US and India agree defence industry cooperation plan

NEW DELHI (Agencies): The United States and India agreed a roadmap for military industrial cooperation on Monday, as New Delhi seeks to reduce its reliance on key arms supplier Russia in the face of tensions with China. "We established an ambitious new roadmap for defence industrial cooperation, which will fast track high priority co-development and co-production projects," US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said as he wrapped up an overnight visit to New Delhi. But analysts warned that such pledges needed to be backed up by concrete action. Moscow and New Delhi have been allies for decades, with Russia by far India's biggest arms supplier. Now India — which has not condemned Russia for its invasion of Ukraine - is looking to diversify, both by broadening its sources of imports and ramping up domestic production. Western countries, including the United States and France, are negotiating multibillion-dollar contracts, and diplomats say India is placing a high priority on technology transfer as

Former US VP Mike

Pence officially enters

2024 presidential race



track technology cooperation and co-production in areas including air combat and land mobility systems, the "undersea domain", and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, the US Defense Department said. The initiative "aims to change the paradigm for cooperation between US and Indian defence sectors",

cutting-edge technologies and support India's defence modernisation plans". India has displaced China as the world's most populous country this year, and relations between the Asian giants have been strained since a deadly high-altitude border clash in June 2020. At the same time, Washington and Beijing are engaged in fierce competition on diplomatic, military, it said, and "could provide India access to technological and economic fronts.

site found in S Africa

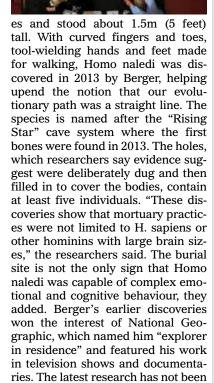
WASHINGTON (Agencies): Former United States Vice President Mike Pence has formally announced he will campaign for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential race. The announcement sets him up against former President Donald Trump, the current frontrunner and Pence's former boss. Pence's campaign filed a declaration of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission on Monday and the 63-year-old is expected to launch his campaign on Wednesday in the early nominating state of Iowa. A staunch social conservative and evangelical Christian, the former governor of Indiana has increasingly distanced himself from Trump after rejecting the former president's demands that he overturn the 2020 election in his role as president of the Senate. Pence joins a crowded and still-growing field of Republican candidates, which includes Trump, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Tim Scott and former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum is also planning to enter the race on Wednesday, according to a person familiar with Burgum's plans, while former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is jumping into the race on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Republican candidates into double digits.

Ex-FBI agent Robert Hanssen who spied for Russia dies in US jail

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Robert Hanssen, a former FBI agent turned spy whom the bureau describes as the most damaging in its history, was found dead in his prison cell, United States authorities have said. Hanssen, 79, was sentenced in 2002 to life in prison after pleading guilty to spying for the Soviet Union and later Russia for more than 20 years. Prison staff initiated life-saving measures after finding Hanssen unresponsive on Monday morning but were not successful, the Bureau of Prisons said in a statement. It did not provide a cause of death. Hanssen, who was serving his sentence in Colorado, joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1976 and began selling classified information to the Soviet Union in 1985, according to the FBI. By the time of his arrest in 2001, he had been compensated with more than \$1.4m in cash, bank funds and diamonds, in exchange for compromising numerous human sources.

Scientists say world's oldest-known burial

CAPE TOWN (Agencies): Palaeontologists in South Africa said they have found the oldest-known burial site in the world, containing remains of a small-brained distant relative of humans previously thought incapable of complex behaviour. Led by renowned palaeoanthropologist Lee Berger, researchers said on Monday that they discovered several specimens of Homo naledi - a tree-climbing, Stone Age hominid - buried about 30 metres (100 feet) underground in a cave system within the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Johannesburg. The findings challenge the current understanding of human evolution, as it is normally held that the development of bigger brains allowed for the performing of complex, "meaning-making" activities such as burying the dead. The oldest burials previously unearthed, found in the Middle East and Africa, contained the remains of Homo sapiens – and were around 100,000 years old. Those found in South Africa by the research team led by Berger, whose previous announcements have been controversial, date back to at least 200,000 BC. "Homo naledi tells us we're not that special," Berger, a United States-born explorer, told AFP news agency. "We ain't gonna get over that." Homo naledi, a primitive species at the crossroads needed to challenge what we know between apes and modern humans, about how humans evolved their had brains about the size of orang- complex thinking.



peer-reviewed yet and some outside

scientists think more evidence is

Nearly 80 students, mostly girls, poisoned in Afghanistan - Officials

KABUL (CNN/Agencies): Nearly 80 primary school students, mostly girls, are suspected to have been poisoned over the weekend and taken to hospital in Afghanistan's Sangcharak district, Mohammad Rahmani, the head of Education Department in the northern Sar-e-Pul province, told CNN. The intelligence unit of the provincial police department said they are still investigating the matter, according to Rahmani, who said he spoke to police directly. So far officials are unclear on the culprit, the motive, and the potential type of poison possibly used against the school children, he added. The investigation was prompted by accounts of 17 female students in one school on Saturday, and a day later, 60 others, mostly girls, at another school in a nearby village, Rahmani said. "After reaching school in the morning, the students suddenly started feeling diz-



zy, headache, and nausea," Rahmani said. The students were admitted to a local hospital, but 14 whose situation was more critical were transported to a hospital in the provincial capital, according to Rahmani. A doctor at Sar-i-Pul hospital confirmed to CNN that some of the girls were admitted to hospital and he believes they were poisoned based on their symptoms.

Iran to reopen embassy in Saudi Arabia after seven years

TEHRAN (Agencies): Iran has confirmed it will reopen its embassy in Saudi Arabia this week, seven years after it was closed due to a diplomatic rift. In a short statement on Monday, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said Tehran's embassy in Riyadh will be reopened on Tuesday, followed by the reopening of its consulate in Jeddah and its representative office with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation a day later. He said the embassy and the consulate had already started operating to facilitate pilgrimages for the Hajj and now they will "be officially reopened in the presence of the two countries' foreign ministry officials". The move comes in accordance with a China-brokered agreement that Iran and Saudi Arabia ministry deputy for regional affairs, signed in Beijing on March 10, which as its envoy to Riyadh, Iranian stateset a deadline of two months to re- linked media reported last month.



open embassies. Iranian authorities have since said the embassies had begun carrying out some practical work but needed more time to officially reopen because the buildings had been closed for years. There is still no official confirmation on when the Saudi embassy in Tehran or the kingdom's consulate in Mashhad will officially reopen or who its ambassador will be. Tehran has selected Alireza Enayati, a former envoy to Kuwait and a foreign

Diplomats of China, US meet amid tense military standoff; 'bilateral ties enter a more complicated phase of game'

The recent interactions between senior Chinese and US officials are a contrast to the tit-for-tat actions and war of words between the two militaries over the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea, which analysts said highlighted the fact that China and the US have entered a more complicated phase of the game - while China is willing to stabilize bilateral relations and is open to possible cooperation, it will also firmly fight back against the US' provocations. On Monday, China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu is scheduled to meet with the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink. US national security official Sarah Beran will join Kritenbrink to "discuss key issues in the bilateral relationship" with the Chinese side, read a statement from the US State Department seen on Saturday. Kritenbrink's trip follows China's top diplomat Wang Yi and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's mid-May meeting in Vienna and China's



Commerce Minister Wang Wentao's visit to Washington in late May. While China and the US are having diplomatic re-engagement, the US continues to provoke China, leading to questions over its sincerity in improving ties, analysts said. Though the Shangri-La Dialogue, where China and the US traded barbs, has concluded, the war of words prompted by US' provocations in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Straits continued on Monday. It was the US that stirred up trouble and made provocations first, and China responded with measures in line with law and regulations, said Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at a regular press conference on Monday.

Video and audio calls coming to Twitter: Elon Musk

NEW YORK (Agencies): Twitter boss Elon Musk has put out word that audio and video calls are coming to the platform. "Coming soon will be voice and video chat from your handle to anyone on this platform," Musk said for \$44 billion late last year, Musk has in a tweet on Tuesday. "So you can implemented changes in seemingly talk to people anywhere in the world impulsive ways, sometimes causing without giving them your phone num- chaos for users. The Twitter boss has ber." In a subsequent comment fired talked publicly of building an all-puroff on Twitter, Musk contended that pose "X" application that combines the WhatsApp messaging service operated by Meta "cannot be trusted." A messaging feature at Twitter would

compete with an array of free services of the Twitter company name but con-

gram and WhatsApp. Musk added that Twitter on Wednesday will start encrypting direct messages on the platform, scrambling contents to safeguard privacy. Since buying Twitter messages, payments and more.

Musk recently made the tech firm part of an "X" shell corporation, getting rid including Messenger, Signal, Tele-tinuing to use it for the service.

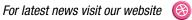
ExxonMobil: New Fracking Technology Can Double Oil Output

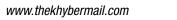
The U.S. shale revolution dramatical- limited equipment and workers as ly reshaped the world energy markets. The shale boom was one of the most impressive growth stories, from take off in 2008 to the Permian stealing the mantle from Saudi Arabia's Ghawar as the world's highest producing oilfield in a little over a decade. Overall, Reuters has estimated that, "U.S. petroleum production is at least 10-11 million bpd higher than it would have been without horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing." Unfortunately, the shale patch has lately been struggling to ramp up production due to a litany of challenges including pressure from investors to boost returns,

well as a lack of capital. But shale giant ExxonMobil Corp. (NYSE:XOM) is now betting that shale producers can double crude output from their existing wells by employing novel fracking technologies. "There's just a lot of oil being left in the ground. Fracking's been around for a really long time, but the science of fracking is not well understood," Exxon Chief Executive Officer Darren Woods said Thursday at the Bernstein Strategic Decisions conference. Woods has revealed that Exxon is currently working on two specific areas to improve fracking.

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.













JUI leaders ask NAB to take action against corrupt practices by PTI leaders

PESHAWAR (APP): General Section of merit and corruption commit-posts of grade 16 and 18 in provincial retary Jamait Ulema-e- islam (JUI), Maulana Atta ul Haq Darwaish and Former Provincial Minister, Maulana Amanullah Haqqani have demanded National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to initiate inquiry in Khyber Pakhtukwa in pattern of Punjab against corruption committed by PTI rulers. In a joint press statement issued here on Monday, both the JUI leaders laid stress on NAB to take action in KP against appointments made in viola-

ted by the PTI leaders. They said in Punjab former Chief Minister, Chaudry Pervez Elahi has been arrested on PTI rulers, the JUI leaders alleged. allegation of corruption so the rulers in KP who wasted provincial resources and left the kitty empty should also be arrested and made accountable. During nine years rules in KP, the PTI leadership has not only set examples of corruption but also left the province in financial crisis. Around 170 appointments were made on different

assembly in total violation of rules and merits who all are relatives for former In the same way hundreds of media influencers were appointed in Information Department whose only duty was propagation of PTI on government's expense. They reiterated their demand from NAB and Anti Corruption Department to take strict action and made PTI rulers accountable over their corrupt practices.

