He also issued necessary instructions to the revenue staff and directed them to ensure their presence on a daily basis so that people could be extended relief by resolving their problems at the earliest. Meanwhile, on the directions of deputy commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Darazinda Muhammad Iqbal paid a visit to the bazar to ensure implementation of district administration orders about closure of arms shops besides taking stock of facilities at educational institutions, health centers and hospitals.

## DG PHA directs authorities to accelerate beautification work

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General (DG), of Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi, Ahmed Hasan Ranjha on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the ongoing beautification work. According to a PHA spokesperson, the authority on the directives of the DG was utilizing all available resources to provide the citizens with a clean and green environment. The beautification work in different parks and roads was being completed swiftly, he said and informed that the DG had directed the officers to further uplift

green belts of different roads and their medians. He also directed the officers to accelerate the pace of the work to complete the ongoing projects within the shortest possible time frame. The spokesman said, 'We are making all-out efforts for the beautification of Rawalpindi and Murree.' Under the project, the beautification of entry and exit points of the city would also be ensured, he added. The DG said, joint efforts would be made by all the departments concerned for beautification of the city and it would be made a model town.

## STP chairman's father Jiand Magsi dies of heart attack

HYDERABAD (APP): Father of Sindh Taraqipasand Party (STP) Chairman Dr Qadir Magsi Tuesday passed away due to heart attack. He was 85. Jiand Magsi breathed his last due to cardiac arrest at his

residence and would be laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Thatta late in the evening, the family sources confirmed. The STP announced three days mourning over the sad demise.

## Mushaal urges G20 countries to boycott moot, plays role for Kashmir dispute settlement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mushaal Hussein Mullick has urged G-20 countries to boycott its upcoming event being hosted by the Fascist Narendra Modi government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), advising that they should utilize their power and influence to settle the decades-long Kashmir dispute. Mushaal, who is the wife of incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, on Monday said that Kashmiris rejected and boycotted such dramas of India so G-20 countries should also boycott the upcoming

conference to give a clear message to Modi that they can't stand with the oppressor, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. She said that occupied Kashmir turned into a graveyard for Muslims due to Modi's Muslim genocide policies. Mushaal also said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bloodshed has been revealed to everyone. The mass graves in Occupied Kashmir were identified by Indian historian Angana Chatterjee in 2012, adding that Angana Chatterjee identified 2,700 mass graves in Bandipora, Baramulla and Kotura districts

of Occupied Kashmir. In this regard, according to the report of Kashmir Human Rights Watch, 2943 bodies have been recovered from mass graves in 55 villages of Occupied Kashmir. Among these mass graves in Occupied Kashmir, 80% of the graves have not been identified, she added. Mushaal also said that Kashmir Human Rights Watch had also traced 2,730 bodies in mass graves in 4 districts. After which, in 2011, the international organization Human Rights Watch demanded a commission of inquiry from the Indian government.

## Police arrest PO

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The City Police on Tuesday arrested a proclaimed offender (PO) who had arrived at Police Khidmat Markaz for personal verification. According to a police spokesman, the accused, identified as Muhammad Majid, had come to Police Khidmat Markaz of City Police Station for his computerized verification. When his details were checked, it was revealed that the applicant was proclaimed offender in a case registered in 2021 with the same police station. Incharge of Khidmat Markaz, Sibtal Hassan taking prompt action, arrested the accused and sent him to the lock-up. Further investigation was underway.

## Police arrest serial killer

SARGODHA (APP): Police arrested a serial killer who had committed seven murders. A police spokesman on Tuesday said a police team headed by ASP City Circle Usman Aziz Mir conducted raid and arrested the accused, Muhammad Asghar Arain of Chak No 43 NB. During initial interrogation, it was revealed that the accused had killed seven people while sleeping on footpath and he was an addict. City police station received an information that the body of a youth was spotted at Football Ground, Company Bagh. Upon information, the team reached the spot and took the body into custody and started investigation. The deceased was identified as Muhammad Rehan Akhtar of Chak No 89-NB.

## Man injured in accident

SIALKOT (APP): A man was injured in a collision between a motorcycle and a tractor-trolley near here on Tuesday. According to the Rescue 1122 spokesperson, 50-year-old Riaz was injured when a tractor-trolley hit his bike near Mohtmand stop on Pasrur-Daska Road. The Rescue 1122 shifted the injured to a local hospital after providing first aid.

## Over 3,000 hoarded wheat bags recovered

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The district administration has seized about 3,000 wheat bags hoarded in different warehouses during a crackdown here. An inspection team led by AC Nasir Shehzad Dogar conducted raids in different parts of the district and suburban towns in a couple of days. After recovery, while talking to the media, the in charge of the inspection team said the grand action was initiated with the help of police and most of the illegal points were struck down on tip-off. He assured of continuing measures against hoarders and wheat smugglers unabated through all-out resources. He warned that not a single sack of wheat would be permitted to be taken out of the district.

## Gang busted; four dacoits arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a gang and arrested four dacoits including a ringleader besides recovering three snatched motorcycles, cash Rs 100,000, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Airport Police arrested four accused namely Khalid alias Koyla, ringleader, Amir, Farrukh and Waqas, who were allegedly involved in various dacoity cases.

