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US imposes sanctions on major Syria financial facilitators

The US Treasury Department announced, Tuesday, on two Syrian money service businesses and allies of Hezbollah and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) for secretly helping the regime under Bashar Al-Assad maintain access to the international financial system in violation of international sanctions, Reuters reports. The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Al-Fadel Exchange, headquartered in Damascus, which has facilitated millions of dollars in transfers since 2021 to accounts at the US-designated Central Bank of Syria that benefit the Syrian government and Al-Assad, according to a statement by the Agency. The US also sanctioned Al-Adham Exchange Company, headquartered in Damascus, which facilitated millions of dollars in transfers since 2021 to accounts at the Central Bank of Syria that



directly benefit the Syrian government and Al-Assad. OFAC is also designating three brothers, Fadel Ma'ruf Balwi (Fadel Balwi), Mut'i Ma'ruf Balwi (Mut'i Balwi) and Muhammad Ma'ruf Balwi (Muhammad Balwi) who own and operate Al-Fadel Exchange. The brothers were the only individuals authorised by the Central Bank of Syria to work on behalf of Hezbollah. Fadel Balwi and Muhammad Balwi moved billions of Syrian pounds within Syria in 2022 on behalf of the Syrian government, according to the Agency. As of late 2022, the Al-Adham Exchange

Company regularly moved money abroad for the Central Bank of Syria. "These designations are pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 13582 of 17 August, 2011, 'Blocking Property of the Government of Syria and Prohibiting Certain Transactions With Respect to Syria', and also the Caesar Syrian Civilian Protection Act 2019 ('Caesar Act'), and underscore the serious threat posed by actors in the financial system who actively enable violent regimes to circumvent sanctions," said the Treasury Department. Persons that, in certain transactions with those designated Tuesday, may be exposed to sanctions or subject to an enforcement action, it said. The sanctions build on wider efforts to deny Hezbollah and Iran the financial resources used to sustain malign activities in the region, US State Secretary, Anthony Blinken, said in a separate statement.

Covid: Top Chinese scientist says don't rule out lab leak

LONDON (Agencies): The possibility the Covid virus leaked from a laboratory should not be ruled out, a former top Chinese government scientist has told BBC News. As head of China's Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Prof George Gao played a key role in the pandemic response and efforts to trace its origins. China's government dismisses any suggestion the disease may have originated in a Wuhan laboratory. But Prof Gao is less forthright. In an interview for the BBC Radio 4 podcast Fever: The Hunt for Covid's Origin, Prof Gao says: "You can always suspect anything. That's science. Don't rule out anything." A world-leading virologist and immunologist, Prof Gao is now vice-president of the National Natural Science Foundation of China after retiring from the CDC last year. In a possible sign that the Chinese government may have taken the lab leak theory more seriously than its official statements suggest, Prof Gao also tells the BBC some kind of formal investigation into the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) was carried out. "The government organised something," he says, but adds that it did not involve his own department, the China CDC. We asked him to clarify whether that meant another branch of government carried out a formal search of the WIV - one of China's top national laboratories, known to have spent years studying coronaviruses.

Teen girl in India stabbed to death in public, reigniting outrage over violence against women

NEW DELHI (Agencies): A 16 year-old girl was brutally stabbed and bludgeoned to death in a busy public alleyway in India's capital on Sunday, sparking renewed outrage over the safety of women in the country and violence perpetrated by men. Video of the incident, which lasted for more than a minute and was captured on security camera, shows multiple people walking close by as the attacker repeatedly strikes the victim. Only one man is shown attempting to intervene, trying to pull the attacker off the victim before quickly retreating. The body of the victim, who has not been identified, was found Sunday evening in the Shahbad Dairy area of the northern Delhi neighborhood of Rohini, where the incident took place. On Monday afternoon, Indian police said they had arrested a male suspect named Sahil in connection with the murder.

China declined high-profile meeting – Pentagon

WASHINGTON (Agencies): China has rejected Washington's proposal that their defense chiefs meet this week, the Pentagon said on Monday. The news comes amid a renewed diplomatic spat between the two counties. "Overnight, the PRC informed the US that they have declined our early May invitation for Secretary [Lloyd] Austin to meet with PRC Minister of National Defense Li Shangfu in Singapore," the Pentagon said in a statement to the Wall Street Journal, referring to the People's Republic of China. "The Department believes strongly in the importance of maintaining open lines of military-to-military communication between Washington and Beijing to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict," the statement read. The WSJ cited an unnamed US defense official as saying that China's dismissal was "an unusually blunt message."



According to the report, the Pentagon had wanted the meeting to take place on the sidelines of the annual Shangri-La Dialogue security forum. Li will speak at the event as part of his trip to Singapore from May 31 to June 4, the Chinese Defense Ministry said. The Pentagon said last week that attempts to establish contacts with their Chinese counterparts in recent months have failed. The Financial Times reported this month that Beijing told Washington that there was "little chance" for a meeting between Li and Austin because of the sanctions placed on the Chinese defense minister over his alleged role in the purchase of Russian weapons.

Ukraine Parliament adopts 50-year Iran sanctions Bill

Ukrainian legislators have approved a Bill imposing 50 years of sanctions on Iran over its supply of drones to Russia, a lawmaker said, Anadolu Agency reports. Yaroslav Zheleznyak said on Telegram, Monday, which the Parliament, also known as the Verkhovna Rada, approved the Bill with 328 votes in favour of the measures. The Bill completely bans trade with Iran, as well as the transit of resources, flights and other transportation bound for Iran through the territory of Ukraine, and freezes assets held by residents of Iran, according to local news agency, Ukrinform. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy submitted the draft bill to the Verkhovna Rada on



Sunday, according to Ukrainian news agency, Ukrinform, further saying that the draft bill serves to "approve the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine (NSDC)". The NSDC's decision was put into effect by a presidential decree on Saturday.

Dozens of NATO peacekeepers injured during clashes in northern Kosovo

KOSOVO (CNN): At least 34 soldiers of NATO's peacekeeping mission in Kosovo were injured during clashes with protesters in the northern part of the country Monday, according to the Italian defense ministry. Tensions have risen in the past week after ethnically Albanian mayors took office in northern Kosovo, a majority Kosovo Serb area, following April elections that Kosovo Serbs had boycotted. NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) said the recent developments prompted them to increase their presence in northern Kosovo on Monday morning, which they later said turned violent. The Italian defense ministry said 14 of its KFOR peacekeeping soldiers were injured when protesters threw "Molo-

tov cocktails, with nails, firecrackers and stones inside." Hungarian and Moldovan soldiers were also among the injured peacekeeping troops, according to the Italian defense ministry. "Italian and Hungarian KFOR contingent were the subject of unprovoked attacks and sustained trauma wounds with fractures and burns due to the explosion of incendiary devices," it said, adding that KFOR medical units treated the soldiers. Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed her sympathy for the Italian KFOR soldiers injured in the clashes, adding in a statement, "What is happening is absolutely unacceptable and irresponsible. We will not tolerate further attacks on KFOR."

Shanghai records its highest May temperature in more than 100 years

Shanghai (CNN): The Chinese city of Shanghai recorded its highest May temperature in more than 100 years on Monday, hitting a record 36.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 97 degrees Fahrenheit). The previous record of 35.7 degrees Celsius (96.3 degrees Fahrenheit) was first recorded in May 1876 and has been reached just three other times since including 1903, 1915 and 2018, state media reported. It is unknown when the city began keeping temperature records. Monday's record-breaking heat wave for May was recorded in the city's Xuhui district, state media CCTV reported, citing the Shanghai Meteorological Department. Earlier Monday, the Shanghai Meteorological Department issued its

first high temperature alert of the year as temperatures in the city surpassed 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) for three consecutive days. This comes after a heat wave swept through China in July, with residents resorting to air raid shelters and public fountains to stay cool. Across the entirety of 2022, Shanghai recorded 50 days of temperatures over 35 degrees Celsius. Shanghai's current temperature alert level is yellow, the lowest of the three tiers. An orange warning comes into effect if the maximum temperature is expected to rise above 37 degrees Celsius within 24 hours, and red means temperatures are expected to reach over 40 degrees Celsius in the coming 24 hours.

Ugandan president signs one of the world's harshest anti-LGBTQ bills into law

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has signed some of the harshest anti-LGBTQ laws in the world, the speaker of parliament said, defying international pressure, including from the United States which said it was "deeply troubled." The bill includes the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality" which includes sex with a minor, having sex while HIV positive and incest. The bill criminalizes sex education for the gay community and makes it illegal not to expose what it calls perpetrators of aggravated homosexuality to the police. It calls for "rehabilitation" - widely discredited conversion therapy - for gay offenders. Museveni sent the bill back to parliament for revisions earlier this year. The latest version of the bill passed earlier this month. Uganda's longtime president has already faced

extensive criticism from Western governments over the law. "The United States is deeply troubled by Uganda's passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, a law that undermines the human rights, prosperity, and welfare of all Ugandans," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement on Monday. Blinken added that the law would damage Uganda's "reputation as a destination for investment, development, tourism, and refugees," and he said he had directed the State Department to update the guidance for Americans traveling to Uganda. The speaker of the parliament Anita Annet Among celebrated the bill's signing, saying parliament had "answered the cries of our people." "I thank His Excellency, the president, for his steadfast action in the interest of Uganda."

31 billionaires are worth more than the US Treasury

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Thirty-one billionaires are currently wealthier than the US Treasury, which had just \$38.8 billion in cash on hand at the close of business on Friday. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned that if the borrowing limit is not raised by June 5, the country will default on its debts for the first time in history, sending shockwaves through the world economy. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, 18 Americans are actually wealthier than the country they call home, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, and Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison. Google's Larry Page and Sergey Brin can also claim to be richer than their country, as can the Walton family

behind Wal-Mart. Bernard Arnault, the French CEO of luxury conglomerate LVMH, knocked Musk out of the number-one spot after Musk's \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter, which he has admitted was not "financially smart." While US President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached a tentative deal to raise the debt ceiling over the weekend, the text of which was released on Sunday ahead of what is likely to be a Wednesday vote in the House, many in both parties have raised objections to some parts of the agreement. If the debt limit is not raised by June 5, the Treasury will be unable to make the \$92 billion in spending commitments scheduled for that week, forcing it to pick and choose which obligations it honors.

China sends first civilian astronaut to space as Shenzhou-16 blasts off

BEIJING (Agencies): China sent its first civilian astronaut into orbit on Tuesday, as it launched the Shenzhou-16 mission to its space station for its second in-orbit crew rotation, marking another step forward for the country's ambitious space program. The three Shenzhou-16 astronauts blasted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the desert of China's Gansu province at 9:31 a.m. on Tuesday morning, headed for the Tiangong space station orbiting earth. The crew - Jing Haipeng, Zhu Yangzhu, and Gui Haichao - will take over from the Shenzhou-15 astronauts, who have been abroad China's newly completed Tiangong space station since November, to start their own five-month stint aboard the station. The school and



years of working in British television, he made his film debut in Paul Greengrass's 1998 film The Theory of Flight. It is China's fifth manned mission to the space station since 2021. The Shenzhou-15 crew aboard the station were pictured watching the launch of their replacement crew via live stream. The two crews were expected to meet on the station around 6.5 hours time after the launch, state media said.

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.