PAJCCI Terms Barter Trade Approval Between Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran And Russia As Dream Come True

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Pakistan ing border crossings, reducing multi-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zubair Motiwala while welcoming Pakistan's government decision of initiating Barter Trade with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia has termed the development as 'dream come true'. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Chairman PA-JCCI stated that fruitful consequence of a series of meetings, since 2021 by PAJCCI has started bearing fruits. PA-JCCI had been recommending several measures to facilitate economic activity with Afghanistan including waiver of E-Form & EIF requirement for extended period till finalization of alternate mechanism, opening up of new border crossings, increase in timings at exist-

GOLD PRICE IN PAK

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

FOREX RATES

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	303	306
China Yuan	40.28	40.68
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.06
Saudi Riyal	79.5	81
U.A.E Dirham	83	84
UK Pound	376	380
Euro	321	324
Australian Dollar	202	204
Canadian Dollar	227	230

Emergency Numbers

Phone No

Organization

Organization	1 Hone No	
Rescue 1122 HQrs	091-2264224-25	
Rescue 1122 Mardan	0937-9230770	
Fire Brigade Cantt:	091-9212534	
Fire Brigade City	091-2566666	
Police Emergency	091-9212222	
Edhi Ambulance	091-2214575	
Red Crescent Ambulance	091-2210836	
Emergency Ambulance	091-2590846	
Civil Defence, Peshawar	091-9212176	
Lady Reading Hospital	091-9211430	
HMC Peshawar	091-9217140-46	
KTH Peshawar	091-9216340-8	
Irnam Hospital	091-9216115	
Mission Hospital	091-2212371	
Al-Khidmat Hospital	091-2215945	
Fauji Foundation Hospital	091-9212771-4	
Frontier Foundation Blood Services	091-5703463	
Hamza Foundation, Peshawar	091-5841632	
Sui Gas, Peshawar	091-9213016	
Wapda Complaint Peshawar	091-9212041	
PIA, Peshawar	091-9213351	
Airport Inquiry	114	
Railway Inquiry	117	

ple and manual checks, adding items to PKR trading category, barter trade mechanism implementation, exploring new items for trade, cross-stuffing. Finally, dreams come true as PAJCCI welcomes Barter Trade mechanism approval between Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia, Zubair reiterated. It merits a mention here that Ministry of Commerce issued an its order to approve Business to Business Barter Trade Mechanism 2023 to facilitate trade between Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Russia. The decision has been taken in view of current macroeconomic situation in the country and lack of formal banking sector and sanctions in Afghanistan. According to notification Pakistan can export 26 items to Iran, Afghanistan and Russia and in return

can import different items including gas, petroleum products and coal from these countries without payment in Dollars. President PAJCCI, Qazi Zahid stated that the organization has made a long struggle in highlighting the importance of barter trade and held several meetings with concerned officials both in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Former President, Executive Director Junaid Makda also stated that "The decision is timely and in right direction while keeping in view the problems being faced by business community dealing in trade with Afghanistan,"The decision of allowing barter trade will prove as win-win situation for all the stakeholders and usherin a new era of prosperity and development through promotion of commerce and trade in the whole region, they added.

KP's merged districts get their first-ever Model Police Stations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan, the Government of Japan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police jointly inaugurated the Model Police Stations in Kalaya, Orakzai District, and Ghalanai, Mohmand District, in a ceremony held in Islamabad on Tuesday. The Model Police Stations are unique police centers in merged districts, providing a range of new facilities to better serve the people of merged districts. Amongst others, these include a gender-responsive desk to address gender-based crimes reported to the police stations, a hall to convene joint community and police meetings, an investigation room, an office for station house officers, security posts, lodging facilities to accommodate 55 police personnel and separate holding rooms for men and women, said a press release issued by the Embassy of Japan in Islamabad. Addressing the ceremony, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiro, underlined, "Supporting security and justice sector institutions to provide people-oriented and gender-responsive services, especially in post-merger districts, is crucial in maintaining the rule of law in KP. The establishment of Model Police Stations in the merged districts will play an instrumental role in achieving this goal. We are excited to be a part of this important journey and are grateful to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and UNDP Pakistan for their continual efforts to build peaceful and just ment of Japan—to strengthen the rule of communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including merged districts," "Model Pointegrated into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governance in Pakistan.

Police will ensure an improved formal policing and justice system in merged areas," stated Ms Aliona Niculita, Officer-In-Charge, UNDP Pakistan. Together, we remain resolute in enhancing people' access to more inclusive, accessible, and efficient access to justice and security services in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly for women and other marginalised groups." The Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, Akhtar Hayat Khan, appraised the partnership with UNDP Pakistan and the Government of Japan to enhance access to justice services for people in the province including merged districts. "I am delighted to inaugurate the first of its kind Model Police Station of Mohmand and Orakzai, which is a result of the collaboration between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, UNDP Pakistan, and the Government of Japan. This Model Police Station is one of the many initiatives we are taking to strengthen the rule of law and provide better services to the citizens of these merged districts. These facilities will ensure that the police can respond to the needs and grievances of the people in a timely and effective manner. I hope that this Model Police Station will serve as an example for other police stations across the country." It is pertinent to mention here that these Model Police Stations were established by UNDP Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police as part of a project supported by the Governlaw in merged districts of the province. The UNDP Rule of Law Programme is

Health facilities under Sehat card to continue: Riaz Anwar

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Khy-from private hospitals under the faber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister for Health Riaz Anwar on Tuesday said province the health facilities under Sehat Card would continue for the people of the province. Talking to media here after release of a survey report on Sehat Card, he said that payments are being made to the insurance company under the head of different treatments while an inquiry into alleged corruption was also in process. Earlier, a survey report on Sehat Card released by Agha Khan University revealed that 63

cility while only 37 percent patients went to the government hospitals. that despite financial crunch in the It said that 10 percent of the population of KP was still deprived of the facility due to domicile or other technical issues, adding that an average Rs 31,395 expenses incurred on a patient's treatment, which was 20 to 40 percent more than the treatment expenses of a private hospital. The survey recommended participation of the citizens in the policy board of Sehat Card to address the technical issues and improve the capacity of the hospitals in backward percent people of KP got treatment and far flung areas.

Blast outside trader's house, no casualty

PESHAWAR (APP): An improvised Faqirabad area of Peshawar. Police explosive device (IED) blast ochowever; fortunately no casualty was reported in the incident. Poside the house of a trader located in cused, police added.

further informed that unknown mocurred outside the house of a local torcycle rider escaped after planting trader here on Tuesday morning explosive material outside the house of the businessman. The law enforcement agencies have launched lice said the blast took place out- a search operation to find the ac-

PPP-KP announces political power show in Swat on June 17

PESHAWAR (APP): People's Party Najamuddin Khan, Muhammad Hu-(PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced a political power show in Swat on June 17 to be addressed by party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. In this regard an important meeting of the office bearers of PPP-KP held in Malakand Division and was attended by Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha as presiding officer and members in- retary Amiad Afridi has been given a cluding former provincial presidents special task related to the gathering.

mayun Khan, Ahmed Hasan Khan, Akhunzada Chitan, Dr. Haider Ali Khan, Muzaffar Saeed, Dr. Amjad Ali and others. The meeting took various important decisions related to the public gathering and instructed political leadership and workers to make full preparations, said Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, adding that PPP Sec-

NWGH, Peshawar Clean Air Alliance ink MoU for collaborative efforts to address air pollution

PESHAWAR (APP): The Northwest General Hospital Research Centre (NWGH) and the Peshawar Clean Air Alliance (PCAA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly address air pollution in Peshawar on the occasion of World Environment Day. This collaboration aims to promote clean air and improve public health, said a press release on Tuesday. The PCAA, constituted in March 2021 comprising academics, researchers, health and environment experts, and media representatives, has been leading efforts to combat air pollution in the provincial capital, which is placed among the most polluted cities in Pakistan and in the world. In his opening remarks, Dr Nowsher Yousaf, Senior Manager of Occupational Health Safety & Environment elaborated the role of NWGH and the Department of Occupational Health Safety & Environment in environment protection by highlighting the achievements of the team in securing various national and international certifications in the field of Environment Management. He concluded his talk by raising awareness by offering summer internships to students of various schools who attended

shawar Clean Air Alliance in its tireless efforts to combat air pollution. The partnership with NWGH would facilitate critical research and data collection, contributing to a deeper understanding of the health impacts of air pollution and enabling evidence-based decision-making, he emphasised. "The collaboration between PCAA and NWGH aims to develop effective strategies to combat air pollution and its adverse health effects, benefiting the citizens of Peshawar," Taimur added. Fatima Faraz Hoti, a young PCAA member and a climate change activist, highlighted the urgent need to address climate change's impact on Pakistani youth. She emphasized that the use of fossil fuels and unsustainable agriculture contribute to climate change, resulting in limited access to nutritious food and clean water, which particularly affects young people. "By engaging the youth, we can foster strong social and environmental awareness, leading to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future," she added. Dr Adil Zareef, Convener of the Peshawar Clean Air Alliance, expressed his enthusiasm regarding environmental protection about the collaboration and said, "By combining our resources, knowledge, and expertise, we can drive evilice Stations equipped and training pro- implementing a range of interventions | the ceremony. Taimur Khan, Advisor dence-based policies and interventions vided to former Levies and Khasadars to strengthen security and justice sector of the SEED Program informed that that will benefit the health and well-be-SEED was proud to support the Pe- ing of the citizens." he urged.

Three-day PSB Refreshes Course On Doping, Speed, Stamina, Role Of Knowledgeable Coaches Begins

PESHAWAR (APP): Three-day Pakistan Sports board Refreshes Course on Anti-Doping Awareness, developing speed, stamina, and role of knowledgeable coaches got underway and well-known international course conductors Shahid islam and Nasrullah Rana took day-long sessions with almost 87 participants turned up from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Anti-Doping Awareness also underlined the need of enhancing speed and endorsement through the biomechanics of the human body. Shahid Islam said that soon after joining as Director General Shoaib Khoso, who directed all the centers across Pakistan for hosting different courses related to Athletes and Games in order to ensure the provision of firsthand and much-updated information to youngsters who are part of various Games. Shahid Islam said, tackling doping issues with an iron hand to save country's reputation awareness is key for the athletes. Sports at the elite level are about maximizing per-

formance and gaining every advantage possible within reason. To dope and use banned, performance-enhancing drugs is to knowingly gain an outlawed advantage over competitors, Shahid Islam said. He said lack of awareness to the athletes also led to such use of banned drugs. He said drugs and anti-doping in Sports should be thoroughly checked with the aim to protect the overall image of the athlete and the country. About the definitions of doping, Shahid Islam said that doping is defined as the presence of prohibited substances or methods to unfairly improve sporting performance and to gain an advantage over competitors. Shahid said that why do athletes take performance enhancing drugs is to recover from injury more quickly, to mask pain, influenced by others, the will to win overrides the moral conscience, a desire to be the best at all costs, especially when winning brings financial rewards, better results lead to better sponsors and en-

dorsement contracts, desire to meet the guidance of the athlete in life and expectations of others, making the most of a short sporting life, willingness to cheat for public acclaim and feeling that their natural ability is not good enough.He said, doping is now a global problem that follows international sporting events worldwide. International sports federations, led by the International Olympic Committee, have for the past half-century attempted to stop the spread of this problem, with little effect. Nasrullah Rana in his two-hour long lecture on the need of developing speed, stamina, and role of good coaches and knowledgeable coaches. He said the recognition, trust, respect or awareness of the coaches among athletes is only based on knowledge. He said, sports coaches assist athletes in developing to their full potential. They are responsible for training athletes in a sport by analyzing their performances, instructing in relevant skills and providing encouragement. He their full potential in their chosen said coaches are also responsible for

their chosen sport. Coaches teach them to cooperate, to be less selfish, and to listen to other teammates. The coaches also give children a sense of belonging. They help them make new friends and build their social circle outside the grounds as well. An important part of playing in a team is accepting discipline. Playing various sports helps them teach life skills such as teamwork, leadership, accountability, patience, and self-confidence and prepares them to face life challenges. Students get a chance to work on their physical and mental abilities to achieve goals in their life. "Sport teaches us development. It helps us learn things such as resilience, leadership, accountability, respect and patience. Lessons that sports teach us can help us develop as players and all round good people too," Nasrullah Rana said. Sports coaches help train people to achieve sports.