## NA passes bill recommending punishment on contempt of Parliament

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday passed a private member's bill aimed at condemning and awarding punishment for the actions that accounted for breach of the sovereignty and integrity of the Parliament in any form or shade. The bill was moved by Chairman Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon which was passed by the House. Minister for Federal Education and professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain appreciated the bill and said that this would help to improve oversight role of the Parliament. After the passage of the bill, the mover Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon said that it was an historical moment in the parliamentary history of the country. It would

ensure the supremacy of Parliament which was mother of all the institutions, he said adding that such legislation was made in four provinces but it did not exist at the federal level. He said this legislation would ensure proper functioning of the standing committees and parliamentary oversight role would be effective after it. Rana Qasim Noon said that it would be contempt to breach the privilege of the parliament and those involved in such acts could be punished. He thanked Speaker National Assembly, Secretariat, Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and members of Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges for their cooperation and guidance over the legislative proposal.

## Govt making efforts to provide maximum relief to public: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar Tuesday said the coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was making all-out efforts to provide maximum relief to common man as it had reduced the petroleum products' prices by Rs 30. In a statement in the National Assembly Session, he said the oil prices had been reduced while keeping in view several international matters, including the dialogue with IMF and reducing oil prices in international markets. The

relevant authorities should provide benefit of reducing oil prices to the masses by reducing transportation fares and prices of vegetables, fruits and other items, Dar added. He said that diesel prices had been reduced by Rs 30 which meant 11 percent, while petrol prices had been brought down to 12 rupees and its benefit should be reached to the poor people. The minister said that the government wanted to pass on the full benefit of falling international prices of petroleum products to the people.

## Khawaja Asif demands judiciary to settle tax cases worth Rs. 2000b

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday said that tax cases worth Rs. 2000 billion are pending before the judiciary and the courts should settle these cases in the given economic situation faced by the country. Speaking here in National Assembly, the minister said that Federal Board of Revenue submitted with Public Accounts Committee about the number of tax cases pending with judiciary. He demanded the judiciary to settle tax cases worth Rs. 2000 billion pending before it. He also demanded the Speaker to take interest in re-

solving the issues of Pakistan Hockey Federation as it's head is occupying the seat for around last 15 years. The Speaker referred the matter to Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination. Moreover, Minister for Defense stressed to enhance the oversight role of Parliament. He said that questions are used as a tool for parliamentary oversight and members should focus on it by submitting short questions. He said that answers on the questions as well as supplementary questions should be precise so that more time could be utilized for taking them up.

## Swearing-in ceremony for Sindh LG election winners on May 22

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The swearing-in ceremony of the elected members of the Sindh local government election winners is set to be held on May 22, as announced in a notification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The notification for the appointment of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers and the election schedule has also been issued for the election of the reserved seats. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has summoned Imran Khan, the Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, to appear personally in a contempt case on May 23. The case pertains to

allegations of PTI leaders, including Fawad Chaudhry, Asad Umar, and Imran Khan, using derogatory language against the ECP and its Chief, Sikan-der Sultan Raja. A four-member ECP bench, led by member Nisar Durrani, heard the case and expressed dissatisfaction over the continuous absence of Imran Khan's counsel. The assistant of Khan's counsel informed the bench that he was occupied with hearings in the Islamabad High Court for other cases involving the PTI chief. ECP member criticised the PTI for not taking the case seriously, mentioning that the case had been pending for a considerable time and that Khan had previously appeared without a lawyer.

## Javeed Latif opposes talks with PTI chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif while terming Pakistan Threek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan a stooge of foreign powers on Tuesday categorically said talks should not be held with him besides taking to task him for attacking the state and defense institutions. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said the foreign powers did not want progress and prosperi-

ty in Pakistan and they were against China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). All those characters of 2017 who destroyed Pakistan should be exposed, he added. He said all such forces involved in violating constitution should be opposed besides exposing facilitators of PTI chairman. "We have to rise for supremacy of the Parliament as the country can not bear more adventures," he added.



## Abu Dhabi's ADNOC looks to raise up to \$607m from IPO of logistics unit

DUBAI (Agencies): State oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. said on Tuesday it has set a price range for an initial public offering of its marine and logistics unit that could raise up to \$607 million and could give ADNOC Logistics & Services an equity valuation of as much as \$4.05 billion. The price range for the unit was set at 1.99 dirhams (\$0.5420) to 2.01 dirhams per share, the company said in a statement. Cornerstone investors Al Seer Marine Supplies &



Equipment, National Marine Dredging Co., Alpha Oryx Limited and the Abu Dhabi Pension Fund have made a combined commitment of approximately \$180 million. ADNOC would raise between \$601 million and \$607

million from the sale, the statement said. ADNOC is offering about 1.1 billion shares in its maritime logistics services unit, equivalent to 15 percent of its issued share capital. The subscription period for the share offering is to run from May 16 until May 24. Reuters had reported in March that ADNOC was gearing up to list ADNOC L&S in June. This will be the Abu Dhabi oil giant's second IPO this year after it raised \$2.5 billion from its gas business in March.

## Vodafone's new CEO set to axe 11,000 jobs

LONDON (Agencies): British mobile phone giant Vodafone on Tuesday said it planned to axe 11,000 jobs over the next three years as new chief executive Margherita Della Valle seeks a "simpler" organisation. "Our performance has not been good enough. To consistently deliver, Vodafone must change," Della Valle said in a statement. "We will simplify our organisation, cut-



ting out complexity to regain our competitiveness," added Della Valle, appointed CEO on a permanent basis at the start of May after five

months as interim boss. Her predecessor Nick Read stepped down in early December after a four-year tenure marked by a steep fall in the company's share price. He left with Vodafone in talks over merging its UK operations with rival Three UK, owned by Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison. Media reports say a deal worth £15 billion (\$18.7 billion) is close to completion.