Governor for uninterrupted power supply to 100pc recovery areas

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali Tuesday directed PESCO to provide uninterrupted power supply to areas with 100 per cent recovery. Chairing a high-level meeting on electricity load shedding and other issues here at Governor House, he asked Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO) to chalk out a mechanism to provide power supply to consumers who pay their 100pc bills in areas of power pilferage. The meeting discussed problems and sufferings being faced by the people

due to an unannounced power outage in Peshawar city. Issues related to the timely repair of damaged transformers, replacement of damaged wires, and prevention of electricity theft were also discussed. He said that WAPDA should create a proper mechanism for electricity supply among bill payers and non-bill payers. The governor deplored that people collect donations at the street and neighbourhood level to get the damaged transformer fixed. He said that PESCO and WAPDA should know which and when a trans-

former needs to be replaced. He directed PESCO SDOs to maintain close contact with the public so that there is no public protest for load shedding and timely relief could be provided to people. The meeting was attended by Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali, PESCO Chief Arif Mahmood Sadozai, Arbab Farooq XEN Rural, Shahid Afridi XEN Cantt, Abdul Rauf XEN City, Gohar Rahman Superintendent Engineer Khyber, Principal Secretary Governor Mazhar Irshad and other officials of WAPDA.

2528 involved in violent protests arrested in KP: Report

PESHAWAR (APP): A report prepared by the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday revealed that so far 2528 protestors involved in violent riots of 9th,10th and 11th May have been arrested across the province. The report prepared with regard to damages to the government installations and arrests of the involved people said that 2723 accused of vandalism were identified through the 575 CCTV footage. It said that 295 accused were identified through the NADRA database. The two main ac-

cused of the attack on Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar and the desecration of the statue of Karnal Sher Khan have also been arrested. The report further informed that 90 police personnel sustained injuries during the violent protests while 84 FIRs have been registered of which 18 were registered under the terrorism acts. The report said in Peshawar 8690 protestors attended the violent protests at 10 different places of Peshawar on 9th May while on 10th May 3400 protestors resorted to violent protests at 9

places. On 11th May 2910 protestors gathered at 6 places of the provincial metropolis. Two of the employees sustained injuries when protestors set the building of Radio Pakistan on fire. The protestors also ransacked the office of the Provincial Election Commission. It was told in the report that 250 police personnel stopped the protestors from entering the red zone in Peshawar saying that Governor's House, Corps Commander's House, Assembly building, High Court and IB Headquarters were the targets of the protestors.

Khyber Teaching Hospital rebuts news of child’s death due to non-availability of anti-venom

PESHAWAR (APP): The adminis-

GOLD PRICE IN PAK

| Gold Rate | 24K Gold | 22K Gold | 21K Gold | 18K Gold |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Per Tola Gold | Rs 233,300 | Rs 213,857 | Rs 204,137 | Rs 174,975 |
| Per 10 Gram | Rs 200,017 | Rs 183,348 | Rs 175,015 | Rs 150,013 |
| Per Gram Gold | Rs 20,002 | Rs 18,335 | Rs 17,502 | Rs 15,001 |
| Per Ounce | Rs 567,041 | Rs 519,785 | Rs 496,161 | Rs 425,280 |

FOREX RATES

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 313 | 316 |
| China Yuan | 40.34 | 40.74 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.18 | 2.41 |
| Saudi Riyal | 82.7 | 83.5 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 84.9 | 85.7 |
| UK Pound | 382 | 385 |
| Euro | 331.5 | 334.5 |
| Australian Dollar | 201 | 203 |
| Canadian Dollar | 228 | 230.2 |

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 |
| Irnarn Hospital | 091-9216115 |
| Mission Hospital | 091-2212371 |
| Al-Khidmat Hospital | 091-2215945 |
| Fauji Foundation Hospital | 091-9212771-4 |
| Frontier Foundation Blood Services | 091-5703463 |
| Hamza Foundation, Peshawar | 091-5841632 |
| Sui Gas, Peshawar | 091-9213016 |
| Wapda Complaint Peshawar | 091-9212041 |
| PIA, Peshawar | 091-9213351 |
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tration of Khyber Teaching Hospital (KTH) has rebutted a news report appeared in a section of press that a ten years old boy was brought to KTH after visiting different hospitals in the city for treatment of a snake bite, but he died due to non-availability of anti-venom. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, the administration of KTH while expressing grief over the sad demise of the minor also rebutted the news report. The child was brought to the hospital on May 24, 2023, in precarious condition due to a snake bite and was forthwith shifted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for treatment, adds the statement. According to doctors, the venom had spread in the whole body of the boy at the time of his arrival, and kidneys were also damaged. The boy was kept in ICU for two days and provided full medical care for saving the life of the minor victim of a snake bite, but he breathed his lost on May 26, the statement continued.

Seminar on “Subsurface Geophysical Imaging of Solid Waste Management Dump Site: Implications for Soil and Ground Water” held at UET Peshawar



PESHAWAR (Staff Report): A one-day seminar on “Subsurface Geophysical Imaging of Solid Waste Management Dump Site: Implications for Soil and Ground Water”, was held at UET Peshawar on 26 th May 2023. The seminar was jointly organized by the Pakistan Scientific and Technological Information Center (PASTIC), Agricultural Engineering Department (AED) UET Peshawar and National Center of Excellence in Geology (NCEG), University of Peshawar at UET Peshawar. The resource persons of the seminar were Dr. Khurram Sheraz, Assistant Professor, AED and Dr. Muhammad Younas Khan, Assistant Professor, NCEG, University of Peshawar. The chief organizer of this seminar was Dr. Muhammad Ajmal, Associate Professor, AED, UET Peshawar. The seminar was aimed to update the audience especially students about how to use the new techniques in identi-

fying soil and groundwater contamination and sustainably prevent soil and groundwater degradation to live a healthy life. The seminar was attended by the faculty and students from different universities including the Department of Agricultural Engineering UET Peshawar, the NCEG, Peshawar University, and the Department of Geology, the Islamia College University Peshawar. Mrs. Ghazala Ali Khan, Additional Director PASTIC, Dr. Liaqat Ali (Guest of honor), Director NCEG, University of Peshawar, and Dr. Abdur Raziq from Islamia College University, Peshawar were also present on the occasion. The shields of acknowledgment and certificates of appreciation were presented to the resource persons, Chief Organizer, Guest of Honor, and Chairman, AED UET Peshawar. In addition, certificates of participation were also distributed among the attendees.

Two brick kilns sealed over child labour

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration on Tuesday sealed two brick kilns and arrested the managers for hiring underage children as labour-

ers in Sorzai area here. Meanwhile on public complaints, the administration also sealed two godowns of coal on Inqalab road and arrested the managers.

PO among four suspects held

PESHAWAR (APP): The district police on Tuesday arrested one proclaimed offender and three suspected persons along with illegal weapons. According to spokesman of district police, Shaheed Gulfat Hussain police station, Khyber arrested a proclaimed offender Sultan Mohammad, who was wanted by police in a murder case along with an illegal weapon. The arrested PO killed a person Rehman Shah in district Khyber on March 10, 2023 over a property dispute and since then he was at large.

Meanwhile, Gulbahar police arrested three suspects during snap checking and recovered illegal weapons from their custody. The suspected persons including Adil Khan, Kashif and Muhammad Wali were residents of Bahadur Kale and Garhi Mosam areas of Khyber district and carrying illegal prohibited weapons in a car. The police recovered two Kalashnikovs, two pistols, several magazines, cartridges and a suspicious vehicle and shifted the accused to Gulbahar police station for further interrogation.

Drive against profiteers and hoarders continues in Abbottabad

ABBOTTABAD (APP): District administration Abbottabad drive against profiteers and hoarders Tuesday continued on the second consecutive day and took strict action against the shopkeepers to enforce a rate list of food items and beverages. Additional Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Ibrar Mahmood, ensured the supply of chicken at the prescribed rates and conducted raids on four different shops and malls in Jhangi. During the inspection, one shopkeeper was fined for violating regulations, while others were given instructions and warnings. Additional Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad, Ali Sher Khan Khilji, inspected petrol pumps, CNG

stations, and markets to assess fire safety measures. He examined the quantity and prices of petrol with the team, inspected the supply of CNG, and conducted a visit to petrol pumps and markets for fire prevention. Instructions were issued regarding the provision of safety equipment. Besides Abbottabad, the district administration is also taking action regarding price control in other parts of the district and Additional Assistant Commissioner Havelian Lubna Iqbal inspected the markets in the city and ensured implementation of the rate list. The district administration also requested citizens to inform us about their complaints regarding the rate list in the district control room.

HEC squash team bags bronze medal by finishing third in the 34th National Games

PESHAWAR (APP): In the 34th National Games that concluded in Quetta, the Higher education Commission (HEC) Squash team participated under the captaincy of international squash player from University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar student Khushhal Riaz Khan. According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the HEC squad consisted of Government College University Lahore's Uzair Rashid, Mutahir Ali, and Jawad Khan, while Shahram Changezi was the team manager. The squash team of HEC was unbeaten in the first, second and third rounds, in which HEC defeated the strong squash teams of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab respectively, as well as Azad Kashmir by 3-0 each to reach the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, HEC faced defending champion and 34th National Games winners WAPDA, which featured world-renowned, experienced, and professional players

like former Asian champions Danish Atlas, Farhan Mahboob and Nasir Iqbal. Both Khushhal Riaz and Mutahir Ali played well against Nasir Iqbal and Farhan Mehboob respectively but unfortunately, they lost in a close finish. HEC won the bronze medal by securing the third position on the victory stand, adds the press release. While talking to the media during the prize distribution ceremony, HEC captain Khushhal Riaz Khan said that despite not getting enough time to prepare for the major sports event of the National Games, the HEC squash team performed well. Credit for this success goes to the team players, Higher Education Commission, team coach Zulfiqar Ali and manager Shahram he added. Khushhal thanked the administration of UET Peshawar, Director Sports, Muhammad Ali and his coach Amjad Khan for providing him with all support and training to give an excellent performance in this mega championship.

Chief Secretary reviews progress of deworming campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary on Tuesday chaired a meeting to discuss the progress of the deworming initiative for school-age children in the province. During the meeting, an in-depth review of the ongoing program was conducted, highlighting the significant achievements and impact of the initiative. The deworming program, which aims to combat worm infections in children, has proven to be highly successful. Reports indicated that in 2022 alone, the program reached an impressive coverage of 5 million children across 22,797 schools in 22 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This remarkable achievement was built upon the earlier successes of the program, which provided deworming treatment to 3.8 million children in 2021, and 2.7 million children in 2019, spanning various districts and schools. Chaudhary stressed the severity of worm infections in children, highlighting their detrimental consequences on their health, education, and overall productivity. He emphasized the urgent need to effectively address and combat worm infections among school-age children. The deworming initiative in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has played a pivotal role in improving the health and well-being of millions of children.

Social media helps reunite man with family after 53 years

PESHAWAR (APP): A man who went to Iran in 1971 and since then had no contact with his family, reunited the other day with his nears and dears in Usherai Darra of Upper Dir district via social media some days back. His family member Ehsan talking to local media said Mumtaz Khan, alias Multanay was missing for the last 53 years and now they had contacted Mumtaz Khan through a social media platform. The arrangements were made for his

return to his native village while the atmosphere of jubilation prevailed in the area on Mumtaz Khan's arrival to home as a large number of local people and relatives came out to see and welcome him. The people presented garlands and felicitated Mumtaz Khan on his return. Mumtaz said that he could not describe his feeling after reuniting with his family and had forgotten the sketches of relatives, adding that everything has changed in the village.



-Your Source for Alternate News-

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Yasin Malik Death Sentence

On Friday, India's top anti-terrorism investigation agency once again sought the death sentence for Muhammad Yasin Malik, the chief of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). Considering that the court has in the past turned down the plea for capital punishment, the Indian establishment seems determined to send the veteran Kashmiri leader to the gallows. Yasin Malik was convicted under the dreaded Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and sentenced by a trial court last year for allegedly raising funds to finance terrorism, and waging war against India. These were trumped up charges to get rid of the leader, but the court thankfully disagreed and argued that the charges did not merit capital punishment. However, not satisfied with Mr Malik serving a life term, the National Investigation Agency is approaching the Delhi High Court again seeking the death penalty. Mr Malik's conviction reeks of political vengeance, and the calls for his hanging reflect a desire by India's rulers to send a chilling message to all those raising a voice for occupied Kashmir. The charges being brought forth are laughable as they include pelting stones at security forces, burning of schools, and damage to public property. It must be pointed out that Mr Malik gave up the armed struggle in the mid-1990s, and since then has been leading a non-violent struggle for the liberation of his homeland. Leading human rights groups have termed UAPA a "draconian" law, with Amnesty International pointing out that parts of the legislation "do not meet international human rights standards". Sentencing someone to death over such farcical charges, under a problematic law, would be a travesty of justice. In fact, even Kashmir politicians with proximity to the state have opposed the death sentence for Mr Malik. One can only hope that better sense prevails and that the judiciary throws out this questionable case.