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Editor-in-Chief: Rizwan Inayat Editor: Omer Rizwan

First Floor, Town Hieghts, Old Bara Road, University Town Peshawar - Pakistan. Website: www.thekhybermail.com E-mail: thekhybermail@gmail.com - Phone: 091-7081579

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Dengue Surge

Health officials have expressed alarm at the outbreak of the dengue virus in the Kech district, as official data showed the infection claimed two lives and infected over 2,000 people during the months of April and May. The district is known to be a high-risk place for the virus, but this time around the situation is a lot more severe in terms of the positivity rate. Reports regarding the lack of preventive measures and health facilities are extremely concerning, and this should really not be happening given that this is now a yearly occurrence. The data by the Provincial Malaria Program showed district Kech reported 2,131 dengue cases in April and May. Two patients also died from the virus while undergoing treatment in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi. The changing weather patterns have also impacted the situation, because usually by the mid of May, dengue mosquitoes cannot survive once the temperature increases up to 37 degrees, however this has not been the case this time around. This district also deserves particular attention, because while Gwadar and Lasbela are also high-risk districts, only Kech has reported a surge in positive cases over the last six years. The officials claim that despite intense insecticide fogging, the virus cannot be stopped from spreading until the masses don't cooperate with the government to take preventive measures within their homes. However, local residents deny these claims and argue that the government has been neglectful. The truth may be somewhere in between as this menace requires a holistic approach that includes awareness campaigns, preventative measures on part of the government, and adequate medical facilities and interventions. The situation is dire considering that beds are short in the isolation wards and many patients are now being admitted in general wards or being shifted to Karachi. Given our experience with dengue, it is unfortunate to see how this is a yearly headline, and we fail to take proactive steps to address this.

Global South: Debt distress and food shortages — By Omer Javed

Pakistan is among those many developing countries that have been under serious debt distress in the wake of the recession-causing covid-19 pandemic. In this regard, a May 30 Bloomberg-published article 'IMF asks Pakistan to fix currency market before bailout resumes' pointed out 'Pakistan is stepping up efforts to secure funding as it teeters on the edge of a sovereign default. The South Asian nation faces about \$22 billion of external debt service for fiscal year 2024, which begins in July, according to Columbia Threadneedle Investments, which is about five times its reserves.' In addition, years of lack of deep non-neoliberal economic reform, along with practice of procyclical, austerity policies overall for a number of years, but acute application of monetary- and fiscal austerity policies under the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, especially during the last year or so, has resulted in weakening of further debt repayment capacity, as foreign exchange reserves received a lot lesser than projected support from exports, and deep dip in economic growth. Moreover. lack of any meaningful debt relief effort, along with little effort to improve an otherwise lacklustre debt restructuring framework, under an overall weak spirit of multilateralism, which is indeed ironic given the fast-unfolding existential threat of climate change crisis, and in the wake of the pandemic, required a lot more unified effort globally to effectively fight these challenges. Moreover, climate-related disasters are also adding to the already high debt burden. For instance, in the case of Pakistan, last years' catastrophic floods created immense loss to life and livelihood. A recently released report 'Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC) 2023' by 'FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises' pointed out in this regard 'In Pakistan, severe flooding in June and August 2022 affected the livelihoods of approximately 33 million people, especially in southern areas. ...In Pakistan, unprecedented floods between June and October temporarily displaced over 8 million people. Although most of the affected populations were able to return to their homes after the flooding receded, 89 000 were still displaced as of December 2022.' A recent Financial Times (FT)-published article 'Africa needs international help to avoid a lost decade' indicated in this regard 'African countries are facing a cost of living crisis, tightening

global liquidity and worsening climate shocks. All of this is intensified by unsustainable debt burdens, which have been deepened by the devaluation of local currencies against the dollar and the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes. ... This is unfair. African countries have been buffeted by shocks that they did not create, yet they have limited involvement in the multilateral decisions that affect them. A succession of international moments in the past two years - G20 and G7 Summits, IMF and World Bank meetings - could have provided opportunities to change this dynamic but largely failed to do so.' Moreover, the country has been suffering from food shortages since 2017. The same 'FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises' published report highlighted the serious food shortage in Pakistan, made all the more acute in the wake of last years' floods as 'The widespread loss of livelihoods compounded an already dire food security situation at the national level. ... Pakistan has been defined as a 'major' food crisis since 2017 when over 50 percent of its analysed population was in IPC [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 3 or above. before Pakistan was hit by the devastating monsoon floods in mid-June and the end of August, heatwaves in March and April, in conjunction with fertilizer shortages and lack of irrigation water, had affected 'Rabi' wheat crop yields and lowered livestock production in most of the analysed districts.' In this regard, on the one hand, the upcoming Budget needs to give special expenditure focus in the areas of climate change crisis, public health sector (especially to be better prepared for a likely another pandemic), and flood related disaster from last year. A recent Bloomberg published article 'Debt crisis looms for poorer nations most vulnerable to climate change' highlighted the need for much better multilateral spirit, in support of debt related challenges created by climate disasters. The article pointed out 'Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warned world leaders at the COP27 climate talks last November that developing nations risk falling into a "financial debt trap" if they're forced to turn to the markets to cover the mounting costs of climate change. Six months on, with rates and temperatures rising,

Courtesy: Pakistan Today

his prediction looks prescient.'

Will China build a military presence in the Middle East? — By Yun Sun

brokered a Saudi-Iran peace deal, China's political and military ambitions in the Middle East have been the subjects of intense speculation. While most observers agree that China's strategic goals in the region are moving beyond traditional energy transactions, there's debate about whether China is seeking to replace the United States in the Middle East, and whether China may deploy troops to project its power. The two questions are rational and logically linked. With China's growing involvement in regional economic, political, and diplomatic affairs, Beijing's ability to shape domestic and intra-regional dynamics is growing. In the context of the great power competition between the US and China, strategists cannot help but wonder what this means for America's role in the region and the security architecture its presence has enabled. China clearly has national security interests to protect in the oil-rich region. More than 53 percent of its crude imports come from the Middle East, a flow of hydrocarbons that Beijing cannot afford to lose. Given this dependency, and the vulnerability it poses in the event of a military conflict, it's logical to assume that China would want to have its troops in the region. Logical, but is the assumption correct? Maybe not. Two areas that influence Beijing's energy supplies are production and transportation. The biggest threats to the former lie in domestic instability or inter-state conflicts. The challenges to safeguarding energy transportation are more diverse, and include regional instability, disruption to sea lane communications, piracy, or, in the worst-case scenario, a naval block-

to production and transport will remain real. However, China's leaders are pragmatists and distinguish between susceptibility and vulnerability. Despite its high dependence on Middle East energy, Beijing believes it is susceptible but not necessarily vulnerable. This is because China needs the Middle East for its oil as much as the region needs China as a customer. Aversion to disruption is mutual. Additionally. in the event of a regional crisis that disrupts production or transport, China would not be the only victim. The repercussions would affect oil-importing countries from Asia to Europe, a scenario that neither China or the US want. The biggest potential flashpoint now between the US and China is Taiwan. In the event of hostilities there, Washington could use its military to block or choke China's energy transport lanes in a bid to subdue Chinese operations in the Taiwan Strait. Presumably, China will want to prepare for that eventuality by hardening its energy transports from the Middle East. But the Chinese view this vulnerability from two very different perspectives. On the one hand, a US naval blockade of energy imports would be less of a concern for China than the possibility of an all-out war with its superpower rival. Disruption to global energy markets would be significant, but unlikely to be the determining factor in any US-China fight. On the other hand, even if China fears a potential US blockade of energy imports from the Middle East, the cost-benefit does not support a Chinese military presence in the region. For China to develop effective and sufficient capabilities to counter the US would require ade. As long as China's dependence at a minimum near-peer military on Middle Eastern energy sources deployment by Beijing. Anything

Ever since March, when China remains high, the risk of disruption short of that would not address China's vulnerabilities anyway. The US currently spends more than \$70 billion on its regional military budget. China's entire defense budget in 2023 is \$224 billion. For Beijing to match Washington's current level of military spending in the region would require at least one third of China's total defense expenditures. This is clearly not cost-effective, considering that China's primary theater and most significant strategic threat lies in the West Pacific, which absorbs most of China's military attention. Given this, China has developed other, less costly ways to mitigate its energy security risks. Beijing has sought to end regional conflicts by brokering peace deals between long standing enemies. It is embedding and enmeshing itself in the future economic architecture of key regional players. And it's working to create interdependence between energy-producing states and China's 1.4 billion people. Taken together, these tools may be far more effective than military hardware ever could be. American strategists have mixed feelings about China's growing presence in the Middle East -whatever form it takes. While Washington is convinced that Beijing seeks to replace the US as the region's security guarantor, many seasoned American diplomats are also quietly eager to see China become bogged down in a region that's plagued by irreconcilable conflicts. And yet, China will be involved in the region in its own way, regardless of whether the US finds it appealing or acceptable. Even if Chinese troops never deploy to the Middle East in large numbers, the country's political, economic, and diplomatic presence will be a force to be reckoned with.

- Courtesy: Jordan News

Of extra-terrestrials – By Khalid Saleem

EVER since one can remember, humankind has been obsessed with the possibility of extra-terrestrials one day landing on this blessed Earth. H.G. Wells took the lead in promoting the concept of worlds other than our own planet populated with intelligent alien beings. Wells' story "War of the Worlds" was an earth-shaker in more ways than one. His influence is at the base of several tomes as well as films that have dealt with the subject of alien beings landing on the planet Earth. Fiction aside, scientific researchers have long bent their efforts towards proving once for all the existence – or otherwise – of life in outer space. To take just one instance, the various Mars probes are programmed – among other chores – to probe into the possibility of existence of life on the red planet. In a scoop, some years back, we were served with the latest in research in this direction. According to a report published at that time in the New Scientist, "hot and massive rocky worlds called 'super-Earths', even those orbiting close to their stars, may provide the right conditions for life". Apparently, new technological advances may have led to the discovery of such new super-Earths. To add to the lore, a Ms. Lisa Kaltenegger of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astro-physics in Massachusetts, USA, had reportedly asserted: "There is no reason why the different chemical cycles that are important for life

per-Earths." There you have it in a nutshell, as they say. Having said that, one may go on to reiterate the fact that men of science have been in quest of alien beings from outer space for as long as one can remember. For their part, Extra-terrestrial beings (ET's, for short) may well be trying from their end to discover us Earthlings. The race has been on for quite a while now. Who (or what) is ahead of the game remains to be seen? Science literature and sci-fi publications have always been way ahead of the game in their own way. There was a time when such literature - and that includes comic strips - was not taken at all seriously. They were perused and, no doubt, enjoyed by a certain cross-section of the reading public and then conveniently consigned to either the bookshelf or the dustbin depending on their resale value. That remained the situation till not very long ago. What was considered far-fetched and fanciful in days of yore is no longer so. The imagery of such writers as Jules Verne and H. G. Wells is no longer the object of ridicule or derision. Their writings are now being seen in a new light and with a certain measure of awe. This change has come about because so many of their 'predictions' are coming true! While on the subject of scientific research, one may be excused for digressing a bit to convey an item of bad news - tempered though with a whiff of good news. First the bad news! We learnt some years back,

courtesy of Reuters, of the imminent possibility of a massive asteroid well on its way to a collision with the Earth in the not too distant future. The good news is that - as history is witness - these asteroids have the habit of choosing strictly dinosaurs as their intended victims. With the modern world teeming as it is with dinosaurs of all ilks and genres, us lesser mortals can perhaps rest easy. Or is this being a bit over-complacent? But to get back to the subject of extra-terrestrial beings that one was dwelling on before getting derailed onto extraneous matters; the welcome tidings - again courtesy of Reuters - is that scientists searching the stars for aliens "are convinced an ET is out there". It is just that they (the scientists, that is) have lacked the know-how thus far to detect such a being. The last-mentioned failing, we are informed, has at long last been remedied, though, Latest technological advances, one learns, have opened up the way for scientists to check millions of previously unknown star systems, "dramatically increasing the chances of finding intelligent life in outer space in the next quarter century". For that note of optimism the world is indebted to California's "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute (SETI)", which has been aptly described as the world's largest private Extraterrestrial Agency.