## Musk buys Laskie in first acquisition for Twitter

NEW YORK (Agencies): Elon Musk's X Corp, the parent company of Twitter, has made its first acquisition: a tech talent recruiting service called Laskie, according to a person familiar with the matter. The deal, which was part equity and part cash, recently closed, the person said, asking to remain anonymous discussing a private transaction. The company matches tech talent with potential employers, saying on its website that its tool can



"confirm mutual interest, set clear expectations, and give visibility into the hiring process". The acquisition marks one of the billionaire's first major initiatives since he bought the so-

cial media service for US\$44 billion in October. Most of Musk's moves since then have shrunk the service, from firing much of its staff to reducing its server footprint. Musk, who recently appointed a chief executive officer to improve the company's reputation among advertisers, has said he plans to turn Twitter into an "everything app", with a variety of features to entice new users including financial services.

## China's recovery worries mount on weak April data

BEIJING (Agencies): China's economic data for April missed expectations last month, official figures showed Tuesday, as low demand and high youth unemployment led to a patchy recovery after lifting strict Covid rules. Retail sales – a key indicator of domestic consumer activity – grew 18.4% on-year, data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed. The reading was short of the 21.9% forecast in a survey of economists



by Bloomberg, even as shoppers and diners returned to malls and restaurants. Low domestic demand despite low inflation has slowed China's economic recovery. Beijing has set a growth target of around

5% this year, the lowest goal in decades, with Premier Li Qiang warning it "will be no easy task". Zhang Zhiwei, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said: "The growth target for this year is set at a low level, which leaves room for the government to wait and see." Unemployment among China's urban 16-24-year-olds reached a record high of 20% in April, as the services sector was slow to absorb millions of rural migrants flocking to cities.

## Online search to make up lost time with AI

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies): Online search, dominated by Google for 25 years, has become as banal as making a phone call, but it could finally be getting a profound reset thanks to artificial intelligence. The classic search and click made ubiquitous by the Google behemoth is getting a major AI makeover as bots ChatGPT, Bard or Bing see hundreds of millions of web surfers seek answers to life's questions in a new way. "People are realising how many



times they use Google search, not to find a webpage, but to answer a question," said Stefan Sigg, Chief Product Officer at Germany-based Software AG. Microsoft, long considered big tech's boring uncle, has jumped

fearlessly and some say blindly into generative AI search with an update to Bing, the long struggling also-ran to Google. Bing's bot, which was released worldwide after three months of testing, responds directly to a query instead of throwing out a pageful of links for the search user to wade and click through. With a prompt, Bing will compare two products, brainstorm vacation plans or reassuringly help prepare for a job interview, for example.

## Stellantis halts Canada battery plant construction

OTTAWA (Agencies): Auto manufacturer Stellantis halted construction in Canada of a battery plant for electric vehicles, saying Monday that the federal government has not delivered promised incentives. Stellantis and South Korea-based LG Energy Solution had announced with much fanfare a deal in March 2022 to build the plant in Windsor, Ontario. The C\$5 billion (US\$4 billion) joint venture to supply EV batteries for a significant portion of the North American market was billed by Ot-



tawa as the largest-ever investment in the country's auto sector. "As of today, the Canadian government has not delivered on what was agreed to. Therefore Stellantis and LG Energy Solution will begin implementing

their contingency plans," the company said in an email to AFP. "Effective immediately, all construction related to the battery module production on the Windsor site has stopped," it said. As of Monday, a major part of the construction had been completed. The government said negotiations with Stellantis and LGES were ongoing. "We are very supportive of this investment and I am absolutely confident that we're going to get a deal," Deputy prime minister Chrystia Freeland told reporters in Ottawa.

## ECB fines Goldman Sachs €6.6mil for reporting breach

BERLIN (Agencies): The European Central Bank (ECB) has fined US financial giant Goldman Sachs €6.63 million (US\$7.2 million) for misreporting its capital needs, it said on Monday. Goldman Sachs Bank Europe was found to have "breached credit risk reporting rules" in 2019,

2020 and 2021, the ECB said in a statement. "For eight consecutive quarters, the bank reported lower risk-weighted assets for credit risk than it should have done," it said. In particular, Goldman Sachs "misclassified corporate exposures", the Frankfurt-based institution said. "Deficien-

cies in internal controls prevented the bank from detecting this mistake in a timely manner," it added. A spokesman for Goldman Sachs said the bank recognised the "critical importance of our regulatory reporting obligations" and had "taken all necessary steps to fully remediate this legacy issue".

## N. Korean hackers stole US\$721mil in cryptocurrency from Japan

TOKYO (Agencies): Hacker groups affiliated with North Korea have stolen US\$721 million worth of cryptocurrency assets from Japan since 2017, the Nikkei business daily reported today, citing a study by UK blockchain analysis provider Elliptic. The amount is equal to 30% of the total of such losses globally, the Nikkei reported. The report comes



after Group of Seven finance ministers and central bank governors said in a statement on Saturday that

they support measures to counter growing threats from illicit activities by state actors, such as the theft of crypto-assets. According to Elliptic, which conducted the analysis on behalf of the Japanese newspaper, North Korea has stolen a total of US\$2.3 billion in cryptocurrency from businesses between 2017 and 2022.