Washington's obsession with crushing Russia has dismantled its Middle East agenda

– By Robert Inlakesh

Prioritizing efforts to weaken Moscow, Washington has let slip its grasp elsewhere and failed to wake up to the multipolar world it now finds itself in

Once the undisputed hegemonic power in the Middle East, thought to be indispensable for the security and success of a range of regional leaderships, the US has been fading into the background to the benefit of its adversaries. As armed conflict erupted between NATO-backed Ukraine and Russia in February of 2022, the Joe Biden administration in Washington decided to throw its weight behind Kiev and focus on a project to bog down Moscow, while unleashing wave after wave of sanctions. Despite spending at least \$75 billion dollars on assistance to Ukraine and making Russia the most sanctioned nation on earth, the US has failed to bring Moscow to its knees. In fact, one could say that it is the US that has been cut down to size in the global arena, especially in the Middle East, an area it once considered its own backyard. As the months pass, blow after blow has been inflicted on US power in the Middle East. In direct opposition to Washington's agenda, the Syrian Arab Republic was readmitted to the Arab League following a 12-year hiatus, paving the way to end the crisis in Syria, which the US seeks to prolong. China has also entered Middle East politics in a dramatic way, brokering an Iranian-Saudi rapprochement back in March, and this then spurred a wider normalization wave. Although the US attempted to play off the Saudi Arabia-Iran agreement as an acceptable and welcomed move, this has now clearly worked to collapse Washington's long-term effort towards regional supremacy, which was based on feeding a proxy conflict between the two powers.

The failure of US sanctions
Western leaders publicly predicted that Russia's economy would collapse under sanctions, a result which clearly has not materialized, with the IMF predicting the Russian economy will grow. Similarly, the US "maximum pressure" sanctions that were first introduced against Iran under the Trump administration, were expected to severely hinder the Islamic Republic's ability to continue its developments in

the defense field, but have failed to achieve those goals. Russia is now exporting more oil than it did in 2021, as its relations with China, the primary global competitor to the US, have advanced. Gulf States have also repeatedly let the US down and refrained from yielding to pressure to cut oil production. There is also the example of Algeria, which has become Italy's largest gas supplier and raked in over \$50 billion dollars in oil and gas revenues during 2022 alone, even as it retains close relations with Moscow. And when it comes to the West's ban on Russian gold bullion, the UAE, Türkiye and China have reportedly stepped in to fill the gap. However, perhaps the worst blowback against Russia sanctions has been the nullification of previous limits to Moscow-Tehran economic relations. The two nations are already the most sanctioned on earth, so they need not worry about the potential consequences from their trade, which has encouraged further cooperation between them. Recently, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi signed a deal to finance an Iranian railway line as part of a North-South Transport Corridor.

Failed propaganda

The Biden administration has employed headline propaganda tactics in order to demonize Russia and lionize Ukraine. Although for some Western audiences the argument set forth may have proven effective, in the global community and especially the Middle East, such rhetoric is tiresome and clearly hypocritical. After having illegally invaded Iraq, inflicting around a million deaths, over a concoction of factually-challenged conspiracy theories about weapons of mass destruction, it comes off as laughable that the US is now claiming to oppose illegal invasions. Former Bush administration officials, such as Condoleezza Rice, have even appeared on national television shows in the US to condemn illegal invasions of foreign countries. Even former US President George W. Bush seemingly condemned the “holy unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq...I mean of Ukraine” in a Freudian slip.

Courtesy: Azerbaijan24

The United Arab Emirates has become a key trade hub for Russian gold since Western sanctions over Ukraine cut Russia's more traditional export routes, Russian customs records show. The records, which contain details of nearly a thousand gold shipments between Feb. 24, 2022 and March 3 this year, reveal the names of over 100 non-Russian companies that have handled Russian gold since Western markets banned imports from Moscow. The shipments in the records, supplied to Reuters by a commercial provider, may not cover all exports in the period. In many cases, the records show only shippers or traders involved in the transaction, not the end buyer, which could be a refiner, jeweller or investor. Following are details of some of the companies that have been involved:

LONDON

According to the customs records, a handful of Russian shipments arrived in London after the Ukraine war started, but before Western import bans kicked in. U.S. bank JPMorgan was sent 72.4 kg of gold worth \$4.5 million in shipments in March and April last year while Swedish security firm Loomis was sent of 97.4 kg worth \$5.9 million during March, May and June. Both companies operate precious metals vaults in London. The customs records for the shipments to JPMorgan and some of those to Loomis named French bank Societe Generale as the recipient. A source close to Societe Generale said while the bank cannot comment on specific client matters, any transactions of such a nature were debt settlements arranged prior to the war in Ukraine and would contain gold bars made before March 7, 2022, when the London Bullion Market Association banned Russian gold. A spokesperson for JPMorgan declined to comment. Loomis said it does not conduct business with any sanctioned parties or sanctioned goods and does not buy or take

ownership of goods, only transports them for clients. The firm declined to comment on specific shipments but said it seemed the customs records referenced by Reuters contained incorrect information, without specifying what.

UAE

The records show the biggest handler of Russian gold exports to the UAE was Temis Luxury Middle East, a Dubai subsidiary of French logistics provider Temis Luxury, which participated in the import of 15.6 tonnes valued at \$863 million between Feb. 24, 2022 and March 3 this year. It was followed by Transguard, which is part of the Emirates Group, the airline-to-hotels conglomerate owned by the Gulf state's wealth fund, with 14.6 tonnes worth \$820 million. Temis Luxury said it fully complied with the laws and regulations of the UAE for freight forwarder activity. Emirates said Transguard had not bought any Russian gold and had now stopped transporting Russian bullion. The next largest handlers of gold shipped to the UAE in the year to March 3, 2023 were Shams Gold Trading with 8 tonnes, Privilege Group DMCC with 7.5 tonnes, Al Aseel Jewellery LLC with 5.3 tonnes and Paloma Precious DMCC with 5.1 tonnes, the customs documents showed. Privilege did not respond to an email seeking comment, a lawyer representing Paloma said it had not committed any wrongdoing and Reuters was unable to reach Shams or Al Aseel for comment. Another 17 non-Russian companies were each involved in transporting more than a tonne of Russian bullion to the UAE between Feb. 24, 2022 and March 3, 2023. The other companies that helped shipped Russian gold to the UAE each handled fewer than 5 tonnes, in most cases far less. Some large importers were, like Temis, subsidiaries of European firms. Open Mineral, a metals trader in Switzerland set up by former traders at

global commodities house Glencore, shipped 3 tonnes of Russian gold worth \$167 million to the UAE, some before Swiss sanctions came in, and some afterwards. All the deals after Swiss sanctions came into force involved Open Mineral's subsidiary in Abu Dhabi, not the Swiss company. "Open Mineral was in full compliance with the relevant sanctions' regime in place at the time of these trades," the company said.

HONG KONG

Almost all the Russian gold shipments to Hong Kong and mainland China were handled by Vpower Finance Security Hong Kong Ltd, a Chinese logistics company. It was involved in the shipment of 20.5 tonnes of gold worth \$1.2 billion between May 2022 and March, the records showed. Vpower Finance Security did not respond to requests for comment. Five other non-Russian companies handled more than a tonne of gold imports from Russia. Most of these shipments also involved Vpower.

TURKEY

No individual non-Russian company shipped more than a few tonnes of gold to Turkey. Eight took part in the import of more than one tonne of Russian gold in the year to March 3, 2023.

LBMA

At least two of the companies named in the customs records are members of the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA). Vpover Finance Security is a full member and Transguard an affiliate member. The LBMA said members and accredited refiners must comply with its rules, which include complying with U.S., UK and EU sanctions against Russia. It said it would investigate any allegations that LBMA members handled Russian gold and could rescind the membership of any companies that had done so.

Courtesy: Reuters

Prison expressions – By Huma Yusuf

ON a hill in Johannesburg, in the remnants of what used to be a prison block for detainees awaiting trial, a flame of democracy now burns perpetually. This is Constitution Hill, the site of the country's supreme constitutional court, which was established in 1993 as part of South Africa's first post-apartheid constitution. Standing before that flame last week while receiving news from home, I enjoyed a glimmer of hope. This is not, of course, to compare PIT's defecting leadership and spurned supporters with the leaders of the passive resistance and anti-apartheid movements. But it is to say that democracy, however flawed, is always preferable to authoritarianism. And that strong-arm tactics are, in the long run, often galvanising. Constitution Hill rests on the site of Johannesburg's oldest prison, where both Nelson Mandela and Gandhi were incarcerated. In the 1950s and 1960s, the facility overflowed with political prisoners, Asians and black Africans thrown in detention for defying pass laws (the requirement for non-white South Africans to carry appropriate documentation to enter white-only areas). The prison is now a museum. Visitors can tour the old prison, hearing harrowing accounts — including from previous prisoners — of the overcrowded, dis-

ease-ridden cells. The museum's narratives do not shy away from detailed descriptions of the daily humiliations that prisoners endured, including being stripped and monitored in toilets. Nor do they censor the accounts of torture — the lashings, sexual abuse and indefinite detention in isolation cells, airless containers just over an arm-span long. My response was visceral — nausea, dizziness. One of the museum's final rooms took my breath away, however. Instead of artefacts recalling prison horrors, one cell resembles a modern art museum; it is replete with figurines, sculptures and abstract imaginings. The annotation explained that on Sundays, prison officials would inspect communal cells in the prison, and that inmates would prepare for these visits by fashioning decorations and curios out of the few objects they could claim: their blankets, shreds of toilet paper, leftover soap bars. The prisoners with the most imaginative creations would win privileges for the week — an extra slice of bread, a taste of dry cake. Although motivated by the transactional, the prison art is a celebration of the enduring humanity of inmates. Two former prisoners created the objects on display, recalling the creations of their peers. There are blankets reshaped into blooming

flowers and bouncing rabbits, improvised papier mâché figures in gentle embraces but also in the throes of despair, and charming cattle carved from soap. Incarcerated, abused, dehumanised, the inmates of Number Four jail managed to reclaim beauty and free expression, and survive. The objects I saw reminded me of the recourse to art sought by Ahmed Rabbani, a former prisoner at Guantánamo Bay, whose prison artwork recently inspired an exhibition at Karachi's Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture. Rabbani was mistakenly identified by the US as a terrorist, and remained in detention for 20 years without facing formal charges. A story about him in these pages described how he made paintings to cope with the humiliations and torture that defined his incarceration — images that were seized by the US military on the basis that they threatened national security. Why dwell on prison art at this political juncture in Pakistan? It is clear that a crackdown is upon us. A political party is being systematically dismantled, its former leadership silenced, its supporters hounded with the threat of military trials, their treatment a chilling warning to all those who may critique the security establishment too openly. Courtesy: Dawn

Letters to the Editor

Honour killings

It is disheartening to witness the loss of innocent lives and the erosion of fundamental human rights due to this archaic and unjustifiable practice. Honour killings are acts of violence committed against individuals, mostly women, who are perceived to have brought shame or dishonour upon their families or communities. What makes honour killings even more alarming is the fact that they are often carried out with the tacit approval, or even active participation, of family members and close rela-

tives. This collusion and complicity perpetuate a cycle of violence, fear, and oppression, creating an atmosphere where victims are left defenseless and perpetrators go unpunished. To combat this issue effectively, it is imperative that we take a multi-faceted approach. First and foremost, law enforcement agencies must be vigilant in investigating and prosecuting cases of honour killings. Additionally, educational institutions, community organizations, and religious leaders must play an active role in raising awareness and challenging

the cultural beliefs and practices that perpetuate honour killings. Moreover, media outlets, including newspapers like yours, have a crucial role to play in shaping public opinion and fostering dialogue on this issue. By consistently highlighting the tragic consequences of honour killings and promoting stories of empowerment and positive change, you can help dismantle the stigma surrounding victims and inspire communities to take a stand against this heinous practice.