Courtesy: Pakistan Observer

Sacrificial animals

As Eid ul Adha approaches and people, especially children, eagerly anticipate buying sacrificial animals, the Sindh government has identified eight designated locations in Karachi where cattle markets will be set up. The government has imposed Section 144, a legal provision, to prevent the establishment of markets in unauthorized areas, aiming to avoid traffic congestion, unhygienic conditions, and security concerns. According to market established by the Malir

on our planet wouldn't work on su-

Letters to the Editor

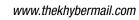
the notification, the cattle market previously located on the Superhighway and managed by the Malir Cantonment Board will be relocated to Taiser Town this year. The authorized cattle market locations in Karachi include: The notification also empowers Station House Officers (SHOs) to take legal action under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code against anyone violating Section 144. Security measures have been enhanced at the cattle

Cantonment Board, with the deployment of police and Ranger's personnel, as well as the establishment of security checkpoints along the route and at key intersections leading to the market. Every year, as Eid ul Adha approaches, numerous authorized and unauthorized cattle markets spring up across the country, as people seek to purchase the best sacrificial animals for the occasion.

Muhammad Amin

Kech

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Aga Khan University celebrates World Environment Day

KARACHI (Agencies): The Aga Khan University commemorated the 2023 World Environment Day, featuring the screening of documentary, "Oceans: The Mystery of the Missing Plastic" followed by a panel discussion at the AKU auditorium. The panel discussion revolving around the topic of "Addressing plastic pollution through innovative and local solutions", brought together experts from various fields to explore effective strategies to tackle the



plastic crisis of global proportions. The panel included Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Regional Head (Sindh and Balochistan) at WWF Pakistan, Ms. Ramlah Tariq, Sustainability Lead at Unilever Pakistan, Mr. Salman Tariq,

CEO at Davaam, Dr. Mehmood Ali, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering at NED University, and Ms. Amber Ajani, Manager Environment and Sustainability at the Aga Khan University. The documentary showcased at the event raised awareness on how our addiction to plastic ends up polluting the deep sea, coral reefs, and other land and marine deposits, and eventually finds its way into our food

Karachi generates 3800 tons of plastic waste every day, shares Professor Dr Moazzam Ali Khan

KARACHI (APP): Karachi generates 20, 000 to 24, 000 tons per day of municipal solid waste of which 19 percent is plastic waste generated every day which is 3800 tons per day and 1.39 million tons per year. Plastic pollution in the marine environment is the cause of several hazardous and ecologically damaging effects. These views were shared by the Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Moazzam Ali Khan while addressing a one-day seminar on World Environment Day on Monday. The theme of this year's World Environment Day is 'beat plastic pollution'. He said that since 1950, about 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced globally and 6.3 billion tons of plastic waste have been generated of which nine percent was recycled, 12 percent incinerated, and 79 percent accumulated or abandoned in the environment. The KU-IES in collaboration with



the non-governmental organizations Helping Hands, Soorty Enterprises, Ertex, Islamic Relief, and Farozaam Environment Magazine arranged the seminar at the Institute to spread awareness regarding the hazards created by pollution. Professor Dr Moazzam Ali Khan said that most of the plastic components do not bio-degrade, instead, they are defragmented as microplastics. He mentioned that plastics entering marine environments were estimated to be 12.2 million tons in 2015 of which 94 percent was estimated to go to sea, one percent remained floating on the ocean surface, and five percent remained on beaches.

Pakistan Navy observes World Environment Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy on Monday celebrated World Environment Day to underscore the significance and emphasize on taking suitable measures to protect the marine ecosystem. World Environment Day is observed globally on 5 June to raise awareness of the significance of a healthy and green environment. It aims to promote healthy measures for improving quality of life. This year's theme for World Environment Day is 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', which aims to bring focus on the importance of pollution caused by plastic material and promote its responsible use to protect the environment, a Pakistan Navy news release said. To show firm resolve and create awareness, Pakistan Navy organised various lectures, harbour cleaning campaign at Karachi and an awareness walk at Manora Beach to highlight the importance of preserv- grove plantation campaigns.



ing the environment. Additionally, PN has launched various initiatives to conserve the environment ranging from a collection of solid waste from the harbour, the establishment of reed bed plants in all areas under its jurisdiction and extensive tree/ man-

Climate ministry calls for collaborative efforts to raise awareness about plastic pollution, Sherry

ISLAMABAD (KhyberMail Newspaper): Federal Minister for Climate Change addressing an event in connection with World Environment Day, she called for collaborative efforts at different levels to raise awareness amongst the masses about the hazards of using plastic. She said the people's rejection of plastics will push the manufacturers and producers to find alternative solutions that are environment friendly. Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman stated that the youth and public at large had a key role in showing resistance and pressure towards plastics manufacturers to phase out single-use polythene products like bags and bottles causing serious pollution and environmental degradation in the country.



She emphasised the need of motivating the general public to step forward and take the lead in fighting plastic pollution which was insurmountable without mass support and acceptance. Senator Sherry Rehman said the impacts of single use plastics degrading the environment were conspicuous and glaring. She added that the threshold where once the level of degradation, toxicity and overheating was done due to plastic pollution could reach to a level, if left unabated, where it would not be reversible.

National is not enough, we need District and Tehsil level adaptation plan

just focus on National but also District and Tehsil level adaptation plan, said Dr. Imran Saqib Khalid from WWF at a roundtable discussion titled "Reflection on IPCC-AR6-SYN Report" held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The Roundtable discussion was organized to celebrate the World Environment Day, themed, Beat Plastic Pollution. Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS emphasized that the Indus River of Pakistan was the second biggest recipient of plastic waste. He added that we were using plastic without

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to not knowing its consequences, and had to adopt a procedure of reuse, redesign and recycle. The discussion was carried forward by Mr. Kashif Majeed Salik from SDPI, who talked about the significance of understanding the problem of 1.5 degrees Celsius. He said that that climate-induced migration was underway in Pakistan and these migrants were psychologically deprived due to limited means of employment. There was a need to have effective institutional and local level capacity to collect and analyze climate driven data in order to tackle these issues.

SDPI, AIOU, NDRMF **Environment Day Event**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Allama Iqbal Open University, National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Nestle Pakistan and other partner organizations are organizing a high -evel policy dialogue on "Reimagining plastics and renewable solutions to environmental degradation" at the Auditorium of AIOU VC Secretariat from 09:30 AM to 02:00 PM on Tuesday (6th June.The Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rahman, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP ED Ms. Inger Andersen, Minister of State Ms Romina Khursheed Alam, , Chairperson BoG SDPI, Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel, Deputy head of mission UAE Rashid Abdul Rehman, SDPI ED Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University Dr Nasir Mehmood, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University Faisalabad, Dr Igrar Ahmed Khan CEO NDRMF Bilal Anwar, Dr Mushtaq Memon, Regional Coordinator UNEP, Mustafa Hyder Syed, ED Pakistan China Institute and other will speak at various sessions.

LHC nullifies detention order of Shah Mehmood Qureshi

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC), Rawalpindi Bench on Tuesday nullified the detention notification of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi and ordered his immediate release. The LHC Justice Chaudary Abdul Aziz after hearing a petition ordered the relevant authorities to release Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Earlier, the PTI leader counsels Faiza Asad and Taimur Malik had challenged the detention of Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the LHC Rawalpindi bench while the court had sought a reply from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi in the case.

11 outlaws held

SARGODHA (APP): Police on Tuesday arrested eleven accused and recovered liquor and weapons from their possession. Police said that district, the teams of different police stations conducted raids within the areas under their jurisdiction and arrested 11 outlaws and recovered 50 liters of liquor and 10 pistols 30 bore from them. The accused were identified as Kashif, Haider, Shoukat.Sheraz.Imtiaz.Rashid.Taimoor, Amir, Fakhar, Imran and Bahdar. Cases were registered against the accused.

440 persons hired in FESCO during 2018-21

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 440 persons have been recruited by Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) since 2018-2021. Out of a total of 440, 409 persons were recruited on contract and 31 on a regular basis during the said period, official sources told APP here Tuesday. The recruitment was made in various cadres and scales from BPS 2-17, they said. Sharing the breakup, they said a total of 102 persons were recruited on contract and 10 on a regular basis during 2018, 98 contracts and four regulars in 2019, contracts and four regulars in 2020 while 104 contracts and 31 regulars in 2021.

Dastgir Lays Foundation Stone Of 500/132 KV Grid Station In Faisalabad

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir Khan has laid the foundation stone of the 500/132 KV grid station for Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) at FIEDMC, near Sahianwala interchange, district Faisalabad. The project, being launched by NTDC, aims to address the energy needs of both the Allama Iqbal Industrial City and M3-Industrial City under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), said a press release on Monday. It will cater for medium and long-term scenarios by supplying reliable and stable power to support a 600 MW load demand. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan highlighted the importance of the project, which will significantly strengthen the industries. This grid station will be constructed with an estimated cost of Rs 20 billion and it is targeted to be complet-



transmission line from Gatti-Ghazi Brotha will also be constructed for providing interconnection to this project. He commended the early completion of NTDC's projects and appreciated the NTDC management for launching new projects of grid stations and transmission lines. The minister said that issues regarding imports, related to this project will ed by January 2025. A 1.5 km long be resolved as early as possible.

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) holds Round-Table Discussion with Poland's Undersecretarof State



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Round-Table Discussion with H.E. Mr. Wojciech Gerwel, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland. The discussion was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Poland; Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS; Former Ambassador Shah Jamal; Mr Muhammad Saleem, Additional Secretary Europe, MOFA; Dr Zafar Nawaz

Jaspal, Director, School of Politics and International Relations, QAU; Mr. Hassan Abbas, Policy Expert, National Security Division; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI; and Senior Research Faculty members. Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP, and CSP research team were also present. In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that warm and cordial relations existed between Pakistan and Poland. As they celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations, both countries were keen on further deepening their multifaceted relationship in all dimensions.

DC chairs meeting of PMYouth Talent Hunt Program

RAWALPINDI (APP): The first meet- ments concerned attended the meeting of Prime Minister Youth Talent ing. The DC informed that on the in-Hunt program was organized here on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema. Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters, Marzia Saleem, District Coordinator Youth Wing, Hasan Aurangzeb, Tehsil Coordinator Youth Wing, Muhammad Osama, CO education, Yasin Baloch, Focal peddlers and weapons holders in the Shams Toheed, DD Colleges and other officers from different depart- Punjab level.

structions of the prime minister, the football talent hunt youth program would start here this week. He said football trials would be organized for the children of government and private schools, colleges, universities, academies and clubs of seven tehsils of Rawalpindi district. In the first phase, teams of boys and girls between 15 to 25 years would be Person school Education, Raja Tahir formed, Hassan Waqar Cheema said, during continued drive against drug | Mehmood, District sports Officer, adding, a district-level football team would represent the district at the

PMD alerts of potential Tropical Cyclone Formation over Southeast Arabian Sea

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Me- vertical wind shear and upper-levteorological Department (PMD) has el divergence), the system is likely remain vigilant in the wake of the an alert issued on Tuesday, the PMD said that the low-pressure area (LPA) over Southeast Arabian Sea has intensified into a Depression (strong LPA) and lies near Latitude 11.5 N south of Karachi. Due to favourable environmental conditions (sea surface temperature of 30-31C, low period.

asked the concerned authorities to to intensify further into a Tropical Storm during the next 18/24 hours potential tropical cyclone formation and move further in the north/northover the Southeast Arabian Sea. In west direction. About the possible impacts, the PMD said that currently none of the Pakistan coastal areas is under any threat. PMD's cyclone warning centre, Karachi is monitoring the system and will issue an and Longitude 66.0 E about 1500km update accordingly. All concerned authorities are particularly advised to remain 'alert' during the forecast

Economic development lies in adoption of scientific practices for agriculture: NA speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of ensuring the welfare of farmers is the National Assembly (NA) Raja crucial for the country's sustained Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday said that the future of Pakistan's food security and economic development lies in the adoption of modern, sustainable, and scientific agricultural practices. "Developing practical solutions and initiatives to leviating farmers' problems and improve the agricultural sector and advancing agriculture.

progress," he made these remarks in a meeting with President Kissan Ittehad Council, Khalid Mehmood Khokhar. Speaker Ashraf emphasized that the current administration's key priorities include al-

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NEPRA holds public hearing in fixed charges, tariff category for cold storage

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Elec- ber (Tariff & Finance), Mather Niaz tric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday concluded a public hearing into fixed charges and tariff category for cold storage. NEPRA Authority while taking notice of the concerns of Industrial consumers regarding financial burden in the form of fixed charges and applicability of commercial tariff to cold storage decided to hold a public hearing on the same. The hearing was presided by the NEPRA Authority comprising of Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, Member (Technical), Engr. Rafique Ahmad Shaikh, Member (Licensing),

Rana and Member (Law), Amina Ahmed. The hearing was attended by a large number of representatives and senior officials of XWDIS-COs. CPPA-G. Industrialists. Cold Storage Association, Journalists and the general public. The stakeholders presented their points of view and suggestions in detail before the Authority for replacing commercial tariffs for cold storage with Industrial and reducing /minimizing the fixed chargesThe Authority heard the stakeholders and will decide on the matter after due diligence and considering the comments, views Engr. Maqsood Anwar Khan, Mem- and suggestions of all stakeholders.