## Pepe surges 7,000% as 'memecoin' craze spreads

NEW YORK (Agencies): Move over dogecoin? "Memecoins" – a hyper-speculative, ultra-volatile and somewhat peculiar class of crypto – are back in the spotlight after the latest digital token hit the market with stratospheric gains. Pepe, a coin inspired by an anthropomorphised frog popular in internet memes, leapt nearly 7,000% in the 17 days after its April 16 launch, hitting a market value of US\$1.8 billion by May 5, according to data tracker CoinGecko. Pepe's rise has sparked renewed investor interest in memecoins as a whole, with overall trading volumes jumping to US\$2.6 billion in the first week of May from US\$408,000 the week before, data from Dune Analytics data shows. "Memecoins just flare up on occasion, and it'd historically hap-

pened when the market's a bit choppy or sideways," said Todd Groth, head of index research at CoinDesk Indices. "It's almost like if the market is not moving up fast enough, traders find these smaller tokens to trade with." Indeed, the latest memecoin frenzy comes as bitcoin's 2023 rally stalls. The No 1 cryptocurrency has slid 6% since mid-April to US\$27,416. Pepe, which trades for fractions of a cent, was down 60% from its May 5 peak on Monday, though still boasts a market cap of almost US\$740 million. This makes it the third-largest memecoin after dogecoin and shiba inu, both born as internet jokes referencing a Japanese dog breed, which command more than US\$10 billion and US\$5 billion of the market respectively.

## Wells Fargo to pay US\$1bil in shareholder lawsuit

NEW YORK (Agencies): US bank Wells Fargo has agreed to pay US\$1 billion to settle a class action lawsuit by shareholders who accused it of not having changed its management and practices quickly enough after a series of scandals. The agreement has been submitted to a federal judge in Manhattan for approval, according to a document filed Monday. In June 2020, a group of shareholders, including Sweden's Handelsbanken Fonder AB and the Louisi-

ana Sheriffs' Pension & Relief Fund, launched a class action against the San Francisco-headquartered bank. Their lawsuit accused Wells Fargo of shortcomings in strengthening its risk control and compliance following commitments made to regulators in 2018. At the time, the Federal Reserve had forced the bank to submit a plan to take control of the management, accompanied by a temporary asset cap following a series of compliance problems.

## China aims for skilled population, better childcare

HONG KONG (Agencies): China needs to focus on education, science and technology to develop a better-skilled population, the state-backed People's Daily said on Tuesday, adding that the country will strive for a "moderate fertility" level to support economic growth. President Xi Jinping recently attended a meeting concerned with population development, it added to the newspaper describing population development as a major event linked to China's "great rejuvenation". Concerned

about China's first population drop in six decades last year and its rapid ageing, the government has urgently embarked on measures to lift the country's birth rate including financial incentives and boosting childcare facilities. China will double the number of childcare centres by 2025, state-backed broadcaster CCTV said on Tuesday, with the headline "It is no longer difficult to take care of a baby". The number of caregivers per 1,000 people will increase to 4.5 by 2025 from 2.5 in 2022, it added.

## AITi Global buys S'pore wealth firm for Asia expansion

SINGAPORE (Agencies): AITi Global Inc has agreed to buy Singaporean money manager AL Wealth Partners, joining the rush of firms tapping the rapid rise of wealthy families in the city-state and across Southeast Asia. The deal, whose value and terms weren't disclosed, comes amid a surge in the number of multi-family offices in Singapore as more of the ultra-rich are lured by low taxes and relative stability. Industry experts estimate there are about 1,400 family offices in the city-state. "The opportunity set for us is to be the only non-bank glob-

al wealth service for large families," said Robert Weeber, AITi's president of international wealth management. AITi was formed in January through a SPAC deal that combined Alvarium Investments and Tiedemann Wealth Management Holdings. The company had about US\$65 billion in assets under management or advisory as of December. As part of the acquisition, AL Wealth's co-founders Anthonia Hui and Leonardo Drago will join AITi's international wealth management business as head of Singapore and head of Singapore investments, respectively.

## Asian markets wobble as US struggles to reach debt deal

HONG KONG (Agencies): Equities were mixed in Asia on Tuesday as traders grow increasingly concerned that US lawmakers remain far apart in their bid to raise the country's borrowing limit to avert a default. While there is a general feeling an agreement will be reached, Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy warned Monday that staff-level meetings were "not productive at all" and they were "nowhere near reaching a conclusion". For their part, Republicans are demanding spending cuts as a condition for the bill while Democrats want other fiscal-tightening steps that the GOP rejects. US

President Joe Biden, who has expressed confidence the two sides can bridge the gap, is scheduled to meet with McCarthy and other congressional leaders at the White House later Tuesday. McCarthy's comments came after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen again said the government would likely run out of cash on June 1, meaning it would not be able to meet its debt repayment obligations, sparking a potentially devastating default. Meanwhile, two top Federal Reserve officials suggested they were in favour of pausing the central bank's interest rate-hiking drive next month.

## Ex-SVB head says social media 'fuelled' bank run

NEW YORK (Agencies): The former head of Silicon Valley Bank blamed the lender's sudden collapse on a "social media-fueled run" on it, according to congressional testimony released Monday. In a written statement ahead of his first major public appearance Tuesday since the bank's sudden March demise, former chief executive Gregory Becker defended SVB's risk management practices and suggested the 40-year-old California lender fell victim to forces beyond its control, such as the Federal Reserve's abrupt shift in monetary policy to counter inflation. Becker is expected to face tough questioning Tuesday from the Senate Banking Committee.

Part of his written statement focused on the events of March 8, when SVB announced it sold US\$21 billion in assets that day – at a loss of US\$1.8 billion – to raise cash due to a deposit flight. The bank at the time "had sufficient liquidity and was adequately capitalised", Becker said. But later that day another lender, Silvergate Bank, announced it would wind itself down and liquidate – a statement that Becker described as a catalyst for SVB's ultimate demise. Even though the two institutions "were very different banks", SVB had been mentioned in a February newspaper article which discussed the two firms' securities portfolios.