– Kainat Zahid,
–Lahore

Dar felicitates President Erdogan on historic victory

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday felicitated Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his historic victory in the recent elections for the President of the Republic of Türkiye. In a Tweet, the minister said that his re-election for the third consecutive term is a testament to the trust and confidence of the people of Türkiye in his leadership. “Heartiest felicitations to H.E. President @RTErdogan on his historic



victory in the recent elections for the President of the Republic of Türkiye. His re-election for the third consecutive term is a testament to the trust and confidence of the people of Tür-

kiye in his leadership,” he tweeted. He said, Türkiye, under his leadership, would soon recover from the effects of the recent earthquake and will emerge a more prosperous and stronger country. Dar expressed best wishes for the good health and happiness of President Erdogan and for the people of Türkiye. “Türkiye, under his leadership, will soon recover from the effects of recent earthquake & will emerge more prosperous and stronger country.

PFA wastes liters of contaminated water

SARGODHA (APP): The Punjab food Authority (PFA) discarded contaminated water used for making ice in an ice-making factory in Sargodha here on Tuesday. According to a press release issued by PFA office, a team was inspecting ice-making factories in the division on daily basis and in this regard, 54 ice factories were checked in the district. During inspection, the team discarded 4700 liters rusty and unhygienic water which was being used for making ice. The PFA also imposed fines on 20 ice factories and issued warning notices to 17 factories for the violation of rules.

Quack booked, clinic sealed

SARGODHA (APP): A quack was booked while his clinic was sealed in a crackdown launched by the Health Department, here on Tuesday. According to the official sources, on the directions of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Dr. Mushtaq Bashir, a team headed by Deputy District Officer Health Irfan Ahmed conducted a raid at Marri village. They caught red handed a fake doctor, Ahmad Yar, who was running clinic without having a degree and license. A case was registered against the quack.

Wheat smuggling bid foiled

KHANEWAL (APP): The district government’s enforcement team has foiled a smuggling bid of 1500 wheat bags from the district. According to details, the teams of food department and police have seized two trucks loaded with wheat. Trucks along with drivers were taken into custody while legal action was started. Deputy Commissioner directed the authority concerned to take action against profiteers and smugglers. He said nobody would be allowed to take wheat out of the district and causing the shortage locally.

Rangers arrest three robbers

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation in Surjani Town Sector C-51 arrested three alleged street criminals of a gang and recovered illegal arms and ammunition from their possession. Arrested were identified as Imran, Abdul Rahman and Salal, said police sources on Tuesday. The accused committed more than 17 robberies in different parts of Surjani Town during which they snatched 15 mobile phones and cash Rs. 92,000 from citizens. During initial interrogation, they also revealed injuring a citizen over robbery resistance.

Bahawalpur police arrest ‘blackmailer’

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Bahawalpur police have arrested a ‘blackmailer’ from Yazman area with the help of modern technology after the suspect threatened a family of murder if they did not provide him with money. A spokesman for Bahawalpur police said here that the complainant lodged his complaint with Yazman police station, submitting that his family received a threatening phone call. “Someone had made a phone call that if he was not given money, he would kill his family,” the applicant told police. The District Police Officer, Bahawalpur, Syed Muhammad Abbas took notice and directed to avail the facility of modern technology to trace out the whereabouts of the suspect.

Bahria Town Murder; CPO directs cops to immediately net culprits

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani here on Tuesday taking notice of dacoity and murder in Bahria Town, Phase-8 directed the police officers to immediately net the culprits. The CPO also sought a report of the incident from the Superintendent of Police, Saddar. According to a preliminary investigation, five dacoits entered the residence of Sardar Amjad Ishaq, the judge of Azad Kashmir Accountability Court on Monday night, where they opened fire on resistance. Sardar Amjad Ishaq was killed as a re-

sult of the firing of the accused during the dacoity. An injured dacoit was arrested on the spot. On information of the incident, SP Saddar, Muhammad Nabeel Khokhar, ASP Sardar and local police immediately reached the spot and started an investigation. Evidence has been obtained from the spot while the body was shifted to the hospital for post-mortem. SP Saddar said that the incident is being investigated from different angles. He said that other accomplices of the arrested accused would also be arrested soon and brought to justice.

DC extends Section-144 till June 4; Imposes ban on pillion riding

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, Dr Hassan Waqar Cheema, in view of the law and order situation has extended Section-144 in the district till June 4 besides imposing a ban on pillion riding. Earlier, Section-144 was imposed in Rawalpindi district from May 15 to May 28. Under an order issued by the DC Office, all kinds of assemblies, gatherings, sits-in, rallies, processions, demonstrations, ‘jalsas, dharnas’, protests and other activities have been banned. The order further stated that carrying weapons, spikes, laden batons, ball bearings, petrol

bombs, improvised explosives or any other instrument that could potentially be used for violence is also not allowed. Attempting to remove any restriction imposed by a police officer to regulate the assembly of persons or movement of traffic will not be tolerated, the order stated, adding the use of loudspeakers without permission of lawful authority (except for azaan) will also not be permitted. There is also a ban on pillion riding within the jurisdiction of Rawalpindi district and this order shall not apply to armed forces and police personnel in uniform and on duty, it stated.

NHMP recovers stolen car, hands over 2 run away children to Child Protection Bureau

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) have recovered a stolen car and handed over two runaway children of a seminary to Child Protection Bureau Rawalpindi. According to a press release issued Tuesday, the Motorway Police recovered a vehicle stolen from Jhelum near Daudkhel on Hakla- D I Khan Motorway. The owner of the vehicle was contacted the and information was provided about the recovery of the vehicle. Later the vehicle was handed over to Daudkhel po-

lice station for further legal action. The search for the car lifters was going on. Meanwhile, the Motorway Police found two children near Chakri Interchange. The children aged about 8 and 9 years respectively, could not satisfactory answers when questioned. The children were transferred to Chakri camp. During investigation, it was found that they were studying in a seminary in Islamabad and belonged to Karachi. But the children could not provide the address or contact number of their family and the seminary.

Commissioner reviews development projects in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER (APP): Commissioner Malakand Division Shahidullah Khan on Tuesday visited District Dir Payan and reviewed development projects in the districts and also visited FC Fort Chakdara. Deputy Commissioner Iftikhar Ahmad welcomed the Commissioner Malakand, while personnel of Dir Levis presented guard of honor to him. Commissioner Malakand Division planted an olive tree at the office of the Deputy Commissioner. The Commissioner chaired an introductory meeting with line departments and was briefed about the ongoing development projects including Sanam Dam Adenzai, establishment of Dir University, Talash Bypass Road, Dir Motorway, Green Building Blombut, Family Park Blombut, Blombut Irrigation Channel, Timergarh Khor Beautification Project and Land Set-

tlement Operation in the district. Commissioner Malakand urged the heads of all departments to improve public service delivery and ensure timely public services, create facilities for masses and ensure timely attendance of staff. The Commissioner also visited the District Headquarters Hospital Timergarh where he was given a detailed briefing regarding the hospital. Commissioner Malakand Division inaugurated the first modern breast cancer diagnosis mammographic machine and ambulance service. He directed the hospital staff to conduct special public awareness campaign about breast cancer and the treatment at the hospital. The Commissioner also inspected various parts of the hospital and emphasized on providing the best medical facilities to the patients in the hospital.

Authorities directed to accelerate work on IJP beautification project

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta during a visit to IJP Road directed the authorities concerned to accelerate work on beautification project and complete it within shortest possible time frame. According to a Commissioner Office spokesperson, Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema, PML-N leader, Zia ullah Shah, DG PHA, DG RDA, CEO Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi, Secretary RTA and other officers concerned were present on the occasion. They

visited IJP Road to Ghosia Bus Terminal area and also inspected water level in Nullah Lai beneath Katarian Bridge. Commissioner directed the authorities concerned to complete Nullah Lai cleanliness work before start of Monsoon rains. The small drains on both sides of the IJP Road should also be cleaned so that water in the Nullah Lai during monsoon rains could flow smoothly. He ordered to grow ornamental plants and saplings on IJP Road on both sides of the road. Faulty streetlights should also be repaired besides installing iron grills at bridges of the nullahs.

Provincial Ombudsperson Punjab visits Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Provincial Ombudsperson Punjab, Nabila Hakim Khan on Tuesday arrived in Bahawalpur and conducted a hearing into applications lodged by the women in respect of harassment at the workplace and inherited property matters. Nabila Hakim Khan conducted a hearing into the applications

at the Regional Ombudsman Office Bahawalpur. She conducted hearing into several applications lodged to seek justice pertaining to different matters including harassment at the workplace and property matters. The applicants submitted that they were not given property rights from the property of their parents.

PM rules out dialogue with ‘arsonists & anarchists’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said dialogue was a key to evolving democracy, however categorically stated that it could not be held with ‘anarchists and arsonists’ in the garb of politicians. The prime minister’s statement came after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Friday appealed for immediate talks with state officials. Sharif said dialogue is deeply embedded in the political process, which helps democracy mature and evolve.

He said many political and constitutional breakthroughs occurred when political leaders sat across the table to craft a consensus. “However, there is a major difference here, the anarchists and arsonists who wear the garb of politicians and attack the symbols of the State do not qualify for a dialogue,” he said. The prime minister emphasized that such people should rather be held to account for their militant actions. He also termed it a prevalent practice even in developed democracies.

President appoints Justice Iqbal Hameed as CJ of Federal Shariat Court

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday appointed Justice Iqbal Hameed as the chief justice of the Federal Shariat Court for a period of three years. The president gave the approval to the

appointment in line with Article 175(A)-13 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the President House said. Justice Iqbal Hameed is the former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

VC SABS reviews revised budget of year 2022-23

HYDERABAD (APP): The Vice Chancellor Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro (SABS) of the University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro Dr. Arabella Bhutto Tuesday presided over the 3rd meeting of the finance and planning committee of the university. According to the university spokesman, the meeting attended among others by Deputy Director Finance/ Secretary Asif Ali Shar and nominee from syndicate Fazal Ellahi Khan, reviewed the re-

vised budget for the year 2022-23 which will be recommended to the syndicate. The new statutes recommended in the meeting include the “Student Endowment Scholarship”, SABS University Endowment Fund, Department Development and Endowment Fund, and Employees Insurance and Welfare Fund. The meeting also formed recommendations for proper saving and future pension liabilities and new pay scales for fresh appointments.

Seven plaintiffs get relief through Ombudsman Punjab

LAHORE (APP): On intervene of the office of Ombudsman Punjab, seven individuals of different departments got legal relief worth Rs 14,226,380. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the spokesman announced that in compliance with the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab’s direction, Government Said Mitha Teaching Hospital Lahore has duly settled the outstanding employment dues of Ms Ruqiya Batool. She has been provided with a payment of Rs 3,707,890 in addition to the creation of an OSD post with a monthly salary of Rs 45,752. Furthermore, the ombudsman’s office had taken action to provide a travel allowance of three million rupees to the teachers from 1100 schools in Sheikhpura district who were engaged in dengue focal person duties, the spokesman said.