Last Pre-Hajj flight arrives, wrapping up operation in Madina Munawara

pre-Hajj flight operation in Madina Munawara concluded on Tuesday with arrival of the final hajj flight, PIA's Pk 747, carrying 392 intending pilgrims from Karachi. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony's spokesperson, Muhammad Umer Butt, informed APP that the pre-Hajj flight operation to mence on July 4.

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): The Makkah Mukarma had commenced previous Monday. Moving forward, all hajj flights will directly land in Jeddah. On Tuesday, a total of 3,920 intending pilgrims are scheduled to arrive in Jeddah via 13 flights. The last flight is set to land in Jeddah on June 21, 2023. Following that, the post-hajj flight operation will com-

Iftikhar Malik urges establishing warehouses for efficient global trade

Commerce and Industry, Iftikhar Ali importance of establishing warehouses in other countries to enhance global trade efficiency. He stressed that warehouses were essential for supply chain optimization, regional distribution, cross-border logistics, managing inventory, and mitigating risks. He was speaking to a delegation of industrialists led by Mian Affan Elahi Marvel Cables, said a press release. Malik said warehouses play a crucial role in global trade and logistics, and their importance extends beyond the borders of any particular country. They enable businesses to expand their market reach, streamline operations, and meet the demands of international customers effectively, he added. "Warehouses strategically located in different countries enable companies to dis-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Pres- By positioning warehouses closer ident of the SAARC Chamber of to the end consumers, businesses can reduce transportation costs, im-Malik on Tuesday emphasised the prove order fulfillment times, and enhance their competitiveness in local markets." Malik stressed. He said international warehouses facilitate cross-border trade by providing a secure location for storing imported or exported goods. They play a vital role in managing customs processes, including inspections, documentation, and compliance with import/export regulations. He said warehouses near ports or border crossings simplify logistics operations and enable smoother trade flows. Iftikhar Ali Malik unfolding the significance said warehouses provide a safeguard against disruptions in the supply chain by having multiple locations in different countries, exporters can minimize the impact of unforeseen events, such as natural disasters, political instatribute their products regionally. bility, or transportation disruptions.

Traffic Police Unit imposes fine to 10,000 vehicles during last two weeks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Traffic In- lane violation. Chief Traffic Officer steps against those involved in violation of rules and issued more than 10,000 fine tickets to law breakers during last two weeks. Islamabad Capital Police (Traffic Wing) has constituted Traffic Inter-Section Unit following the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar said this unit consisting of 188 personnel in ten teams had been given motorcycles and vehicles equipped with modern technology. It has been authorized to take measures for road discipline in the city and ensure prompt action against those breaching traffic laws. During the last two weeks, this unit issued 10,000 fine tickets to those involved in violating traffic rules including use of mobile phone and not fastening seat belt during drive, one way violation, zebra crossing violation, red signal and G-11 Markaz and F-11 Markaz.

ter-Section Unit has taken effective Islamabad Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer said that Traffic Wing was utilizing all resources to provide the best travelling facilities to the citizens. He said that Islamabad Capital Police were being equipped with modern technology to control violations of traffic rules in the capital. Under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Nasir Khan in order to improve the Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, this unit flow of traffic in the Federal capital was initially performing duties at and provide best travelling facilities various points of the city including to road users. The police spokesman Secretariat Chowk, Damane-e- Koh Chowk, Jatoi Chowk, Faisal Chowk , Khayaban Chowk, Express Chowk, Shaheen Chowk, F-8 Exchange Chowk, PRC Chowk, F- Ten Roundabout, F-10/1 Corner and G-10/3 Corner. Moreover, the police were also taking action against illegal parking on footpaths, no parking or double parking outside the big markets and commercial centers of the city including Super Market F-6, Jinnah Super Market F-7, F-8 Markaz, F-10 Markaz, G-8 Markaz, G-9 Markaz,

Babar, Rizwan participate in Harvard Business School program

of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first cricketers to participate in Harvard business School's executive education program. Their involvement in the program, which focuses on The Business of Entertainment, Media, and Sports (BEMS), has not only showcased their commitment to personal development but also inspired their classmates, including renowned athletes Kamaru Usman and Francis Ngannou, to take an interest in

cricket. Both the cricketers attended

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani duo classes on the aforementioned Business school campus in Boston, Massachusetts, from May 31-June 3. The culmination of their time at Harvard Business School was marked by a farewell picture featuring Babar and Rizwan alongside their classmates, which included esteemed athletes like Kamaru Usman, Francis Ngannou, Jameis Winston, and Cesar Azpillicueta. It was an occasion where the worlds of cricket, mixed martial arts, American football, and football converged, showcasing the diverse backgrounds and interests of the participants.

Country's most areas to witness rain in upcoming monsoon: PMD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Me- given climate conditions suggest be ruled out, which may generate teorological Department (PMD) has indicated chances of normal to slightly below-normal rainfall in most areas of the country during the upcoming monsoon season (July-August-September, JAS-2023). During the upcoming monsoon season, it is anticipated that El Nio conditions will prevail, while the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) will remain in a positive phase. Taking into account these global and regional circulation patterns, the weather outlook and

Consumers of 3G/4G service increased to 124 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The number of 3g and 4g service users in Pakistan has significantly increased and reached 124 million by the end of April 2023. As per the details available on the official site of the PTA, the number of active mobile SIMs reached 193 million during the same period. The number of broadband subscribers reached 127 million while the broadband penetration was recorded at 53.80 per cent.

Govt to set up learning centres for transgenders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for education & Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain has directed Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) for setting up of learning centers for Transgender community by utilizing ICT Schools as 2nd shifts. He directed FDE to also upgrade of Boys school (SSC) to Intermediate College and Girls Intermediate College to the level of Degree College at Shah Allah Ditta. According to a notification, he made these directions during his visit at Union Council Shah Allah Ditta few days back to monitor the campaign for bringing Out of School Children back to Schools. The notification further said that the Minister also asked FDE for Installation of Water Filtration Plants in Schools (Rural areas). However, the establishment of schools at designated / earmarked plots in Sector D-12 was also among his directions. Above directives are conveyed to quarter(s) concerned for necessary action and be included in Secretary's Task Management System for periodic review, it added.

Heavy hailstorm, rain lash Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Heavy hailstorm and rain have lashed Bahawalpur city and adjoining areas including Cholistan desert area on Tuesday noon. The windstorm started blowing on Tuesday after 9 am and later, heavy hailstorm and rain started lashing Bahawalpur city and adjoining areas at around 12 noon. The weather turned cold. Rainwater accumulated on roads had disrupted routine traffic. Reports reaching here suggested that rains had also lashed in Lodhran, Yazman, Khairpur Tamewali, Ahmadpur East and Cholistan desert area. The local Met Office has forecast that more rain might lash the region during upcoming days.

Trade deficit narrows by 40.59% in 11 months of FY23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The trade deficit witnessed a decline of 40.59 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The trade deficit during July-May (2022-23) was recorded at \$25.791 billion against the deficit of \$43,409 billion in July- May (2021-22), a decline of 40.59 percent. The exports during the period were recorded at \$25.366 billion against \$28.871 billion last year, showing a decline of 12.14 percent. On the other hand, the imports witnessed a sharp decline of 29.22 percent by falling from \$72.280 billion last year to \$51.157 billion during the current fiscal year. On a year-on-year basis, the exports from the country witnessed a decline of 16.69 percent and were recorded at \$2.186 billion in May 2023 against the exports of \$2.624 billion in May

that most areas may have normal to slightly below-normal rainfall. slightly above-normal rainfall, while western parts of Balochistan can expect near-normal rainfall. "Seasonal temperatures are expected to remain within normal to higher-than-normal ranges across the country," the PMD said. About the impacts, the PMD revealed, "The possibility of occasional extreme hydro-meteorological events over catchment areas cannot Kharif season cultivation." it added.

riverine floods in the major rivers." "Likelihood of urban flooding, hill Northern regions may experience torrents, and flash floods may also exist due to isolated heavy downpours." Soaring temperatures in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) could accelerate snow melt, resulting in an increased flow of water into rivers. "Farmers are advised to stay vigilant and plan water conservation for the upcoming

NA body on Climate Change takes serious notice of Rawal Lake Poisoning Incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National lease said. A report has been sought Assembly's Standing Committee on from the relevant authorities. The Climate Change has taken serious committee has strongly condemned notice of the incident and has ex- all such actions that harm the en-Lake poisoning incident. On Thurs- imals. The committee also urged day (June 1), two individuals were the people to follow ethical and learrested after being caught poisoning the water of Rawal Dam to catch fish. The incident was brought to the attention of the authorities by the staff of a contractor that had a fishing contract in the Rawal Dam. Following the poisoning, several fish, birds of different species, and other aquatic life began dying, a news re-

pressed its concern over the Rawal vironment, the people, and the angal means of fishing and to protect the natural resources of the country. MNA Nuzhat Pathan, chairperson of the Committee also urged the authorities to take stern action against the culprits and the people involved in this serious crime must be taken to the task and punished according to the laws.

Islamabad police to have college for quality education to cops' children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police Sanaullah Khan and Minister for Fedhave got approval for the establishment of Islamabad Police Shuhada Model College at Police Line Headquarters under the administrative control of the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE). A piece of land will be provided by Islamabad Police for the College which would have a multi-faceted role to provide free quality education from Pre-School to Intermediate (HSSC) level with modern early childhood education and STEM Hybrid learning facility. It would also run a parallel stream of skills/TVET education by offering Matric-tech and Inter-tech programs, a police source said. Minister for Interior Rana

eral Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain have taken a special interest in this initiative and termed it as a step to pay immense tribute to the sacrifices rendered by Martyrs. The admissions against the available slots shall have a priority for children of Shuhada followed by the children of Islamabad police personnel and others. The status of the college will be elevated to residential cadet college jointly managed by FDE and Islamabad police after a specified period of time having demonstrated quality repute and subject to the viability assessed by both FDE and Islamabad police.

Railways retrieve 994 acres land from illegal occupants

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 994 acres of its land worth millions of rupees from illegal occupants during various anti-encroachment operations across the country. "Around 487 acres retrieved in Punjab, 142 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 337 acres in Sindh and only 28 acres in Balochistan," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that about 3,287 acres in Punjab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land in Balochistan were being encroached. The official said that in light of the directives of the Supreme Court, the anti-encroachment operations for retrieval of encroached railway land all over the Railway net-

dure order was issued to all divisional superintendents for retrieval of Railways land from encroachment. "The anti-encroachment schedules, on a three months basis, are being prepared and sent to all concerned in line with the joint procedure order," the official added. He said Pakistan Railways had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups, and even business organizations who were using it for residential, commercial, and agriculture purposes for decades. "The encroachment operation will be launched with the assistance of Railway Police and district administrations of the relevant work were initiated and a joint proce-provincial governments," he added.