Chelsea job chance for Pochettino to prove he is one of soccer's elite coaches

LONDON (Agencies): Mauricio Pochettino's time in the wilderness looks set to end. And a career that has felt in danger of stagnating could get the jump start it needs. After a year out from soccer, the former Tottenham and Paris Saint-Germain manager is widely expected to take over at Chelsea. There, he would get the chance to realize a burning ambition to conquer the English Premier League and, with that, confirm his status as one of the sport's elite coaches. At times over the past 12 months, it felt like Pochettino possibly



missed out on his chance to secure one of the top jobs in Europe. It was only last summer he left PSG, having won the French league and answered

one of the lingering questions hanging over his career; his ability to win major trophies. But at the end of last season, Manchester United opted for Erik ten Hag when embarking on a reboot at Old Trafford. A few months later, Chelsea turned to Graham Potter after the departure of Thomas Tuchel, signalling a shift toward a new generation of coaches. Even Pochettino's former club, Tottenham, has repeatedly looked elsewhere for answers since his exit in 2019, despite his enduring iconic status among its fans.

Pele's mausoleum in Brazil opens to public

SANTOS (Agencies): The mausoleum built for the goldenasket of Pele was opened for visitors on Monday. On the second floor of a vertical cemetery in Santos, outside Sao Paulo, the mausoleum welcomes fans with two golden statues of Pele; the floor is artificial grass; the walls are images of fans in a stadium; and there's an endless soundtrack of cheers, as if Pelé was still playing. The ceiling above theasket of the three-time World Cup champion is blue. Pele was laid to rest here on Jan. 3, five days after he died



at age 82 of colon cancer. "This was made with a lot of love by people who knew him, who lived with him. It has the essence of what he was," an emotional Edson Cholbi do Nascimento,

one of Pelé's sons, said after a small ceremony with family and friends. The mausoleum was planned by the owner of the cemetery, Pepe Alstut, who died in 2018. Alstut hoped the mausoleum would be on the ninth floor, overseeing the Santos club's Vila Belmiro Stadium, where Pele starred for 18 years. His family, instead, buried him on the second floor so fans could have better access. "I am shaking. The energy of this place is surreal," said Erica Nascimento, a tearful 42-year-old economist.

Liverpool maintain top-four charge to push Leicester closer to relegation

LEICESTER (Agencies): Liverpool maintained their pursuit of Champions League football next season and pushed Leicester ever closer to the Championship as Curtis Jones scored twice in a 3-0 win at the King Power on Monday. Trent Alexander-Arnold rounded off another fine performance in his new hybrid role between right-back and midfield with a stunning strike as Liverpool closed to within one point of the top four. Jurgen Klopp's men still need a late-season



collapse from Newcastle or Manchester United but a seven-game winning streak from the Reds has upped the pressure on their rivals, who both have

three games remaining to Liverpool's two. Seven years on from shocking the world to win the title, Leicester's Premier League days look numbered as they remain two points from safety with two games remaining. The Foxes' defensive frailties were again exposed as a bright start from the hosts was quickly forgotten when Jones struck twice in three minutes just after the half-hour mark. All of the Leicester back four played their part in conceding the crucial opening goal.

Baseball United selects Mumbai as first franchise

DUBAI (Agencies): Baseball United, the first-ever professional baseball league focused on the Middle East and Indian subcontinent, has announced that Mumbai will be home to its first-ever franchise. The franchise will be the first professional baseball team in the history of both India and the broader Gulf Cooperation Council and South Asian region. The team's name will be the Mumbai Cobras, named after a creature revered for its strength,



agility, and resolve, and admired within Hindu teachings and culture. The Indian Cobra is a protected species

within the nation of 1.4 billion people. "This is a historic moment," said Kash Shaikh, president, CEO and co-owner of Baseball United. "For the first time in history, this cricket-loving region will now have a professional baseball franchise. And Mumbai is the ideal city to carry that distinction. It's not only one of the largest and most dynamic cities in the world, but it's also the commercial and entertainment capital of India.

Rivals City,Liverpool lead European giants visiting Asia

TOKYO (Agencies): European giants Manchester City, Liverpool and Bayern Munich will all travel to Asia this summer, after a raft of fixtures around the continent were announced today. Pep Guardiola's City, who are on the cusp of retaining their Premier League crown, will play his former side Bayern and Japanese champions Yokohama F Marinos in friendlies in Tokyo. City will face Marinos on July 23 before taking on Bayern three days later, with both games taking place at Tokyo's Na-



tional Stadium. Bayern will also play J-League side Kawasaki Frontale before travelling to Singapore to take on Liverpool on Aug 2. Jurgen Klopp's Liv-

erpool will play two games in the city state, also squaring off against Leicester on July 30. Tottenham Hotspur, who should have a new coach in by then, will travel to Australia, Thailand and Singapore. Spurs, who are still searching for a full-time manager to replace Antonio Conte, will face West Ham in Perth on July 18, before travelling to Bangkok to play Leicester on July 23. They round their tour off with a game against former coach Jose Mourinho's Roma in Singapore on July 26.