On complaints of non-payment of pension-related amounts, the irrigation department has disbursed Rs 11,74,254 to Saher Begum, a widow from Attock. Additionally, the office of the Accountant General Punjab has not only reinstated the pension of Zubaida Begum from Gujrat but has also issued her Rs 12,14,867 as arrears of her pension, added the spokesperson. Similarly, Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation has granted financial assistance of 1.6 million rupees to Azra Tahir, the widow of a sanitary worker. Moreover, the accounts office in Gujranwala has not only transferred the pension of plaintiff Muhammad Abdullah’s deceased father to his widowed mother but has also disbursed a payment of Rs 21,05,700 to her after the involvement of the ombudsman’s office.

President arrives in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi arrived in Quetta on Tuesday to hold meetings with the provincial administration and attend other events. Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Kakar along with senior officials received the president on his arrival in the provincial capital. A contingent of Balochistan Constabulary presented a guard of honour to

the president at the Governor House, Quetta. President Alvi and the Balochistan governor held a meeting and discussed matters of bilateral interest and the overall situation of the province. The president will attend the concluding ceremony of the 34th National Games. He will also address a seminar on the role of ombudsmen in good governance.

South Punjab Secretariat giving special attention for capacity building: ACS

MULTAN (APP): Workshop-focused recommendations over expediting the journey of progress and development across Southern Punjab which were put up by economic experts here Tuesday. It was arranged by Punjab Forum, a local NGO, in collaboration with South Punjab Secretariat and UNDP. A large number of economic experts and administrative secretaries participated in the occasion. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) South Punjab, Saqib Zafar said as a keynote speaker that there was a dire need to spend funds for national department schemes started in Southern belt of the larg-

est province of the country. He said South Punjab Secretariat was giving special attention to the capacity building of the local departments. He referred to a conference consisting of global economic and envoys hailing from different countries, which was conducted earlier here that gave good options to proceed with the development plans across the region. He said development funds being reserved for Southern Punjab won’t be shifted out of it. He assured that the region would give a new look in upcoming years as they weren’t sparing a single option even to achieve the target.

Over 93pc cotton sowing target achieved in Multan division, says Commissioner

MULTAN (APP):Commissioner Multan division, Engineer Aamir Khattak, directed officials to launch a crackdown against fake fertilizers and pesticides across the division. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting to review the performance of the agriculture department here on Tuesday. He further said that the 93.8 percent cotton cultivation target had been achieved across the division while efforts were underway to achieve the 100 percent target. He directed officials concerned to take action against those involved in burning crop residues. ‘Farmers’ livelihood is connected to the land’. Commissioner ordered to ensure the supply of certified Urea and DAP fertilizers at affordable rates and asked all

companies to make an inventory of their stock and submit the list to the commissioner office. Aamir Khat-tak said that the Punjab government was taking steps to give relief to the farmers. The fruits of the govern-ment policies should be delivered to the farmers. While giving a briefing to Commissioner told that 1536 samples of urea fertilizer were taken across divisions this year from which 35 were found adul-terated, and 20 were declared sub-standard. 46 cases were registered over non-standard mixed fertilizers. Likewise, 45845 kg of non-standard fertilizers worth over Rs 19.7 mil-lion were seized. Additional Com-missioner Sarfraz Ahmed, officers of the Department of Agriculture, farmers, and others were present.

Eight outlaws held

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during a successful operation against criminal elements in the lim-its of Shaheed Nawab police station and Paharpur police station arrested eight outlaws, weapon, hashish and ice recovered. SHO Paharpur po-lice station Attaullah Khan, acting against wanted criminals in various crimes, arrested accused Shafiul-lah son of Rahmanullah resident of Bagwani, and Ayub son of Abdul Rahim resident of Bagwani, both were wanted to local police in at-tempted to murder case. While Wali Khan son of Yusuf Khan resident of Wanda and Surat Khan son of Yusuf

Khan resident of Wanda appeared in the police station after obtaining bail from the court. SHO Shaheed Nawab police station Umar Iqbal Khan arrested the wanted accused in various crimes, identified as Su-rat Khan son of Yusuf Khan resi-dent of Kahawar. The other wanted criminals, Wali Khan and Ahmed Saeed, sons of Yusuf Khan, resi-dent of Kahawar, while Faridullah, son of Saifullah, resident of Wanda Gandhir, were arrested, 01 Kalash-nikov along with 10 cartridges, 1015 grams of hashish and 183 grams of ice were recovered from arrested persons.

Efforts under way for durable peace, education, health reforms: Governor

QUETTA (APP): Governor Baloch-istan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar said that durable reforms in edu-cation and health sectors are the most priorities of the incumbent government. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he expressed his satisfaction over the law and order situation in the province. Law and order is improving significantly, the atmosphere is becoming favorable for development and investment. Appreciating the successful holding of national games in the province after many decades, he said that the foiling of the terrorist attack on the FC camp in Muslim Bagh and the

arrest of Gulzar Imam, the head of the banned organization in the prov-ince, exhibit government resolve. Governor Balochistan said that the protection of life and property of the people is the responsibility of the government and law enforcement agencies are busy day and night in this regard. “We are not only lauding the performance of the law enforce-ment agencies personnel, but we are also helping the families of the martyrs,” There is an urgent need to promote mutual understanding, di-alogue and democratic attitudes to strengthen internal unity and cons-ensus, he maintained.

AIOU to offer course on ‘Solid Waste Management’

ISLAMABAD (APP): Considering the wide scope and excellent teach-ing methods of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT) wishes to introduce a course titled ‘Waste Management’ in collabora-tion with the Department of Envi-ronmental Sciences” in the campus. These words were expressed by CEO, AHKMT Sumaira Gul in her address at the inaugural session of the three-day training workshop held in Islamabad. She said that Akhtar Hameed Khan Trust has been working on solid waste man-agement for a long time. This train-ing workshop is an orientation ses-sion, after this, the students will be able to get training for six months. Chairman, AHKMT, Fayyaz Baqir in his online address, spoke about the importance of solid waste manage-ment. He said that the government cannot do anything without the participation of its citizens, keep-ing the country clean is a common responsibility of all of us. Social life training is lacking. He said we must

join the government machinery and play our part in keeping the coun-try clean. This workshop has been organized by the Department of En-vironmental Sciences and the Office of Research Innovation and Com-mercialization (ORIC) in collabora-tion with the AHKMT. The inaugural session was chaired by, Chairper-son, Department of Environmental Sciences, Dr. Sofia Khalid. Addition-al Director, ORIC, Dr. Saima Nasir was also present. 60 students are participating in this workshop, and they will be taught different meth-ods of recycling solid waste and how solid waste can be turned into a valuable resource. Dr. Sofia Khalid said that solid waste management is a major problem in the country, and she directed the students to come up with innovative ideas regarding solid waste management. Dr. Saima Nasir said that the students must think about how we can earn for the country and how we can increase the country’s income and resources by innovating solid waste manage-ment.

RDA seals site offices of ‘Capital Valley’

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on directives of Director General (DG) Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa on Tuesday sealed site offices of ille-gal housing scheme namely Capital Valley. According to RDA spokes-man, the Enforcement Squad while carrying out an operation against illegal housing scheme namely Cap-ital Valley situated at mouza Katari-an and Thallian, sealed site offices and issued notice to Sohail Nawaz Cheema, the owner of the housing scheme. He said the Enforcement Squad was taking strict action against illegal housing schemes.

The Enforcement Squad includ-ing Incharge/Assistant Director Building Control, Superintendent Scheme and others took part in the operation as the owner of this prop-erty was running illegal housing schemes’ site offices in violation of the rules. The spokesman said the DG advised the general public not to invest in illegal housing schemes and check their status before in-vestment at RDA’s official website www.rda.gop.pk. He said the DG directed the MP&TE Directorate to take strict action against illegal and unauthorized housing schemes and their site offices should be sealed.

SAU decides to allow international students to get admission in varsity’s postgraduate degree programmes

HYDERABAD (APP): The 150th meeting of the board of Advance Stud-ies and Research (BASR) of Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam which held here on Tuesday under the chair of the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri has decided to allow in-ternational students to get admission in postgraduate degree programs. In this connection, the meeting decided that international students can get admission in all departments of agri-culture and veterinary sciences of the

university for which the prospectus is under preparation. After prepara-tion, the varsity’s prospectus will be circulated in the embassies and high-er learning institutions, the meeting was informed. While addressing the meeting, the Vice Chancellor said that the university management has been engaged in creating a favorable envi-ronment for international students so that they could complete their studies in a cordial atmosphere. He informed the meeting that the academic and

learning environment in Pakistan was suitable for international stu-dents adding that the curriculum and research in the postgraduate degree program will be done in the context of global needs. The Vice Chancellor of Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur Mir’s, Dr. Khalil Ahmed Ibohoto who specially attended the the meeting ap-preciated the efforts of the manage-ment of Sindh Agriculture University for providing quality education to the students.

Senators Dilawar Khan, Hilal ur Rehman denounce PTI violence of May 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indepen-dent Senators Dilawar Khan and Hilal-ur-Rehman on Tuesday de-nounced the Pakistan Tehreek-e-In-saf (PTI) protestors’ vandalisation of state and public installations of 9th May and termed it as an unprece-dented act of predicament. Address-ing a joint press conference outside Parliament here, the Senators ex-pressed solidarity and support with the Armed Forces of the country and categorically rejected the violence of May 9 by the PTI under the garb of a political party. Senator Dilawar Khan said the PTI leaders who did violence were presenting themselves as innocent and aggrieved. He said, “I salute the Armed Forces for their restraint on that day (May 9) and we are standing besides our Armed Forces and will render every sacri-fice for their prestige and honour.

I strongly condemn the incident of May 9.” He added that he and other senators went to Jinnah House un-der the leadership of Chairman Sen-ate and the situation they saw there were two portraits of Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his sister Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and rest were lying there. “Even the enemy forces did not go inside the GHQ or the Corps Commander’s House. These people should be severely punished,” Dil-awar Khan said. Shaheed Colonel Sher Khan’s statue was desecrated, and his pictures were trampled, he regretted. “What will our protector (the martyr) think in his heart?” he queried. Khan said those responsible should be severely punished. Sena-tor Hilal-ur-Rehman said the May 9 incidents would always be marked as a dark day in the national history.

‘AI to dominate global setup in future’

FAISALABAD (APP): Artificial In-telligence (AI) will dominate the global setup in near future and Paki-stan must take proactive measures to adopt it in order to compete with the fast-changing global demands. This was said by Engineer Ahmad Hassan, Chairman FCCI Standing Committee on R&D, on Tuesday. Chairing the meeting, he said that IT and digitalization would entirely change the global face and coun-tries like Pakistan must grasp this knowledge to survive in the global scenario. Commenting on the im-portance of AI, he said that 86% of business houses had already be-come a part of mainstream IT tech-nology while 80% of B2B market ex-ecutives confess that IT had already revolutionized their sector. Engineer

Ahmad Hassan said that no doubt AI would substantially eliminate the traditional jobs but at the same time it would create approximately 97 million jobs in the AI sector by 2025. He urged the technical insti-tutions to reprioritize their strategy and equip the youth with AI so that they could not only earn their own livelihood but also earn precious foreign exchange for the country. Former President FCCI Muzammil Sultan said that the government should revive the green financing scheme to encourage use of solar energy instead of depending on the costly fossil fuel. He said:” We must equip our youth with new technol-ogies at the school level and in this connectionTEVTA should come up with tangible programmes”.

Advisory for growers of cauliflower

FAISALABAD (APP): The agricul-ture experts advised growers to com-plete preparations for early cultiva-tion of cauliflower from first week of July. A spokesman for the agricul-ture (extension) department said on Tuesday that July was the best for early cultivation of cauliflower crops, therefore, farmers should sow seeds for seedlings (Paneeri) in the nursery after mid of June and shift plantlets from nursery to the field during first week of July. He said that weather temperature from 17 to 18 degrees centigrade was much suitable for growth of cauliflower crop while its plants could also survive from 20 to 30 degrees centigrade temperature.