Pakistan, Poland agree to take measures to boost bilateral trade, diplomatic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Po- arski also attended the Consultations. land have agreed to take practical measures to intensify cooperation in diverse areas of mutual interest to boost bilateral trade and diplomatic ties. The two sides, at the 8th round of Pakistan-Poland Bilateral Political Consultations held here on June 05, reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and dialogue. The Pakistan countries. The two sides discussed delegation was led by Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe), Ambassador Muhammad Saleem, while the Polish delegation was led by Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Wojciech Gerwel. The Polish Ambassador to Pakistan Maciej Pis-

They reaffirmed their mutual desire to intensify cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, energy sector, dairy and agriculture, financial sector, defence, migration & mobility, higher education and harmonization of visa regime. It was also agreed to encourage cooperation between the media house and chambers of commerce of the two regional and global issues of mutual interest and reviewed collaboration at international forums, including at the United Nations. They found a convergence of views on important issues and agreed to continue cooperation at the multilateral fora.

TDAP chief for promoting local industry

LAHORE (APP): Trade Development kistan exhibition and has signed more Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Businessmen's Group Zubair Motiwala has said that there is a greater need to continue the development of the country's industry, increase exports and improve the country's economic situation. To stabilize, the Trade Development Authority has recently attracted the attention of the world's radars from the Texpo Pa-

than 500 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the delegations of different countries at the exhibition. "If the business community of Pakistan is united, Pakistan can also become economically strong," he observed. He expressed these views in a meeting with the trade delegation led by Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer at TDAP office.

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Ukraine dam breach has little effect on Russian rouble

MOSCOW (Agencies): The Russian rouble steadied near 81 against the dollar on Tuesday, showing limited reaction to the breaching of a major Soviet-era dam in the Russian-controlled part of southern Ukraine. Floodwaters surged out across the and Russia said was an intentional attack by the other's forces. At 3.36am, the rouble was unchanged against



war zone after what both Ukraine the dollar at 80.99 and had lost 0.2% to trade at 86.95 versus the euro. It was steady at 11.37 against the yuan . Brent crude oil, a global benchmark

for Russia's main export had hit a more than one-month high in the previous session, supporting the rouble. On Tuesday, it was down 0.9% at US\$76.06 a barrel. The rouble also has support from higher FX sales by Russian firms that are accumulating cash for dividend payments. The market is looking ahead to Friday, when the central bank is widely expected to keep rates on hold at 7.5%.

Microsoft to pay US\$20mil over children's privacy violation

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Microsoft will pay US\$20 million to settle US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charges that the tech company illegally collected personal information from children without their parents' consent, the FTC said on Monday. The company had been charged with violating the US Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) by collecting personal information from ents' consent, and by retaining chil-



children who signed up to its Xbox gaming system without notifying their parents or obtaining their par-

dren's personal information, the FTC said in a statement. The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment late on Monday. The order requires Microsoft to take steps to improve privacy protections for child users of its Xbox system. It will extend COPPA protections to third-party gaming publishers with whom Microsoft shares children's data, the FTC

BA, BBC and Boots caught up in file transfer hack

LONDON (Agencies): Tens of thousands of employees of British Airways, the UK drugstore chain Boots and Britain's BBC were among those who had their personal data exposed following a wide-ranging breach centered on a popular file transfer tool, the organisations confirmed on Monday. BA, the BBC and Boots said the breach occurred at their payroll provider, Zellis. The provincial government of Nova Scotia, in Canada, was



also hit by the breach. The data from Zellis and the Nova Scotia government was exposed through their use of the MOVEit file transfer software, both organizations said in separate statements. Zellis declined to say how many customers were affected. The Nova Scotia government did not immediate return a request for comment. In a statement, Nova Scotia's Cyber Security and Digital Solutions Minister Colton LeBlanc said his residents "will have questions, and we do, too." British Airways, owned by IAG, said it had notified affected employees and was providing them with support.

SEC sues Binance, CEO Zhao for alleged securities law breaches

NEW YORK (Agencies): The world's largest crypto exchange Binance and its CEO and founder Changpeng Zhao were sued by the US Securities and Exchange Commission today for failing to restrict US customers from its platform and misleading investors about its market surveillance controls, as well as for operating an unregistered securities exchange. The SEC's complaint, filed in federal court in Washington, DC, also alleged that Binance and Zhao secretly control customers'



assets, allowing them to commingle and divert customer funds, and that Binance created separate US entities "as part of an elaborate scheme to evade US federal securities laws." Binance did not immediately re-

spond to a request for comment on the charges. In a tweet, Zhao said the company would issue a response once it had viewed the complaint. The move is the latest in a series of legal woes for Binance, which was also sued by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in March for operating what the regulator alleged were an "illegal" exchange and a "sham" compliance program, with Zhao calling those charges "disappointing" and an "incomplete recitation of facts."

Apple expected to reveal mixed-reality headset at conference

CUPERTINO (Agencies): Apple Inc is expected to unveil a mixed-reality headset at its annual software developer conference on Monday, its first big move into a new product category since the introduction of the Apple Watch nine years ago. The launch will see Apple test a market crowded with devices that have yet to gain traction with consumers and put it in direct competition with Facebook owner Meta Platforms. Like Meta's Quest Pro from last year and Quest 3 an-



likely to blend a video feed from the outside world with a virtual world displayed on screens inside the headset. Shares of the iPhone maker rose 1.5% to hit their record high of US\$183.6 ahead of the expected launch on Monnounced last week, Apple's device is day. Analysts expect Apple's headset virtually to work, play and spend.

to come with premium features in cluding a high-quality display and hand-tracking so it can be controlled without an external controller. It's also likely to cost much more than the planned US\$500 Quest 3. Investors and tech fans alike will be focusing on how much Apple's view of the virtual reality market overlaps with Meta's. Meta chief executive Mark Zuckerberg has outlined his vision for using headsets to dip in and out of a "metaverse" where people can meet

Turkey rate hike to 25% in June is 'on the table' — JPMorgan

NEW YORK (Agencies): An interest rate hike to 25 percent from the current 8.5 percent is on the cards s Monetary Policy Committee's upcoming meeting on June 22, "if not earlier," JPMorgan economists said on Monday. "A policy rate hike to 25 percent, from the current level of 8.5 percent, is on the table for 22 June or earlier, along with for-



rate hikes if needed," the Wall Street bank said to clients in an economic research note. "We maintain our ward guidance suggesting smaller year-end policy rate forecast at 30

percent." Years of unconventional policies such as cutting interest rates despite hot inflation have weighed on investor views of Turkey, as well as on voter sentiment ahead of President Tayyip Erdogan's reelection late last month. But there has been guarded optimism for a shift in monetary policy since veteran policy maker Mehmet Simsek returned to head Turkey's Finance Ministry.

Chip giant TSMC says industry could have 'stabilising' effect

HSINCHU (Agencies): Taiwanese semiconductor giant TSMC said today its production of ever-smaller microchips will remain on the island, hopeful that the critical industry will have a "stabilising effect on global geopolitical conflicts". Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company whose clients include Apple and Intel - controls more than half the world's output of silicon wafers, used



in everything from smartphones to cars and missiles. Recent years have seen it navigating geopolitical tussles between the US and China, with the

countries facing off over a range of issues including technology, trade, and Taiwan - the primary manufacturing base of the world's semiconductors. Alarm has spiked in recent months over the future of the semiconductor industry - the lifeblood of the global economy - if Taiwan were to be invaded by China, which considers the self-ruled island its own territory.

Tech giant bypasses sanctions to supply Russian market – Kommersant

MOSCOW (Agencies): South Korea's LG Electronics has begun installing software for Smart TV adapted for the Russian market on television sets manufactured at its plant in Poland, Kommersant business daily reported on Monday citing market sources. The devices supplied through a parallel imports scheme are pre-installed with Russian online cinemas and support the Alisa virtual as-



sistant, the outlet said. TVs that are not adjusted for the Russian market do not support Smart TV functions, it added.

Russian retailers procure devices from other countries via parallel imports, a practice by which a non-counterfeit product is imported without the permission of the intellectual property owner via alternative supply channels. Russia legalized the mechanism to provide the market with goods that Western companies stopped delivering or producing in Russia because of sanctions.

Byju's skips US\$40mil loan payment until dispute settled

BENGALURU (Agencies): Byju's, once a high-flying Indian tech startup, has elected not to make any further payment to lenders of a US\$1.2 billion loan until a dispute is settled. The company said in a statement June 6 that it has filed a complaint concerning the loan to the New York Supreme Court. Lenders to the education-technology company have not yet received a US\$40 million interest payment due Monday, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Byju's had been trying to strike a deal with creditors to restructure the loan after the pandemic-era online tutoring boom tapered off and crimped its ment default, the people said.



finances. But creditors demanding an accelerated repayment scrapped the long-running negotiations. The payment hadn't been made as of 6pm in New York on June 5, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter is private. Some lenders are exploring options on how to address a potential pay-

Japan wants 30% directors at top firms to be women

TOKYO (Agencies): Japan will aim to have women make up at least 30% of directors at major firms by 2030, according to a draft plan issued by the Gender Equality Bureau that said more diversity can contribute to innovation and growth. The government will press for the target to be included in the regulations for companies listed on the Prime Market Index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, according to the document that was released Monday. The first step would be to require at least one woman on the board of all the index's firms by 2025. Japan has sought to bring more women into the workforce to make up for its aging and shrinking population, but has female directors.



long struggled to meet its targets on diversity in management. It ranked 116 out of 146 countries in last year's Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum, far below all of its Group of Seven peers. Companies would be urged to form a plan to reach the board targets, according to the draft. As of last year, about 18.7% of Prime Market companies had no

Richard Teng seen as potential successor to Binance's Zhao

NEW YORK (Agencies): Elon Musk's brain implant startup Neuralink, which was valued at close to US\$2 billion in a private fundraising round two years ago, is now worth around US\$5 billion based on privately executed stock trades es with knowledge of the matter. Some purchases by bullish investors boosted the valuation in recent months, ahead of Neuralink's May 25 announcement that US regulators had approved a human trial on its brain chip, the sources said. Exyears for Neuralink to secure com-



described to Reuters by five sourc- mercial use clearance. Kip Ludwig, former program director for neural engineering at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), said he "optimistically" expected Neuralink to take at least 10 more years to commercialise its brain implant. The company also faces other chalperts have said it could take several lenges that include federal probes into its handling of animal research.

Oil Updates — crude down as global economic backdrop outweighs Saudi output cut

RIYADH (Agencies): Oil prices edged lower early on Tuesday, coming off gains made the previous day as concerns about the global economic backdrop outweighed the supply worries raised when Saudi Arabia announced its biggest output cut in years. Brent crude futures slipped 70 cents, or 0.91 percent, to \$76.01 a barrel by 10:00 a.m. Saudi time, while US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 74 cents, or 1.03 percent, to \$71.41 a barrel. Brent gained as much as \$2.60 on Monday and US crude as much as \$3.30 after Saudi Arabia, the world's top exporter, said at the weekend its



output would drop by 1 million barrels per day to 9 million in July. The benchmarks pulled back, though, to more modest gains by the end of the day. Saudi Arabia raises July flagship crude price for Asia Saudi Arabia has increased the price of its flagship crude Arab Light to Asian buyers in July to a six-month high

Russia planning major high-speed rail expansion

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russian Railways (RZD) will continue developing the country's high-speed railroad system and intends to build three major new lines in the near future, its head, Oleg Belozerov, has revealed. According to Belozerov, in the short term the company plans to build new routes connecting Moscow with St. Petersburg, Kazan, and Rostov-on-Don. "We are now in the final stage of discussions. The prime minister is ready to hold a meeting.



a public-private partnership ..." Belozerov said in a weekend interview with the TV channel Kultura. High-speed railways allow trains to run significantly faster (at 200-400 Construction will be funded through km/h) than traditional rail.