40-gold SEA Games target looks beyond reach

PHNOM PENH (Agencies): Malaysia's target of achieving 40 gold medals at the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games looks impossible with only a day of competition left. After 10 days of competition, the Malaysian contingent has only managed to win 30 gold, 42 silver and 85 bronze medals, or 75% of the target. Malaysia remain in seventh spot, behind even Singapore, which has managed to secure 45 gold, 38 silver and 57 bronze medals. Top of the table are Vietnam (123-100-97),



Thailand (94-76-93) and Indonesia (74-66-92). Malaysia have always finished among the top five in previous SEA Games outings, except for a

sixth-place finish in the 1983 edition in Singapore, and in Hanoi, Vietnam, last year. Yesterday, taekwondo exponent Syafiq Zuber saved the blushes by winning the men's under-80kg event to give Malaysia their 30th gold medal. Today, the medal focus will be on hockey, where the Malaysian men and women have qualified for the final, sepak takraw (inter-regu), table tennis and badminton. The Malaysians will also see action in dance sport, traditional boat race, and kick boxing.

LeBron,Lakers ready to tackle 'monster' Jokic

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers will attempt to overcome the formidable challenge posed by Nikola Jokic and the Denver Nuggets as the Western Conference playoff finals get under way on Tuesday. After struggling through the regular season, the Lakers are within four wins of returning to the NBA Finals after ousting the defending champion Golden State Warriors on Friday. Now James and Lakers defensive star Anthony Davis are plotting an ambush of the top-seeded Nuggets in Game 1 of their best-of-seven Western Conference finals series on Tuesday. The showdown is a rematch of the Lakers-Nuggets 2020 playoff series in the NBA's COVID-19 bubble



in Orlando, when the Lakers won 4-1 before going on to win their 16th championship. Since then, however, Denver have matured significantly, with Jokic winning back-to-back NBA MVP awards in 2021 and 2022 as part of a team that also includes the talented Jamal Murray. James said Monday he has no doubt that the 2023 version of the Nuggets will be a stiffer proposition.

Justin Thomas looking to find results as he defends PGA Championship title



NEW YORK (Agencies): Justin Thomas won the PGA Championship when he least expected it, matching a tournament record last year at Southern Hills when he rallied from seven shots behind in the final round and won in a playoff. Now he's not sure what to expect. That was his only win in the last two years, dating to The Players Championship in 2021. He has fallen out of

the top 10 in the world for the first time in nearly six years. It's not as though he has vanished from the elite in golf. Thomas, who turned 30 last month, is still at No. 13 and still very much a threat to win wherever he plays. It's just he hasn't felt like that very often over the last year, and he went through some stretches where he showed up at a tournament and wasn't sure he could win. "How I described it for a couple months is I've never felt so far and so close at the same time," he said Monday at Oak Hill after playing 18 holes on a pleasant spring day. "That's a very hard thing to explain, and it's also a very hard way to try to compete and win a golf tournament.

Alcaraz gets French Open wake-up call after slumping to 3rd round defeat in Rome

ROME (Agencies): Carlos Alcaraz slumped to a third round defeat at the Italian Open by unheralded Hungarian Fabian Marozsan on Monday, just two weeks before he heads into the French Open as top seed. The 20-year-old Spaniard, who is guaranteed to replace Novak Djokovic as world No. 1 on May 22, had come into the tournament in Rome on the back of wins in Barcelona and Madrid. But the US Open champion was outplayed by 23-year-old Marozsan, losing 6-3, 7-6 (7/4). Marozsan, who is ranked 135th in the world, won the final six points of the second-set tiebreak to give Alcaraz a wake-up call with the French Open starting in less than a fortnight. Alcaraz, who was second seed in Rome but in Paris will be top seed at a Grand Slam for the first time, said he required some sustained training to beef



up his French Open preparations with the clay-court major beginning on May 28. "I'm going to rest a little bit, some days off for me," he said. "I really need some days to reset my mind and be fresh for Roland Garros. "If I want to go to Paris in good shape, I have to practice, to be better. I've been playing so much that I couldn't practice more than three, four days in a row. "It's going to be really helpful for me to have days at home practicing and getting ready to go to Roland Garros."

DAILY HOROSCOPE: MAY 17, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.  
– **ARIES:** You're not making anywhere near as much progress as you hoped you would, but that doesn't mean you should give up and walk away. See if you can use your time in other ways.  
– **TAURUS:** You're in an intensely social mood right now and should be able to figure out what almost anyone is thinking today. Of course, some folks are unreadable, but that shouldn't stop you from guessing.  
– **GEMINI:** Try to pay close attention to those around you today. It's one of those days when the trivialities of life seem even more trivial, and you can tell that something true and real is happening.  
– **CANCER:** Your ability to reach out to people and put them at ease is unbeatable right now, so reassure someone who's stressed out or make a new friend. Whatever happens, it should feel right to you.  
– **LEO:** You may drag your feet on some issue that is important to you, but don't let anyone else's impatience push you

very far. You're right this time even if you can't explain exactly how that works.  
– **VIRGO:** If you're not on the road right now, it's a good time to get out there or at least to make travel plans. Your great energy keeps you grounded and feeling good no matter where you are.  
– **LIBRA:** You've got more going on than anyone realizes today, so show it off! You may find that those who share your beliefs or heritage are more disposed to see it all in the right perspective, though.  
– **SCORPIO:** It's too easy for you to get involved in conflict today thanks to polarizing energy that keeps people at odds with each other. It's a good time to withdraw or make peace with someone.  
– **SAGITTARIUS:** It's a good time to use your mental energy to pick apart a problem that has been niggling in your brain for a long time. You probably know everything you need to know in order to fix it.  
– **CAPRICORN:** Your warm heart is open to everyone today, but especially children. If you've got kids, spend extra time with them. If not, you might want to seek some out and see life from their perspective.  
– **ACQUARIUS:** Today isn't the most exciting time you've ever had, especially around the house! That's not the worst fate, though, because sometimes a little boredom can provoke much greater things.  
– **PISCES:** Your love life gets a boost in some small but pleasant way. If you're involved with someone already, expect a sweet gesture or make one of your own. If not, it's a good time for a date.