However, the crop production and its quality badly affected if tempera-ture increased from 30 degrees cen-tigrade, he added. He said growers could harvest their cauliflower crop in September and October if they transferred its plantlets from nurs-ery to field during first week of July. If they shifted these saplings in the field during last week of August, then they could harvest this crop during November and December. He advised growers to use one kilogram seed of cauliflower for seedlings in the nursery. They shouldalso arrange shed or mulch to protect cauliflow-er nursery from sizzling and harsh summer weather.

No dialogue with PTI after it lost majority of party leadership: MNAs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the National Assembly (MNAs) on Tuesday clearly rejected the proba-bility of dialogue with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after its chair-man extended an offer of talks to the coalition government and claimed that his party had lost majority of its party leadership after the members tendered resignations publicly in the news con-ferences. Talking to APP outside the Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary for Railways, Kiran Imran Dar said dialogue was the ultimate solution to all the crisis but it was only held with political parties and not violent goons as the PTI’s conduct on May 9 damaged the prestige of the state in-stitutions and the country. She said the coalition government should hold talks with whom as the PTI Chairman Imran Khan’s arrogance was despi-cable towards his political opponents and he spewed hatred against all the leaders of his rival political parties.

MNA, Mehnaz Akbar Aziz of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said the PTI as a political party had fin-ished and nothing was left in its tank so the coalition government could not hold talks with it. She alleged that the hatred, polarization and divide creat-ed by Imran Khan among the mass-es was unprecedented as there was no such thing even at the martyrdom of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Aziz said Imran Khan had spewed violence in children’s brain and he was a danger-ous man brainwashing youth and the country should get rid of him. She re-gretted that Imran Khan and his party leadership was not able to spend a few days in jail but he detained his political rivals for longer durations. MNA, Qa-iser Sheikh of PML-N said there was no possibility of dialogue with the PTI as it was not possible to negotiate with those who attacked the state and pub-lic installations.

Oil Updates — crude slips on US debt ceiling struggles

RIYADH (Agencies): Oil prices fell on Tuesday, giving up earlier gains, as concerns about the viability of the US debt ceiling pact cooled the market's risk-on sentiment and mixed messages from major producers have clouded the supply outlook ahead of their meeting this weekend. Brent crude futures fell 60 cents, or 0.78 percent, to \$76.47 a barrel at 9:23 a.m. Saudi time, after rising by 0.5 percent ear-



lier on Tuesday. US West Texas Intermediate crude dipped 37 cents to \$72.30 a barrel, down 0.51 percent

from Friday's close. There was no settlement on Monday because of a US public holiday. Some hard-right Republican lawmakers said on Monday they might oppose a deal that would raise the debt ceiling in the US, the world's biggest oil user, while Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy remained optimistic the deal will pass.

Asia snaps up Europe's unwanted coal as heat builds

HONG KONG (Agencies): Coal cargoes unwanted in Europe are heading to Asia, where utilities are stockpiling the fuel amid sweltering temperatures heading into the summer. Shipments of about 7 million tonnes of Colombian coal will be exported to Asian countries in the next quarter, instead of ports in Europe, according to James Marshall, chief executive officer of Berge Bulk Ltd, whose fleet of ships ply those routes. Destinations for fuel used by pow-



er plants and steelmakers include China and India, he said. European customers raised their imports of Colombian coal last year by 23% to

about 30 million tons, according to data from shipbroker BRS Group, after the continent was plunged into an energy crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, with natural gas prices dropping more than 90% since August, more power plants are switching back to the alternative fuel. More coal is also heading to Asia from South Africa, Carl Tyler, a head of chartering at Noble Resources Group, told a conference in Singapore last week.

Australia's building approvals slump to 11-year low

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australian approvals to build new homes tumbled to the lowest level in 11 years, driven by fewer permits for apartment buildings, suggesting weak residential property investment will continue to drag on the economy. Total dwelling approvals slid 8.1% in April from a month earlier as permits for apartments plunged 16.5%, Australian Bureau of Statistics data showed Tuesday. While the monthly series can be volatile, the trend has



been weak for an extended period, with total approvals falling 24.1% from a year ago. "Total dwellings approved fell to the lowest level since

April 2012," Daniel Rossi, ABS head of construction statistics, said in a statement. "Private sector house approvals also continued to decline." Australia's residential construction industry is reeling from a combination of shortages of materials and labour, falling property prices, and the unwinding of government subsidies that drove demand during the pandemic. High-interest rates are also crimping demand and driving up financing costs.

Li Auto tops China EV race with 107% gain

BEIJING (Agencies): Shares of Chinese electric-vehicle maker Li Auto Inc have more than doubled from last year's low and are tipped for further gains even as a slowing economy and price war hamper its rivals. The Beijing-based automaker unexpectedly reported profits for the past two quarters by churning out a regular lineup of new models and keeping costs contained. Analysts remain bullish: Citigroup Inc predicts the



firm's shares will climb another 88% by year-end, while Morgan Stanley raised its target price by more than 40% this month. Li Auto has outpaced its peers by introducing a new model

in each quarter since the middle of last year, a much faster pace than competitors such as XPeng Inc and Nio Inc. The revamped product lineup helped revenue surge by 96% last quarter, while deliveries jump to a record 52,584. "The order intake has been much stronger than the market had expected, thanks partly to the intensive model launches," said Joanna Chen, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence in Hong Kong.

France gears up for first EV battery plant

PARIS (Agencies): France will launch its first battery factory for electric cars on Tuesday, taking a big step in its race to build up a sector dominated by China. Building up the battery industry is at the heart of President Emmanuel Macron's "reindustrialisation" plan for France, with a clutch of factories set to emerge in the north of the country over the next three years. The "gigafactory" opening in Billy-Ber-



clau is owned by Automotive Cells Company, a partnership between French energy giant TotalEnergies, Germany's Mercedes-Benz, and US-European automaker Stellantis,

which produces a range of brands including Peugeot, Fiat, and Chrysler. French economy minister Bruno Le Maire and the country's energy transition and industry ministers will attend the inauguration, along with German and Italian officials. The heads of Mercedes, Stellantis, and TotalEnergies will also be at the event. The factory is the length of six football pitches. Production is due to begin this summer.

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka gets US\$350mil ADB loan boost

COLOMBO (Agencies): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday approved a US\$350 million special policy-based loan to provide budget support to Sri Lanka for economic stabilisation, the regional lender said in a statement. The programme is part of a broader package of financial assistance anchored by the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Extended Fund Facility for the debt-ridden South Asian country, the ADB said. The island nation,



struggling to emerge from its worst financial crisis since independence in 1948, secured a US\$2.9 billion bailout from the IMF in March but must now have a debt restructuring

framework in place by September to take the programme forward. "ADB is concerned about the deep crisis in the country and its impact on the people of Sri Lanka, especially the poor and the vulnerable, particularly women," ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa said in the statement. "ADB is committed to standing with Sri Lanka as it addresses its present challenges and strides toward economic stabilisation, sustainable recovery, and inclusive growth."

S.Arabia's net reserves drop US\$410bil to 13-year low

JEDDAH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia's foreign reserves fell in April to the lowest in more than 13 years, in an apparent sign the kingdom hasn't yet used last year's US\$326 billion oil windfall to top up the central bank's holdings. Net foreign assets fell to 1.538 trillion riyals (US\$410 billion) last month, according to the central bank's monthly report published on Sunday, declining for a fifth month in the longest falling



streak since early 2019. Reserves are down more than 44% since peaking in August 2014. The drawdown, which reached almost US\$42 billion

since November, follows a shift in how the world's biggest crude exporter manages its oil wealth. While higher oil prices and output used to quickly translate into rising foreign reserves, officials announced a year ago the kingdom planned to hold on to the money and only later decide how to distribute it. The budget had a surplus of 103.9 billion riyals last year, according to the Finance Ministry.

Euro zone bond yields fall after US debt ceiling deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Euro zone yields dropped in thin trade on Monday as investors bought bonds following a deal to raise the US debt ceiling, but remained cautious ahead of the bloc's inflation data later this week. T-bond futures were steady and the cost of insuring exposure to a US debt default over

the short-term was almost unchanged, while the Memorial Day holiday meant cash US Treasuries were untraded. The US House Rules Committee said it will meet on Tuesday to discuss the debt ceiling bill, which needs to pass a narrowly divided Congress before June 5, when the US Treasury says it would run short

of money to cover all its obligations. Germany's 10-year government bond yields, the bloc's benchmark, fell 11 basis points (bps) to 2.43%. European stock indexes slipped slightly, lacking momentum while optimism over the US having reached a debt ceiling deal over the weekend kept Wall Street futures positive.

UK's Asda to buy petrol station giant EG

LONDON (Agencies): British supermarket group Asda said it would buy petrol station operator EG Group's UK and Ireland business to accelerate its move into the convenience sector, creating a company with combined revenues of nearly £30 billion (US\$38 billion). Asda, Britain's third-largest grocer, and EG are both owned by brothers Zuber and Mohsin Issa and private equity group TDR Capital. The deal, which includes around 350 petrol stations and over 1,000 food-to-go locations, values EG at £2.27 billion, including debt, the groups said on Tuesday. Asda has said it is aiming



to overtake Sainsbury's to become Britain's No 2 supermarket and the deal will enable it to roll out Asda Express across the EG petrol estate. Tesco leads the market with a 27.1% share, according to the most recent data by Kantar. Sainsbury's holds 14.8% of the market, ahead of Asda on 13.9%.

Vietnam eyes foreign firm handouts to offset global tax

HANOI (Agencies): Samsung and other foreign companies are pushing Vietnam to introduce a multi-million-dollar reform that would compensate them for higher levies they face from next year under a global overhaul of tax rules, a source involved in the talks said. The discussions precede the introduction in January of a minimum tax rate of 15% for large multinationals under a landmark global reform led by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Vietnam has committed to comply with the OECD rule, effectively rais-



ing the tax rate to 15% for many of the multinationals operating in the country and who are currently taxed at a much lower rate thanks to various sweeteners. The global rule requires companies paying less in a low-tax jurisdiction to face a top-up levy in their home country.

Binance Australia users dump bitcoin at lower prices

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Bitcoin prices on the Australian arm of Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, were almost A\$9,000 lower than prices on rival exchanges on Tuesday, in a sign customers were seeking to exit their positions quickly. The price of the world's biggest cryptocurrency, bitcoin, was at around A\$34,000 (US\$23,062.20) on Binance Australia, compared with A\$43,000 on BTC Markets, an Australia-based cryptocurrency exchange. Bitcoin was quoted at US\$27,790 outside Australia. Binance did not immedi-



ately respond to Reuters request for comment. Earlier this month, the Binance unit said some customers in Australia will not be able to deposit or withdraw money after a third-party service provider cut off its service. Binance has been battling regulatory suits and probes around the world.

BYD outbids Tesla to power Indonesian taxis

JAKARTA (Agencies): Indonesia's largest taxi operator will turn to BYD Co for 80% of its electric-vehicle fleet while reviewing its Tesla Inc orders as lower-cost models win out in the country. Most of the 500 EVs to be delivered to PT Blue Bird this year will be filled by BYD, especially the E6 and T3 models, as the vehicles are a better fit for the Indonesian market, said president director Sigit Priawan Djokosoetono in an interview. "If the price is too expensive, it would be unreasonable for us to then charge it to customers, so we need to consider this," he said. "We use a lot of import-



ed BYD models as the price is supportive for us to operate in Indonesia." BYD, the world's second-largest EV producer, is gaining ground in Southeast Asia's largest economy. It recently signed a deal to explore potential investments in Indonesia, while also considering building EV plants in neighbouring Philippines or Vietnam.