Dubai revives abandoned mega-project

Dubai's ruler has approved a new Jebel Ali will further strengthen our development plan for the largest of the city's famous palm-shaped artificial islands, the Palm Jebel Ali project, which was put on hold in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Part of the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, Palm Jebel Ali will feature over 80 hotels and resorts, providing approximately 35,000 families with luxury beachside living. It is estimated to add 110 kilometers (68.35 miles) to the emirate's coastline, ket of Dubai, the UAE's commercial according to media reports. "Palm capital.

urban infrastructure and consolidate the city's emergence as one of the world's leading metropolises. This new ground breaking project reflects our strategic development plan centered on raising the quality of life and happiness of residents,' Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum stated on Wednesday. The ambitious project's revival comes amid a rebound in the property mar-

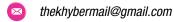
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Saudi Esports Federation and LG partner for Gamers8:

RIYADH (Agencies): The Saudi Esports Federation and electronics firm LG have signed a memorandum of understanding to use the company's UltraGear 25GR75FG, a top In-Plane Switching-based monitor designed for esports enthusiasts, at Gamers8: The Land of Heroes, the biggest gaming festival worldwide. The event runs for eight weeks from July 6 and the equipment will be used throughout the esports venues at Boulevard Riyadh City. The 24.5-inch (62-centimeter) monitor enables fluid motion and considerable visual clarity.

The Land of Heroes

SEF, said: "Gamers8: The Land of Heroes is the destination for gamers this summer and the Saudi Esports Federation is constantly seeking ways to ensure that the biggest gaming and esports festival worldwide Ahmed Albishri, deputy CEO at the is unrivaled in its offering. "We are

delighted to sign this MOU with LG, as this partnership encapsulates our shared vision of fostering innovation and providing the finest gaming experiences. We truly believe that players will relish using the elite equipment in action." LG's Game Mode offers a range of presets tailored to specific game genres, allowing gamers to optimize settings for first-person shooter, real-time strategy and more. Additionally, the Black Stabilizer feature enhances visibility in dark scenes, providing an edge over opponents and allowing players to comfortably spot details.

Newcastle United end-of-season awards: winners and losers from historic 2022/23 campaign

NEWCASTLE (Agencies): The wait for silverware goes on at St. James' Park, but Champions League football has returned. Having suffered the seemingly endless pain of one relegation battle after the next, this season has proven a welcome distraction for Newcastle United. Under Eddie Howe, and with PIF at the helm, the days of feeding on scraps at the foot of the Premier League seem long gone. This very much feels like the era of progress and positivity on Tyneside. The season that was full of highs, with the odd low along the way, but it all ended in success with a top-four fin-



ish in the bag and trips to Barcelona and Madrid in the offing, rather than fears of Preston and Barnsley. Looking back, here's our take on the highlights, lowlights and the standout performers across the season. You know it's been a remarkable campaign when you find

it impossible to mention your 18-goal, Premier League fourth top-scorer for the season, Callum Wilson, in your top three players for the season. In fact, he might not even make the top five, such has been the competition at the top. Honourable mentions must go to the likes of Bruno Guimaraes, Fabian Schar, Kieran Trippier and Nick Pope, who have all more than proven their value over the course of the season, but in my opinion, it is very difficult to look past the talents of last season's official POTY, Joelinton. He's a player who just keeps getting better and bet-

Australia coach Arnold backs Postecoglou to 'kill it' for Spurs

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australia coach Graham Arnold backed Ange Postecoglou today to "kill" the Tottenham Hotspur job and said his countryman was obsessed with getting to the top. The 57-year-old Postecoglou is widely expected to leave Celtic and be named boss of Premier League Spurs, although there is yet to be an official announcement. The move has been met with scepticism from a section of Spurs fans who wanted a higher-profile appointment than the Australian. Arnold knows Postecoglou well, having worked with him at the Australian Under-20 side,



and said: "Just working with him you could see the obsession of football, he had that mentality of where he wanted to go – and that was to the top. "He is totally obsessed with the game, it is his life. "Ange has always been someone who is so determined

to prove the doubters wrong." Arnold called Postecoglou a friend as well as a former rival in Australian football, and added: "Going to Tottenham is a great job for him and I think he will kill it." Arnold said that Postecoglou, who managed the Socceroos from 2013 to 2017 and has won league titles in three different countries, stood out because he was both a coach and a manager. "A lot of managers are managers, they are not coaches as well, but he has that dual role of coach as well as manager. "He knows man-management and how to motivate people.'

World Test final takes centre stage amid T20 boom

LONDON (Agencies): The World Test Championship final between Australia and India at the Oval starts Wednesday against a backdrop of fears for the long format given the growth of Twenty20 franchise leagues. Not that there's anything new about cricket-lovers worrying about the future of their sport. Indeed it was following an 1882 Test at the Oval, after Australia had inflicted England's first defeat on home soil, that the Sporting Times published a mock obituary of English cricket that referenced its cremation, with "the Ashes taken to Australia". The



Ashes has since become a shorthand for Anglo-Australian Test cricket, with a five-match series in England starting next week -- just days after the scheduled finish of the WTC final. One current concern is that the riches on offer to leading play-

ers from T20 tournament such as the Indian Premier League, and the vastly shorter time it takes to earn the money than by playing five-day Test cricket, makes the traditional format of the game much less attractive to leading modern-day players. The International Cricket Council's response was to devise the WTC, a two-year cycle of games culminating in a final, in order to give Test cricket greater context. This week's match marks the culmination of the second edition, with New Zealand having defeated India in the inaugural 2021 final at Southampton.

Rune, Haddad Maia win French Open epics as Swiatek enjoys brief encounter

PARIS (Agencies): Holger Rune and Beatriz Haddad Maia triumphed in marathon French Open epics which took almost eight hours to complete on Monday while Iga Swiatek required just 31 minutes to move into the quarter-finals.World number six Rune reached a second successive quarter-final in Paris with his first ever five-set win. The 20-yearold Dane claimed a four-hour 7-6 (7/3), 3-6, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (10/7) victory against Francisco Cerundolo and will face 2022 runner-up Casper Ruud in a repeat of last year's bad-tempered quarter-final. Rune



was jeered by the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd for hitting the ball on a double bounce in the fourth game of the third set. His 23rd seeded Argentine opponent stopped playing, expecting the umpire to call the point for him. Play continued

and Cerundolo, who was called for hindrance when he halted, dropped nis is tennis. This is sports Some umpires, they make mistakes. Some for me; some for him. That's life," said Rune. Cerundolo, playing in the second week of a Slam for the first time, had the crowd on its feet when he hit back to level the match. In a dramatic decider, Rune survived being 3-4, 0-40 to hold and then break. He served for the match at 5-4 but the 24-year-old from Buenos Aires hit back to level for 5-5 and held for 6-5 before the match went to a knife-edge super-tiebreak.

Pakistan team to feature in Asian Youth Girls Netball C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan team would feature in the Asian Youth Girls Netball Championship scheduled to be held in Korea from June 10. "The training camp of the national women players in preparation for the Asian Championship is ongoing at the PSB Coaching Center in Karachi. A total of 20 players are participating in the camp in which they are being given advanced and skillful training by national coach Anwar Ahmed Ansari," Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF) President Mudassir Arain told APP. He said these players were selected on the basis of merit by a five-member selection committee during the Championship National Netball



played in Islamabad in February this year. "The team for the mega event will be announced on Wednesday," he said. Arain said the federation would use all resources for the promotion of netball at the grass-roots level in the country. "The Federation with the support of affiliated associations will be holding summer training camps for students in educational institutions during summer vacations in the

last week of June." "The children will be given advanced and skilled training by qualified coaches in the camps. The game of netball is also the most popular game in the world and women play this game with great passion," he added. Arain said there was immense netball talent in the country but there was a lack of resources which is why the players lack at the international level. To a question, he said that no sport in the world could develop without the patronage of the government and support from sponsors and the private sector. "Need to focus on other sports like cricket so that they can also develop," the PNF president emphasised.

6-time All-Star former Major League Baseball MVP Miguel Tejada named manager of Karachi Monarchs

KARACHI (Agencies): Baseball United, the first professional baseball league focused on the Middle East and Indian subcontinent, has announced that former Major League Baseball MVP and All-Star Miguel Tejada will become the first manager of the Karachi Monarchs. Tejada will team up with fellow Dominican Republic baseball legend, Adrian Beltre, who was named the team's honorary general manager last week. The Karachi Monarchs are the first professional baseball franchise in the history of Pakistan and the second announced by Baseball United. The Monarchs will compete in Baseball United's Dubai Showcase in November alongside the Mumbai Cobras, and two additional



franchises that will be announced in the coming weeks. The Cobras and Monarchs are expected to generate significant fanfare, building on decades of sports rivalries between India and Pakistan. The last cricket match between India and Pakistan was watched by more than 230 million people around

Raheem Sterling: Manchester City 'deserve' Champions League glory

Raheem Sterling has backed former club Manchester City to round off their impressive campaign by achieving a historic Treble. The Etihad outfit face Inter Milan in Saturday's Champions League final, having already tasted Premier League and FA Cup success. Sterling spent seven years at City, winning the league four times, and lifting the FA Cup and League Cup. But the Champions League eluded the England winger and his team, with defeat to Chelsea — his current club — in 2021 the closest they came. Manchester United are the only other English club to have achieved the Treble, back in 1999, and Sterling told Arab News exclusively: "I hope City do it. "They're a club



that's been fighting for the Champions League from my time there for many years and I think they are a club that deserves it. "The quality that they have, they have been unlucky in previous years. They've got the Premier League (and FA Cup) now and hopefully they can actually get the Champions League

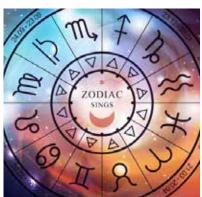
Al-Ittihad say they have signed Ballon d'Or winner Benzema

RIYADH (Agencies): Real Madrid's Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema has signed for Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad for three years starting next season, a source in the Jeddah-based club told AFP today. "Benzema has signed a contract for his transfer to Al-Ittihad for a three-year period starting next season," the source said. The announcement comes days after Real Madrid announced that the 35-year-old was leaving the club after 14 seasons, the day after coach Carlo Ancelotti had said there was "no doubt" Benzema's future was in the Spanish capital. Benzema is in line to join Cristiano Ronaldo in the Gulf kingdom after the Portuguese five-time world player of the year moved to Al Nassr from Manchester United following last year's World Cup. Lionel Messi, who is leaving Paris St Germain after two 2009 from Ligue 1 side Lyon.



seasons, has also been linked to a move to Saudi Arabia. Senior officials from Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal have flown to France to try and seal a deal for Messi after the 35-yearold Argentinian played his last game for PSG at the weekend. The Saudi delegation plans to meet Messi's father and agent, Jorge, with the aiming of completing the signing as soon as possible, sources told AFP on Sunday. Benzema joined Real in

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JUNE 7, 2023



- It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.

ARIES: You're all about the future right now, but don't neglect the people you see every day. It's a good time to tell folks about upcoming options and opportunities and create something new together.

- TAURUS: People are lining up to oppose a new initiative, and you may be allied with the old guard. Whether or not that's typical, you should be able to soften the worst aspects of the new

- GEMINI: You're thinking in an entirely new way, which is hardly a novelty for you, but it's still fun. This fresh perspective may help you bust of a mental logiam that has been holding you back lately.

- CANCER: Your have a strong head for financial issues now, though you may not be inspired to fix things yet. If you've got a problem to solve, you should be able to hit the right answer

pretty quickly.

move! Things almost certainly aren't lined up just right yet, and your patience will be amply rewarded in time.

VIRGO: Take a fresh look at your desk, closet, junk drawer, or anything else that needs organizing. You can whip it into shape quickly and be really happy with the new configuration once

LIBRA: Your love life gets a little boost today, whether you're single or partnered. Someone new might check you out, or maybe you get a little reminder of why you're so happy with your mate. SCORPIO: Focus on your home life.

You have one problem that needs to be faced today. It may be an obnoxious neighbor or a kid who thinks they get to make the rules. You can handle whatever it is.

SAGITTARIUS: Communication is paramount today, especially the free exchange of ideas. Try not to feel bound by convention. Explore your options with others in your industry or group of friends.