F1 Grand Prix organizer Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management launches new events powerhouse

ABU DHABI (Agencies): Abu Dhabi Motorsports Management and Flash Entertainment have officially integrated their activities and operations to launch a new powerhouse that will oversee events, entertainment, and venue management throughout the Middle East and globally. The company has been named Ethara, meaning thrill in Arabic, and will manage live events from offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Riyadh. The new entity will be led by Saif Al-Noaimi, formerly the chief executive officer of ADMM and a Flash board member. The Ethara CEO, said: "By combining our strengths, we are perfectly positioned to make mem-



orable moments that matter. "By integrating the activities and operations of two of Abu Dhabi's pioneering entertainment and event management titans, Ethara will further establish the emirate as an economic engine in the entertainment, event management, and sports industries, locally,

regionally, and internationally. "We have an unrivalled wealth of expertise, experience, knowledge, and skills, which will propel Ethara's success far beyond what either company could achieve alone – all powered by world-class creativity and innovation," Al-Noaimi added.



## Pakistan should seize this historic opportunity as it was at centre of this transformative change, Senator Mushahid

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) organised a seminar titled 'KSA- Iran Rapprochement and its Implications: Way Forward for Pakistan' in Islamabad, featuring renowned speakers. The seminar shed light on the political, economic, and security implications of the KSA-Iran rapprochement for the Middle East, Central Asia, West Asia, South Asia, and Pakistan. Keynote Speaker Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Senate of Pakistan, delivered a compelling address, highlighting the regional impact of the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation. Other eminent speakers included Prof. Dr Syed Ri-



faat Hussain, Former Member of the Prime Minister Advisory Committee on Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Rif-fat Masood, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran; and Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Additional Secretary (Middle East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan. The seminar concluded with the remarks of President CASS Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), and Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, Advisor, Foreign Policy at

CASS, moderated the proceedings. Keynote Speaker Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Senate of Pakistan, delivered a compelling address, highlighting the regional impact of the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation. Other eminent speakers included Prof. Dr Syed Rifaat Hussain, Former Member of the Prime Minister Advisory Committee on Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Rif-fat Masood.

## NATO creeping into Asia – North Korea



PYONGYANG (Agencies): The DPRK slammed Tokyo's plans to open the first Asia-based liaison office for the US-led military bloc FILE PHOTO: US President Joe Biden meets with the leaders of South Korea and Japan during a NATO summit in Madrid, Spain, June 29, 2022. North Korea's Foreign Ministry has claimed the NATO bloc is seeking to increase its influence in Asia, citing the alliance's growing "military collusion" with Japan, which hosted a delegation from the security collective last month to discuss ways to step up cooperation. In comments carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Monday, an official with the Foreign Ministry's Japan Research Center, Kim Seol-hwa, said Washington is gradually pushing NATO into Asia through partnerships with regional powers. "It is an open secret that the United States... has been trying to create a military alliance like this in the Asia-Pacific region," he said, adding that the "recent unprecedented military collusion between Japan and NATO is arousing great concern and alertness in the international community."

## FBI should never have investigated Trump – report



HOUSTON (Agencies): Special counsel John Durham concluded that the FBI should never have launched a full investigation into former US President Donald Trump's campaign and its alleged ties to Russia during the 2016 presidential election, according to a report compiled over a three-year period which was released Monday. "We conclude that the (Justice) Department and FBI failed to uphold their important mission of strict fidelity to the law in connection with certain events and activities described in this report," Durham wrote. Durham, a Trump-administration appointee, said the FBI used "raw, unanalyzed, and uncorroborated intelligence" to launch the "Crossfire Hurricane" investigation into Trump and Russia. In contrast, he said the agency used a different standard when weighing concerns about alleged election interference regarding Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton's campaign. "Neither U.S. law enforcement nor the intelligence community appears to have possessed any actual evidence of collusion in their holdings at the commencement of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation," Durham continued. Despite his findings of the FBI's wrongdoing, the special counsel did not recommend any new charges against individuals or "wholesale changes" regarding how the FBI handles politically charged investigations.

## US-made Patriot missiles destroyed in hypersonic strike – Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies): A precision strike by a Russian hypersonic Kinzhal missile has destroyed a Patriot air defense system in Kiev, the Defense Ministry in Moscow reported on Tuesday. The Ukrainian government previously claimed that Kinzhal missiles had been intercepted by the US-made weapons platform. The Russian military did not provide further details about the strike, which was the first time Moscow claimed to have hit the long-range system supplied to Ukraine by its Western backers. Kiev reported that it had withstood a massive missile attack by Russian forces on Monday night. The Ukrainian mili-



tary claimed to have intercepted six Kinzhal missiles, in addition to various other aerial targets. The Russian ministry confirmed the attack in a daily briefing on Tuesday, stating that it had used long-range precision weapons to hit military targets, including "Ukrainian troops positions and places of storage of munitions, weapons and military hardware delivered from Western nations."