Dollar dips as US debt deal boosts risk demand

SINGAPORE (Agencies): The US dollar fell on Tuesday against a basket of major currencies but did not drift far from a two-month peak, after a deal over the US debt ceiling lifted risk sentiment, although the agreement could face a rocky path through Congress. The dollar index, which measures the US currency against six major peers, slipped 0.125% to 104.17, easing away from the two-month high of 104.42 it touched on Friday. The index is set to end the month with a gain of 2.5%. A handful of hard-right Republican lawmakers said on Monday they would oppose a deal



to raise the US\$31.4 trillion debt ceiling. The opposition highlights the hurdles that Democratic President Joe Biden and top congressional Republican Kevin McCarthy will face to get the package through the Republican-controlled House of Representatives and Democratic-controlled Senate before the limit is reached, likely by next Monday.

Tax scandal triggers PwC Australia's auditor review

SYDNEY (Agencies): The Australian Treasury will examine its use of PricewaterhouseCoopers as its internal auditor given the public perception of the firm at the center of a growing tax scandal. Appearing before a Senate committee in Canberra Tuesday, Secretary to the Treasury Steven Kennedy faced questions about the appropriateness of PwC Australia's A\$985,000 (US\$645,000) contract, which runs until the end of the year. "We have had no concern across the delivery of that contract, however, the point is well made and understood that of the broader public perception of the company," Kennedy said in response to a question from Senator Nick McKim.



PwC has been under fire following revelations that a former senior partner obtained secret information on tax policy while advising the government and then leaked it to colleagues who used it to shop tax-planning advice to global clients. "We will very carefully consider our future procurement arrangements, but we will act in line with advice from the Finance Department," Kennedy said.

How Saudi cricket is building bridges between cultures

JEDDAH (Agencies): The sun was directly over Jeddah’s sprawling cityscape, casting a warm orange glow as a group of men gathered in an empty lot. They were in casual attire, with some wearing cricket jerseys and others in traditional shalwar kameez outfits. The sound of lively chatter and laughter filled the air as they set up for a tape-ball cricket game. The men worked together to mark out a makeshift pitch on the dusty plot, using chalk to draw the boundaries and creases. As the preparations continued, the players took turns to warm up their arms by throwing the ball to each other. The tape ball is a tennis ball covered in electrical tape, which makes it easier to grip and swing — similar to a traditional cricket ball. It is a popular choice for informal games played on streets, in parks, and other open spaces. Meanwhile, a small group of spectators had gathered on the sidelines, eager to watch the game unfold. They chatted amongst themselves, discussing the players’ skills, and making predictions on who would win. The



game was about to begin. For many Saudis, Fridays are a time to unwind, catch up on sleep, and enjoy traditional meals with loved ones. However, for many expats living in Saudi Arabia, Fridays can look quite different. Those from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh often use their Fridays to pursue hobbies, which by in large seems to be cricket. It is estimated that there are approximately 7.5 million expats from cricket-playing nations residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These expats use the beloved game as means to stay connected with their home countries and cultures. Furthermore, cricket provides them with a sense of familiarity and comfort in a foreign land and allows them

to bond with fellow expats over a shared passion for the sport. Mohammed Hassan, a 27-year-old IT professional, captured his passion for the game by saying: “Playing cricket on Fridays is like a breath of fresh air for me. It’s a chance to forget about work and the stresses of daily life and to just enjoy the game with my friends. We play on empty plots of land or in parks, wherever we can find a space.” Most players are forced to play on empty plots of land and makeshift fields, as there are few dedicated cricket facilities available in the country. This is particularly true in smaller towns and cities, where there may be little to no cricket infrastructure at all. However, despite all these challenges, expats have continued to play cricket in Saudi Arabia and have even formed their own community-led leagues and tournaments. The transformation of the Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation under the patronage of Prince Saud bin Mishal Al-Saud has had a significant impact on the development of the sport across the country.

Baseball United names Karachi Monarchs as its second franchise

KARACHI: Baseball United, the first professional baseball league serving the Middle East, India and Pakistan, has announced the award of its second franchise to Karachi. The new franchise, and first professional baseball team in Pakistan’s history, will compete against Baseball United’s recently announced team from India, the Mumbai Cobras. The new team is called the Karachi Monarchs and will use the Karachi “K” and a bejeweled crown as its primary brand marks. The Monarchs’ name honors Karachi’s leadership role as Pakistan’s industrial, economic and financial capital, while also paying homage to the city’s passionate love for baseball’s bat and ball counterpart: cricket. The Karachi Kings are one of the founding franchises of the Pakistan Super



League, the nation’s premier cricket league. Monarchs is also the moniker of one of the United States’ most successful baseball teams. The Kansas City Monarchs won 12 Negro league titles — most of which came before Major League Baseball’s integration — aided by Hall of Famers like Satchel Paige, Ernie Banks and Jackie Robinson. “It’s an honor to welcome the great city of Karachi into the Baseball United family,” said Kash Shaikh, the league’s president, CEO and co-owner.

Bayern Munich bring back Rummenigge to supervisory board

MUNICH: Former chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is returning to Bayern Munich as a member of the club’s supervisory board. Bayern said on Tuesday that 67-year-old Rummenigge, a former player and long-time employee of the club before he made way for incoming CEO Oliver Kahn in December 2021, was coming back to ensure its continued success. “He is one of the biggest figures in the history of our club, everyone knows what he has done,” Bayern president Herbert Hainer said. “His experience, his competence and his international network will enormously help Bayern be successful in the future, too.” Bayern were without a sporting director following the dismissal of Hasan Salihamidzic along with Kahn on Saturday, when they won a record-extending 11th consecutive Bundesliga title. Bayern presented Jan-Christian Dreesen as Kahn’s replacement on Sunday, when Hainer said he would propose Rummenigge’s return at the club’s shareholders’ meeting on Tuesday. Rummenigge, a former striker who scored 162 goals in 310 Bundesliga appearances for Bayern, won the European Cup with the club in 1975 and 1976. He also won two Bundesliga and two German Cup titles before leaving for Inter Milan in 1984.



Jabeur bounces back at French Open, Ruud and Russian teenager advance

PARIS (Agencies): Ons Jabeur got a do-over on Court Philippe Chatrier at the French Open and won this time. A year after her first-round exit, the No. 7 seed Jabeur beat Lucia Bronzetti 6-4, 6-1 to help erase some bad memories and answer questions about a recent calf injury. The Tunisian, a crowd favorite in Paris, smiled and expressed relief in not repeating last year’s mistake, when she lost to Magda Linette of Poland. “I’m very happy to win my first match on Philippe Chatrier — because I’ve never won here,” Jabeur said on court about the clay-court tournament’s main stadium. Now she can focus on trying to win her first major. She was runner-up at Wimble-



don and the US Open last year. The 28-year-old Jabeur has also battled injuries this season. She had knee surgery after the Australian Open, and was then sidelined with a calf injury. She had stopped playing against top-ranked Iga Swiatek at the clay-court tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, in late April and then pulled out of the Madrid Open.

Illegal Premier League football streaming gang jailed

LONDON (Agencies): Five men in the UK who illegally streamed English Premier League football matches to tens of thousands of people were jailed on Tuesday, the league announced. Members of the gang received prison terms ranging from three to 11 years each after the Premier League brought what it said was “the world’s largest-ever prosecution of an illegal streaming network”. The defendants, aged between 30 and 46, raked in more than £7 million (\$8.7 million) selling subscriptions to three illegal platforms streaming to over 50,000 customers and resellers. “The organisations offered illegal access to watch Pre-



mier League matches, hundreds of channels from around the world and tens of thousands of on-demand films and TV shows,” the Premier League said in a statement. The gang’s “mastermind”, Mark Gould, 36, was sentenced to 11 years in jail at Chesterfield Justice Centre, in central England. The remaining four received sentences ranging from

three to more than five years. The private prosecution was supported by the trading standards team at Hammersmith and Fulham Council in London and the intellectual property protection organisation FACT (the Federation Against Copyright Theft). “Today’s sentencing is the result of a long and complex prosecution of a highly sophisticated operation,” Premier League general counsel Kevin Plumb said. “The sentences handed down, which are the longest sentences ever issued for piracy-related crimes, vindicate the efforts made to bring these individuals to justice and reflect the severity and extent of the crimes.”

Alcaraz, Djokovic face brief trouble late in straight-set victories at French Open

PARIS (Agencies): Pretty much everyone expects to see, and likely wants to see, Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic face each other in the French Open semifinals. There’s work to be done first, of course, and both began their journeys at Roland Garros with straight-set victories Monday against opponents making Grand Slam debuts. These were supposed to be straightforward chances to ease into the clay-court tournament for the two popular picks to win the men’s trophy — and it turned out that way, other than a brief late blip for each. Djokovic, a 22-time major champ seeded No. 3, was up first in Court Philippe Cha-



trier, facing 114th-ranked Aleksandar Kovacevic, a 24-year-old from New York. Djokovic served for the victory at 5-4 in the third set but got broken there. Not surprisingly, he quickly righted himself and won 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (1). “Made me work for my victory,” Djokovic said. “I played really well and held things under control for 2 1/2 sets and then lost

my serve and things got a little bit on a wrong side for me,” said the 36-year-old Serb, who can break the men’s mark for most Slam titles he currently shares with Rafael Nadal, the 14-time French Open winner sidelined by a bad hip. “But I managed to hold my nerves and played pretty much a perfect tiebreak.” Next came Alcaraz, a one-time major champ seeded No. 1, in Court Suzanne Lenglen, facing 159th-ranked qualifier Flavio Cobolli, a 21-year-old from Florence, Italy. Alcaraz held three match points to close things at 5-3 in the third set but couldn’t convert, then found himself at 5-all minutes later.

Chennai win Indian Premier League in stunning finish against Gujarat

AHMEDABAD (Agencies): Chennai Super Kings won a sensational Indian Premier League final against the defending champions Gujarat Titans off the last ball on Tuesday. Chennai were squeezed by medium-pacer Mohit Sharma in the last over to need 10 runs off the final two balls. Sharma got his length wrong and Ravindra Jadeja hit a straight six. Sharma then got his line wrong and Jadeja hit a four to fine leg to complete a stunning five-wicket win. “I was just thinking I need to swing hard, as much as I can,” Jadeja said. “Where the ball will go, I was not thinking about that. I was backing myself and looking to hit straight, because I know Mohit can



bowl those slower balls.” Victory gave Chennai a record-equaling fifth title, and gave retiring batter Ambati Rayudu a sixth IPL title, tying him with Rohit Sharma as the league’s most successful players. “It’s a fairytale finish,” Rayudu said. “I’m fortunate to have played in really great sides. I can smile for the rest of my life.” The league needed three days to play the

final. It was washed out on Sunday, started late Monday and finished after 1:30 a.m. local time on Tuesday. But it was worth it. Gujarat was made to bat first and posted 214-4 — the highest ever total in a final — highlighted by 96 from Sai Sudharsan. Rain halted Chennai’s chase in the first over for nearly 2 1/2 hours, and reduced the target to 171 in 15 overs. Chennai needed every single ball to make a thrilling 171-5. A fantastic launch was shared by openers Devon Conway, 47 off 25 balls, and Ruturaj Gaikwad, 26 off 16. They raised a half-century stand within the four-over powerplay, including 17 runs in legspinner Rashid Khan’s first over.