CAPRICORN: It isn't the best time to jump into new schemes, at least not without thoroughly vetting them first. If that takes all day or even longer, so much the better. Your energy should shift in a few days.

-ACQUARIUS: You've got so much energy to use that you need to make sure that you've got more than enough to do today! If your schedule isn't full yet, find something new and fun to fill it up. - PISCES: Anything can happen today, so if you're ready for anything, you should do just fine. In fact, you may be the first to capitalize on the new el-

- LEO: It's a good day to sit back and ements, and that could be quite profitbide your time even if you're ready to



US delivers \$1bn to Israel to replenish Iron Dome stocks

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The gether and that has saved countless military edge, buttressing its abili-United States has delivered \$1 billion in funding to Israel to replenish Iron Dome stocks, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AI-PAC) summit yesterday. During the summit, Blinken said: "The US-Israel relationship is underwritten by the United States' commitment to Israel's security. That commitment is non-negotiable; it is ironclad." Blinken continued: "We are also delivering an additional \$1 billion in funding to replenish supplies for Israel's Iron Dome, the missile defense system that we developed to-

lives." About other forms of military support, he said: "We are also expanding our joint military exercises that improve how our forces work together seamlessly. This year, we have more joint exercises scheduled than at any point in our history." "We are also conducting joint research and development on advanced military capabilities, working together on cutting-edge defence systems, including Israel's new laser-focused Iron Beam." Regarding the reasons for supporting Israel, he said: "This robust support continues to be critical in maintaining Israel's qualitative ty to defend itself and to advancing our national interests." He stressed: "America is more secure when Israel is strong." Blinken said that the US is a leading country in the fight against delegitimising Israel. "As we support Israel's defence, we are also pushing back, as you have heard, on the consistent, constant efforts to delegitimise Israel - which are aimed at undermining or isolating Israel's rightful place on the international stage." "At the same time, we continue to reject the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement for unfairly singling out Israel.

US fines Microsoft \$20 million over child data violations

rosoft will pay \$20 million to settle to provide their first and last names, government charges that it collected personal information from children without their parents' consent, officials said Monday. The Federal Trade Commission alleged that from 2015 to 2020 Microsoft collected personal data from children under age 13 who signed up to its Xbox gaming system without their parents' permission and retained this informa-

Iran unveils its first hypersonic ballistic missile, state media reports

DUBAI (Agencies): Iran presented

what officials described as its first domestically-made hypersonic ballistic missile on Tuesday, the official IRNA news agency reported, an announcement likely to heighten Western concerns about Tehran's missile capabilities. Iranian state media published pictures of the missile named Fattah at a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Rahisi and commanders of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps. "The precision-guided Fattah hypersonic missile has a range of 1,400 km and it is capable of penetrating all defense shields," Amirali Hajjizadeh, the head of the Guards' aerospace force, was quoted as saying by Iranian state media. Hypersonic missiles can fly at least five times faster than the speed of sound and on a complex trajectory, which makes them difficult to intercept. Last year, the Islamic Republic said it had built a hypersonic ballistic missile which can maneuver in and out of the atmosphere. State TV said Iran's Fattah missile can target "the enemy's advanced anti-missile systems and is a big generational leap in the field of missiles." "It can bypass the most advanced anti-ballistic missile systems of the United States and the Zionist regime, including Israel's Iron Dome," Iran's state TV said. Fattah's top speed reached mach 14 levels (15,000km/h), it added. Despite US and European opposition, the Islamic Republic has said it will further develop its defensive missile program. However, Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its missile capabilities. Concerns about Iran's ballistic missiles contributed to then-US President Donald Trump's decision in 2018 to ditch Tehran's 2015 nuclear pact with six major powers.

Egypt population growth records significant decline



Egypt's population growth has significantly declined, reaching 105 million on Saturday, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS). Despite the significant decline, Egypt remains the most populous Arab country and the third in Africa after Nigeria and Ethiopia and 14th in the world. Egyptian authorities have been working to reduce the population size in a bid to adjust to the government's development plans. Over the past few years, the fertility rate index has declined to 2.85 compared to 3.5 in 2014, however, adviser to the head of CAPMAS, Dr. Abdel Hamid Sharaf, said the economic growth rate needs to increase by four times the population growth in order to sustain the country.

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Mic- tion. To open an account, users had Bureau of Consumer Protection. email addresses, and dates of birth. The FTC said Microsoft violated biometric data, and health informaa law called the Children's Online tion are not exempt from COPPA," Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA. "Our proposed order makes it easier for parents to protect their children's privacy on Xbox, and limits what information Microsoft can collect and retain about kids," said Samuel Levine, head of the FTC's Xbox system.

"This action should also make it abundantly clear that kids' avatars Levine added. The decision still needs the approval of a federal court before it can be implemented. The FTC said Microsoft will be required to take several steps to bolster privacy protections for child users of its

Deputy governor of northern Afghan province killed in car bomb attack



province was killed by a car bomb on Tuesday, the provincial spokesperson said. "Nissar Ahmad Ahmadi, with his driver, has been killed and six civilians were injured," said Mahzudeen Ahmadi, the head of the information office of Badakshan, a province in the far north of the coun-

KABUL: The deputy governor of Af- try that shares a border with China ghanistan's northern Badakhshan and Tajikistan. It was not clear who was behind the bombing, which was the first known major blast or attack on a Taliban official in Afghanistan in several weeks. The Taliban administration has been carrying out raids against members of the Islamic State, which had claimed several major attacks in urban centers.

Egypt re-opens historic mosque after long restoration

CAIRO (Agencies): A 13th century mosque that fell into disrepair after being used over the years as a soap factory, a slaughterhouse and a fort reopened in Cairo on Monday after undergoing a long restoration. The mosque of Al-Zhahir Baybars, built under Mamluk rule in 1268, spans an area of three acres just north of central Cairo, making it Egypt's third-largest mosque. The mosque underwent mechanical and chemical restoration to bring it back to its original condition, said Tarek Mohamed El-Behairy, who supervised the restoration. "Some parts were destroyed, some parts have been dismantled because they were structurally unsuitable to remain in the mosque," he said. "But we ing to the correct archaeological style." The restoration, which cost to 1517.



\$7.68 million, was co-funded with Kazakhstan and began in 2007. For 225 years, the mosque was either closed, abandoned or had operated for non-religious purposes that contributed to its disrepair. During Napoleon's campaign in Egypt it was used as a military fort, then under Ottoman rule in the 19th century as a soap factory. Later, when the British invaded Egypt in 1882, it was used as a slaughterhouse. Al-Zahir Baybars was a prominent figure were very keen, even in the recon- in Egypt's history credited with struction process, to work accord- cementing Mamluk rule in Egypt which spanned three centuries up

Hundreds of journalists strike to demand leadership change at biggest US newspaper chain

NEW YORK: Journalists at two dozen local newspapers across the U.S. walked off the job Monday to demand an end to painful cost-cutting measures and a change of leadership at Gannett, the country's biggest newspaper chain. The strike involves hundreds of journalists at newspapers in eight states, including the Arizona Republic, the Austin American-Statesman, the Bergen Record, the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, and the Palm Beach Post, according to the NewsGuild, which represents workers at more than 50 Gannett newsrooms. Gannett has said there would be no disruption to its news coverage during the strike, which will last for two days at two of the newspapers and one day for the rest. The walkouts coincided with Gannett's annual shareholder meeting, during which the company's board was duly elected despite the NewsGuild-CWA union urging shareholders to withhold their votes from CEO and board chairman Mike Reed as an expression of no confidence in his leadership. Reed

has overseen the company since its

2019 merger with GateHouse Media, a tumultuous period that has included layoffs and the shuttering of newsrooms. Gannett shares have dropped more than 60% since the deal closed. Susan DeCarava, president of the The NewsGuild of New York, called the shareholder meeting "a slap in the face to the hundreds of Gannett journalists who are on strike today." "Gannett CEO Mike Reed didn't have a word to say to the scores of journalists whose livelihoods he's destroyed, nor to the communities who have lost their primary news source thanks to his mismanagement," DeCarava said in a statement. In legal filing, the NewsGuild said Gannett's leadership has gutted newsrooms and cut back on coverage to service a massive debt load. Cost-cutting has also included forced furloughs and suspension of 401-K contributions. "We want people in our local community to know what this company is doing to local news, and we want Gannett shareholders to know what Gannett is doing to local news," said Chris Damien, a crim-

chair the Desert Sun, which covers Palm Springs and the surrounding Coachella Valley in Southern California. Gannett Chief Communications Officer Lark-Marie Anton said the company disagreed with union's recommendation to vote against Reed. "During a very challenging time for our industry and economy, Gannett strives to provide competitive wages, benefits, and meaningful opportunities for all our valued employees," Anton said in a statement. The Gannett strike coincided with an open-ended strike being staged by 250 unionized U.S. employees at Insider Inc., a global company that publishes Business Insider. Members of the Insider Union, which formed in April 2021 and is represented by The News-Guild of New York, called the strike after failing to reach a first contract agreement with the company. Some of Gannett's striking newsrooms are negotiating contracts and accuse the company of dragging its feet, but Anton said the company continues to negotiate fairly.

Saudi Arabia hosts Venezuela President Maduro, welcoming yet another US adversary

JEDDAH (Agencies): Saudi Arabia by the United States' Secretary of hosting yet another adversary of the West as it carves a more independent foreign policy path. According to the state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro, arrived in the Red Sea coastal city of Jeddah late yesterday, greeted by Saudi officials. State media did not reveal the reason for Maduro's visit or any details of his schedule, but it is believed his visit may be connected to an international conference on combating extremism later this week, which will be hosted by the Saudi government in the capital, Riyadh. If the Venezuelan leader does attend and participate in the conference, it would be despite the fact that it is to be co-chaired

has welcomed Venezuela's President State, Antony Blinken. Maduro, who to the Kingdom on an official visit, was re-elected President in 2018 after judges banned his main opponents from competing, has been opposed by Venezuelan opposition groups backed by the US over the past few years. Although the movement against him has largely faded and lost momentum - along with a failed coup attempt by mercenaries allegedly plotted by Washington he continues to be a key adversary of the US and some other Western states. Riyadh's hosting of Maduro is seen by many as the latest effort by the Kingdom to continue on its increasingly independent and balanced foreign policy path, in what is regarded as yet another blow to American hegemony in the wider Middle East region.

CLASSIFIED

South Korea's Yoon says alliance with US'

nuclear-based' SEOUL (Agencies): South Korean

tended deterrence, which envisions

the use of U.S. nuclear weapons to

defend the South. "The South Ko-

rea-U.S. alliance has now been el-

evated to 'nuclear-based' alliance,"

Yoon said. North Korea this year test-

fired its biggest intercontinental bal-

listic missile and last week attempt-

ed to launch its first spy satellite,

although the rocket and the payload

plunged into the sea. North Korea

made a rare and swift admission of

the launch's failure but vowed to try

again and put a satellite in orbit to in-

crease its military surveillance capa-

bilities. The launch was widely con-

ban as an infringement of its sover-

development. While Yoon character-

ised his talks with Biden as an agree-

allies on the use of a nuclear weap-

Memorial Day speech to honouring

those who had made sacrifices in de-

fence of the country.

President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Tuesday he has upgraded the coun-COMMANDER try's alliance with the United States to one that is "nuclear-based" in the **ESTATES** face of North Korea's growing military threat. Yoon was referring to his talks with U.S. President Joe Biden **Property Consultants** in April on Washington's willingness to give Seoul more insight into its nuclear planning in the event of po-Lt Cdr (R) tential conflict with nuclear-armed North Korea. "North Korea is en-**Asmat Ullah Tariq** hancing its nuclear and missile ca-CE₀ pabilities, and has legislated the use of nuclear weapons," Yoon said in a speech marking South Korea's Authorized Dealer for Memorial Day. At their summit in Washington, the two leaders agreed - DHA Peshawar to strengthen the so-called U.S. ex-

 New Peshawar Valley 0345-8282666

0336-8282666

UG-356 Deans Trade Center, Peshawar Cantt.

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