## Ukraine reports 'exceptional' Russian strikes on targets in Kiev

KIEV (Agencies): The capital was targeted by the most missiles in the shortest timespan so far, Ukrainian military says FILE PHOTO: Missiles contrails are seen in the sky over Kiev. Russia conducted an "integrated attack" of targets in Kiev in the early hours of Tuesday that was "exceptional in its density," a Ukrainian military official has said. The bombardment involved drones, cruise missiles and possibly ballistic missiles, the head of Kiev's military administration, Sergey Popko, wrote on Telegram. "The maximum number of attacking missiles was launched in the shortest period of time," he said. Popko claimed the "majority of enemy targets in the airspace of Kiev were detected and de-

stroyed." The Telegram channel of the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, General Valery Zaluzhny, later claimed that a total of 18 missiles were launched at Kiev overnight, including six Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, nine Kalibr cruise missiles fired from ships in the Black Sea, and three ground-launched Iskander ballistic missiles. Kiev Mayor Vitaly Klitschko wrote on Telegram that debris from the missiles fell onto at least three districts of the city. Several cars were damaged and caught fire, but there were no injuries among the population, the former boxing champion said. Kiev zoo was also affected. However, there was no fire and the animals remained unhurt, Klitschko added.

## France wants to sanction football players for rejecting LGBTQ jerseys

PARIS (Agencies): Several athletes chose not to play over the weekend rather than wear a shirt with a rainbow-colored number. A number of professional football players in France have drawn the ire of the nation's sports ministry for refusing to take part in an annual league-wide anti-homophobia campaign, French media have reported. Over the weekend, all teams in France's Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 divisions were required to wear uniforms featuring rainbow-colored numbers on the back as part of the initiative. However, players from several clubs, including Toulouse FC's Zakaria Aboukhallal and Nantes' Mostafa Mohamed, were omitted from the roster after they refused to wear

the jerseys. Aboukhallal, who is Moroccan, wrote on social media that he "made the decision not to take part in the match" over the weekend and noted that he had "the highest regard for each individual, without judging their personal preferences, gender, religion, or background. It is a principle." "Respect is a value that I hold in high regard. This applies to others, but also to my own beliefs. I do not think I am the right person to participate in this campaign," he wrote, asking for his decision to be respected. In response, French Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera called for the players who refused to participate in the anti-homophobia campaign to be sanctioned by their respective clubs.

## Afghan refugees in UK receive eviction notices from home secretary

LONDON (Agencies): Afghan refugee families in the UK have been handed eviction notices in the name of Home Secretary Suella Braverman, The Guardian reported on Tuesday. Many of the families had earlier been moved from London to Yorkshire, and for some, the pending eviction will be the fourth time they have been relocated since arriving in Britain. Braverman signed the letters, which said: "For the avoidance of doubt, if possession is not delivered upon by the notice date, you will be a trespasser and the secretary of state for the home department shall be at liberty to evict you from the property." The Afghan families were invited to the UK as part of Operation Pitting, Britain's evacuation mission from Kabul in mid-2021. In March, the UK government announced that it



was ending its support of temporary hotels and accommodation for Afghan refugees, sending notice that families must accept the first offer of housing from the Home Office. About 24,500 people were affected by the move. However, some families told The Guardian that slow bureaucracy had affected their ability to find their own housing. Mohamed, one Afghan resident, said: "There has been problems for all of us — with either the guarantor, the deposit or the eligibility of the local authority, or not having a job. "This

## BISP one of the best social safety programmes of developing world, Marri

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin called on the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety & Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri at BISP headquarters. In the meeting both sides discussed the bilateral issues and agreed to work together for exchange of experiences in the fields of education, culture, and particularly in the field of social protection. Ms. Marri while highlighting the similarities of common cultural and religious heritage of Pakistan and Kazakhstan said that connectivity between the brotherly countries is vital to enhance mutual cooperation. She also emphasized on strengthening bilateral relationship at governmental level as well as the



people to people contacts. Ms Shazia Marri, on this occasion, presented brochure on Benazir Income Support Programme and traditional gift of Sindhi Ajrak to the visiting diplomat. H. E. Yerzhan Kistafin appreciated the warm welcome extended by the Federal Minister and said that Benazir Income Support Programme is one of the best social safety programmes of the developing world. He said that such programmes of direct cash transfer to the most vulnerable segments of the society need to be replicated in other countries as well.

## Singapore loosens egg-freezing rules amid record low birth rates



SINGAPORE (APP): The age limit for women seeking to freeze their eggs will be 37, rather than the initially announced 35. Singapore has further relaxed its restrictions on women freezing their eggs, raising the age cap for the procedure from 35 to 37, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social and Family Development announced on Monday, with the new regulations set to take effect in July. The move comes as Singapore's birth rate has dropped to just 1.05 babies per woman, the lowest ever recorded for the city-state since it began keeping track over six decades ago. The replacement fertility rate – the number of babies needed to maintain a population at a constant level – is 2.1 births per woman. At the same time, the median age of first-time motherhood in Singapore has jumped from 30.3 in 2013 to 31 in 2020. The government explained that its decision was informed by international and local evidence showing the success rate of the procedure for women up to 37 years old to be "relatively stable" and claimed to have taken into account the desire of women to extend their fertile years due to "personal circumstances," such as not being able to find a suitable partner. The new rules will apply to both women seeking to freeze their eggs and egg donors. Only legally married couples may use their eggs to procreate. Singapore only began allowing single women to freeze their eggs for non-medical reasons last year, opening the door to women aged 21 to 35 who wanted to preserve their eggs until they were legally married to do so. Women hoping to raise children outside of marriage or in same-sex relationships cannot legally freeze their eggs. Previously, the procedure was restricted to women suffering from medical conditions that impacted their fertility, such as ovarian cancer.

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