Tunisia carry Arab hopes into knock-out stages of 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup

There will be an Arab team in the knockout stages of the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup, but Tunisia made it through by the narrowest of margins and will take on Brazil in the second round on Wednesday. At the end of the group stage, the North Africans were the fourth of the four best third-placed teams to go through, edging out France courtesy of a slightly better goal difference after both finished on three points. It shouldn’t have been so tense. Earlier on Sunday, Tunisia were heading for a 0-0 draw against Uruguay in Group E that would have been enough. In the 92nd minute, however, captain Ghaith Ouahabi handled in the area and Franco Gonzalez scored the only goal of the game. While it was a deserved win for



the South Americans, it was a bitter pill to swallow, not least for Ouahabi, who had been a standout in the backline. A late booking meant that the defender would miss the Brazil match, but he will be relieved that his team are not now on their way home from Argentina. After full-time, the players had to wait for the result from Honduras and France. If Honduras won, it was all over for Tunisia, and the Central Americans took

an early lead as the Europeans went down to 10 men. It looked ominous, but then France came roaring back to lead 3-1. The problem then was that if they scored one more, then they would be going through. It did not happen, but it made for a stressful few hours. Earlier, both Uruguay and Tunisia knew that a draw would be enough for both, and the Arab team, who had sat back for the most part in the 3-0 win over Iraq three days previously before showing some clinical finishing, were always likely to employ similar methods against Uruguay. The South Americans made most of the running and had 12 attempts on goal by the half-hour, though that did not do enough to trouble the in-form Dries Arfaoui in goal.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: MAY 31, 2023



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES**: You need to recharge your spiritual batteries today and, while that won’t be difficult at all, it could be a little tedious. If you can enjoy the slowness of each moment, that should help a lot!
– **TAURUS**: While you may be in a funk for part of the day, you’ve still got time and energy for big projects. In fact, your mood might lift considerably once you’ve started in a brand-new direction!
– **GEMINI**: The right side of your brain is working overtime, and it’s easy to figure out what other folks are really thinking, at least those you know well. You may not need to do anything differently after all.
– **CANCER**: You’re not sure what’s going on right now thanks to some family weirdness, but as long as you don’t have any major decisions to make today, you should actually feel pretty great by tonight!
– **LEO**: Your mind is in the past, though it’s certainly not stuck there! You may find that it’s a good time to hunt down antiques or collectibles or just look

through old photos and reminisce.
– **VIRGO**: You may not know exactly what’s going on, but you can tell that there’s a lot left for you to learn. It’s the perfect time to investigate people or mysterious forces in your life. Clues appear everywhere!
– **LIBRA**: Let yourself make decisions about how to spend your time and energy today even if others have requests. You can put them off for now and might be better able to help after some time off.
– **SCORPIO**: It’s a good time to look for inspiration. You may want to check out your old standbys, but it’s better to seek it in places you’ve never tried before. Things are getting more interesting!
– **SAGITTARIUS**: This isn’t the best time to hit the party scene or meet lots of new people. Your usual, fairly ebullient personality is somewhat subdued for now thanks to some off interference from outside energy.
– **CAPRICORN**: You can tell that your viewpoint is more objective than your family’s, but that doesn’t mean you can convince them of anything or even that you’re right! Take time and figure everything out.
– **ACQUARIUS**: You’re performing for a certain person or group today, maybe an interview, date, or performance of some kind. Though you’re at your best, you could still have a case of the jitters. Steel yourself.
– **PISCES**: Things are getting more intense today thanks to the weird people who are swooping in to make mischief everywhere. Your friends, freakiest customers, and older relatives all need attention.

Truce extended in Sudan as UN warns 1 million could flee

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the US have announced on Monday a five-day extension of a truce agreed between Sudan's warring sides, the Saudi Press agency reported, as the UN warned a million could flee the country by October. Mediators said the truce between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces aims to allow humanitarian activities to continue. Originally signed on May 20 and due to expire on Monday, the ceasefire has not been perfectly observed, with low intensity fighting continuing in the capital Khartoum and elsewhere. On Sunday, mediators criticized the repeated violations of the truce by both sides, warning hostilities posed a threat to humanitarian work. Meanwhile, the UN said that more than a



million refugees will flee Sudan by October. More than 350,000 have already fled across Sudan's borders since the war erupted on April 15. Most have gone to Egypt, Chad and South Sudan and an additional one million have been displaced inside Sudan. The UNHCR had predicted that about 800,000 Sudanese and 200,000 people of other nationalities would flee Sudan over six months,

but the refugee agency's head Filippo Grandi said on Monday that was an underestimate. "This projection ... may be conservative," he said. "At the beginning I didn't believe it would be, but now I'm beginning to be worried." The collapse of law and order in Sudan and "a lot of people desperate to move on" would provide fertile ground for human trafficking, and weapons moving across borders could create more violence, Grandi said. "We've seen it in Libya with the Sahel. We don't want a repeat of that because it would be a multiplier of crisis and of humanitarian problems. Thousands of families continue to shelter at home, rationing water and electricity while trying desperately to avoid stray gunfire.

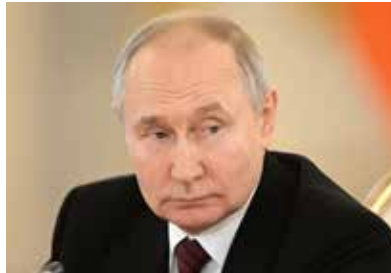
Saudi Armed Forces launch 'Eagle Resolve 23' with GCC, US troops

RIYADH: The Saudi Armed Forces launched a joint exercise on Sunday with the participation of forces from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the US, the Kingdom's defense ministry announced on Monday. The "Eagle Resolve 23" drill, which was launched at the Air Warfare Center in the Eastern Province, aims to enhance military cooperation, exchange expertise in the field of missile air defense and unify planning and implementation of procedures. It will also consolidate the principles and foundations of coordination for joint action to reach a required operational compatibility and integration, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Brig. Gen. Uqab bin Awad Al-Mutairi, the commander of the

duty force in the joint exercise, said the forces participating in the exercise will implement a number of theoretical and practical exercises, including air and missile operations with live ammunition, defensive counter-air operations, air-to-air refueling operations, and surface-to-naval warfare operations, electronic warfare, naval incursions, defense against weapons of mass destruction and mass casualties. He added that the exercise is being implemented for the first time in the Kingdom, where preparatory meetings and academic lectures for the exercise began last week. Prior to that, eight conferences were also held, seven of which were in Riyadh and another in Tampa, Florida in the US.

Putin confirms strike on Ukrainian military intelligence HQ

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Ukrainian military's Main Intelligence Directorate (GUR) in Kiev, President Vladimir Putin confirmed on Tuesday. "We've been talking about the possibility of striking the 'decision-making centers.' Naturally, Ukraine's military intelligence headquarters falls into such a category, and it was hit two or three days ago," Putin stated. The Russian president also acknowledged a Ukrainian drone attack on Moscow, which occurred earlier in the day. The main goal of such strikes is attempting to "intimidate" Russian citizens, which is a "clear sign" of "terrorist activity" on Kiev's part, he said. Unlike Ukraine, which has been targeting "residential buildings" in Russia, Moscow is striking only military targets, such as ammunition dumps or fuel depots, with "high-precision" weaponry, he added. Moscow's anti-aircraft defense fared "okay" in repelling the latest attack, Putin noted, admitting that there still was room for improve-



ment. Kiev's ultimate goal of indiscriminately striking Moscow and other Russian cities is provoking a "mirror response" from Russia, the president stated. "They are provoking us into taking mirror actions. We'll see what we can do about it. Yet, Ukrainian citizens, who of course have no say about anything now, since Ukraine has unleashed a total terror against its civilian population, must realize what the incumbent authorities are pushing for," Putin said. He went on to say that the most grave threats include the continuous effort by Kiev to "disrupt" the work of the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, as well as potential attempts to use a "dirty" nuclear device.

IAEA Resolves Nuclear Issues With Iran – Iranian Media

DUBAI (Agencies): The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has resolved nuclear issues with Iran relating to one of three sites being investigated over the presence of uranium particles, Iranian media reported on Tuesday. The agency's alleged case regarding

the findings of uranium particles with 83.7 purity has also been closed, a source told the semi-official Mehr news agency. The IAEA is due to issue quarterly reports on Iran this week, ahead of a regular meeting of its 35-nation Board of Governors next week.

Yunnan protest: Mosque closure sees clashes with security forces

BELJING (Agencies): Protesters have clashed with large numbers of police over the planned demolition of a mosque's dome in a largely-Muslim town in Yunnan, China. Social media videos showed crowds outside the 13th-century Najiaying Mosque in Nagu town on Saturday. Scuffles broke out between police and locals, who were hemmed in by hundreds of armed officers. Yunnan, an ethnically-diverse province in southern China, has a significant Muslim population. China is officially atheist and the government says it allows religious freedom. But observers say there has been an increased crack-down on organised religion in recent years - with Beijing seeking greater control. In Nagu, the Najiaying Mosque had been a key landmark and in recent years had expanded with a new domed roof, as well as

a number of minarets. However, a 2020 court judgement ruled the additions illegal, ordering them to be removed. Recent actions to carry out that order appear to have sparked the demonstrations. Videos of Saturday's protests, verified by the BBC, showed lines of police blocking entry to the mosque, and group of men attempting to force their way in with some throwing rocks at police. Other clips show the police later withdrawing, as the crowd enters Najiaying Mosque. Police in Tonghai County, where Nagu is located, issued a statement on Sunday calling for protesters to surrender to police by 6 June. Dozens have been arrested so far. "Those who voluntarily turn themselves in and truthfully confess the facts of violations and crimes may be given a lighter or mitigated punishment," said the notice. Calling

Afghanistan calls for 'diplomatic' resolution with Iran after border skirmishes

The Taliban government has called on Iran to resolve bilateral issues "through diplomatic channels," an Afghan official told Arab News on Monday, as tension at their border eased following skirmishes over the weekend. At least one Taliban officer and two Iranian border guards were killed on Saturday after shooting broke out near a border post between Afghanistan and Iran, with officials from the two countries accusing each other of opening fire first. The incident came amid a dispute over water rights to the Helmand River, which flows from Afghanistan into Iran's arid eastern regions, as the neighbors face worsening drought exacerbated by climate change. "We don't want relations with our neighboring countries to deteriorate. Our request to all neighboring countries, including Iran, is to resolve these issues

through diplomatic channels," Hafiz Zia Ahmad, deputy spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Arab News. "The current situation is normal. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is never in favor of escalation." Officials have yet to provide details on what provoked the incident, in which several people on both sides were also injured. It occurred after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi warned the Taliban earlier this month not to violate Iran's water rights over their shared Helmand River, as laid out in a bilateral treaty signed in 1973. Water rights are among other issues the two countries faced since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2021, including previous skirmishes at the border and reports of mistreatment against Afghan refugees in Iran, which has for decades hosted millions of them.

Foxconn: iPhone maker hikes pay ahead of new model launch



NEW YORK (Agencies): Apple supplier Foxconn is ramping up efforts to recruit more workers for the world's largest iPhone factory, ahead of the launch of a new model. Foxconn says new workers at its plant in Zhengzhou, China will get bonuses of up to 3,000 yuan (\$424; £343) if they stay in the job for at least 90 days. Current employees who successfully refer a friend or family member will also qualify for an award, it says. The iPhone 15 is expected to be launched in September. Foxconn employees who refer a new recruit will now receive 500 yuan if the person stays at the company for a month, a post seen by the BBC on the popular Chinese messaging app WeChat said. It marks the latest move by the Taiwan-based manufacturer to improve benefits for its workers at the huge plant – known as iPhone City. A Foxconn spokesperson declined to comment when approached by the BBC. Last year, hundreds of workers protested at the Zhengzhou plant over Covid restrictions and claims of overdue pay. Videos, which were shared online in October, also showed people jumping a fence outside the Foxconn factory after it was locked down due to a coronavirus outbreak. In November, Apple warned that shipments of the iPhone 14 would be delayed after Chinese officials locked down a district of Zhengzhou, where iPhone City is located. The iPhone maker then recruited new workers with promises of higher bonuses. However, one worker told the BBC that the contracts were changed so they "could not get the subsidy promised", adding that they had been quarantined without food. Foxconn said in response that "a technical error occurred during the onboarding process", adding that the pay of new recruits was "the same as agreed (in the) official recruitment posters". The Zhengzhou plant employs more than 200,000 people, making Apple devices including the iPhone 14 Pro and Pro Max.

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