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Pages 8 Price: Rs. 25/-

Vol 11, No 233 - Thursday 8 June 2023 Zilqada 18, 1444 A.H.

Editor: Omer Rizwan

Pakistan Army Chief vows to defeat hostile forces, abettors with nation's full support

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Wednesday said the hostile forces and their abettors had been trying hard to create societal division and confusion through fake news and propaganda but all such designs would (InshaAllah) be defeated with the full support of the nation. The Army Chief was presiding over the 81st Formation Commanders Conference here at the General Headquarters (GHQ), which was attended by Corps Commanders, Principal Staff Officers and all Formation Commanders of Pakistan Army, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The forum paid rich tributes to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada (martyrs), including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Shuhada from civil society who laid their lives for the safety, security and dignity of the country, and also offered Fateha for the martyrs. It asserted: "The State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will always keep Shuhada and their families in the highest esteem and will



continue to honour them and their sacrifices with utmost respect and dignity." The participants were briefed on prevalent environment, challenges to security i.e. both internal & external, and own operational preparedness in response to evolving threats, both traditional and non-traditional. It was also briefed on the structural changes and niche technologies being incorporated to enhance operational preparedness, besides up-gradation of essential logistic infrastructure, corresponding to emerging security imperatives. The COAS reiterated: "The Pakistan Army will remain committed towards their national ob-

ligations of safeguarding territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country." The people of Pakistan and their deep bondage with the Armed Forces, he added, "is and will remain central to all our undertakings and events of 25th May were a clear manifestation of same". The forum concluded: "Unfounded and baseless allegations on Law Enforcement Agencies and Security Forces for custodial torture, human rights abuses and stifling of political activities are meant to mislead the people and malign Armed Forces in order to achieve trivial vested political interests." While condemning the 9th May Black

Day incidents in the strictest sense, it reiterated the firm resolve that the desecrators of Shuhada Monuments, Jinnah House and attackers of military installations would certainly be brought to justice speedily under the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act which were the derivatives of the Constitution of Pakistan. "In this regard, efforts to create distortions and attempts to take refuge behind imaginary and mirage human rights violations to create smoke screen for hiding the ugly faces of all involved, are absolutely futile and do not stand the abundantly collected irrefutable evidences," the forum noted. It was further

stressed that while the legal trials of perpetrators and instigators had commenced, "it is time that noose of law is also tightened around the planners and masterminds who mounted the hate-ripened and politically-driven rebellion against the State and State institutions to achieve their nefarious design of creating chaos in the country". The forum also resolved that endeavours by any quarter to create obstructions and stymie the conclusive defeat of ill design of inimical forces would be dealt with iron hands. The COAS stressed on maintaining high standards of professionalism and motivation during operations and achieving excellence during training of their Formations. He commended the commanders for their constant focus on the well-being and high state of morale of their soldiers who remained the foundation of Army's operational readiness. The forum concluded by affirming resolve to render all sacrifices necessary for the security and stability of the country with the perpetual support of the proud people of Pakistan

Italy to provide \$760m to support vital sectors in Tunisia

Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni announced that Rome would allocate €700 million (\$763 million) to support priority livelihood sectors in Tunisia. This came in a speech by Meloni following her meeting with Tunisian President Kais Saied on Tuesday at the Carthage Palace, as reported by Anadolu Agency. The funds, she explained, will target essential sectors such as health and services "while fully respecting the sovereignty of the Tunisian state." She stated that Italy is working towards an agreement between Tunisia and the International Monetary Fund that considers Tunisia's economic and social realities. President Kais Saied reiterated his rejection of being dictated to as to how funds can be spent, noting that "those who offer ready-made solutions are like a doctor who prescribes medication before diagnosing the illness." Meloni emphasised that "it is necessary to adopt a realistic approach that enables Tunisia to access financing opportunities from the European Union." She added, "More than 900 Italian companies are active in Tunisia... There is a new collaboration in the energy sector through the 'Elmed' project [the electrical interconnection between Tunisia and Italy] that connects the Mediterranean shores."

Israel: defence minister threatens to send Lebanon back to Stone Age

TEL AVIV (Agencies): Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant threatened on Tuesday to send Lebanon back to "the Stone Age" in a war with Hezbollah, local media have reported. "I hear our enemies boasting about weapons they are developing," said Gallant. "For any such development, we have an even better response — by air, by sea and on land and through other means of attack and defence." The minister made his comments while visiting the Northern Command of the Israeli occupation army as part of his participation in the two-week-long "Firm Hand" military exercise. During the visit, said the Jerusalem Post, he conducted a situation assessment with senior officials from the army and said, "Our troops are excellent." If Hezbollah "makes a mistake" and "starts a war against Israel," warned Gallant, Israel will send Lebanon back to "the Stone Age." In closing, he added: "We will know how to defend the citizens of Israel and how to strike our enemies with a decisive blow if, heaven forbid, they initiate a war with us."

Ukraine Blows Up Togliatti-Odessa Ammonia Pipeline in Kharkov Region

MOSCOW (Agencies): A Ukrainian sabotage group has blown up the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline in Kharkov region. There are casualties among the civilian population, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Wednesday. The explosion of the pipeline was designated as a terrorist attack, there are victims among the civilian population, they have "received the necessary medical assistance," according to the MoD. Footage appeared online appearing to document the consequences of the sabotage attack, showing toxic clouds of ammonia vapor pouring into the local environment. Ammonia is not recognized as a traditional chemical weapons agent, but exposure to very high levels of the chemical can damage the lungs and cause death. Ammonia is also highly toxic to fish, wildlife, and plant life. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said repair work on the pipeline could take up to three months, and only if Russia is able to ensure access to the attack site. The spokeswoman said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that he could "fix the problem" of the damaged pipeline, "but this does not mean readiness on his part to resume the transportation of ammonia. We will make an effort to clarify the circumstances of the incident. But even now we can already state that only one



party was never interested in reanimating the pipeline — the Kiev regime." The Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline runs from the Russian region of Samara, entering Ukraine at Kharkov and pushing south and west toward the Black Sea coastal city of Odessa, where the resource is exported. Ammonia is a key raw material used in the enrichment of natural fertilizers. The pipeline was built in 1979 during the Soviet period, and, until recently, was able to transport up to 2.5 million tons of ammonia per year. The pipeline's use was stopped last February after the long-running crisis in Donbass escalated into a full-blown Russia-NAATO proxy war in Ukraine. Russia has sought to reactivate the pipeline as part of the Grain Deal negotiated with the help of Türkiye and the United Nations last year. Last month, Moscow warned that if its demands to reconnect the Russian Agricultural Bank to SWIFT and relaunch the pipeline were not addressed, the Grain Deal would be terminated after July 17.

Abda Sharif named as UK's new ambassador to Yemen

LONDON (Agencies): British authorities have appointed lawyer and diplomat Abda Sharif as the UK's new ambassador to Yemen. She will take up her post in September and succeeds Richard Oppenheim, who will move to another diplomatic role, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said. Sharif's most recent position was head of the Iraq and Arabian Peninsula Department in the Middle East and North Africa Directorate at the FCDO. Between 2012 and 2016, she served as deputy ambassador to Lebanon. Before that, in 2011, she led the UK Office in Benghazi, Libya. "Delighted to be the next UK Ambassador to #Yemen. Look forward to returning to the Middle East, and to working with the excellent @UKinYemen," Sharif said in a message posted on Twitter, referring to the UK's embassy in the country. Following the start of the war in Yemen in late 2014, the UK closed its embassy in Sanaa and transferred its ambassador and staff to Riyadh. Sharif's appointment comes



at a time when the UN's special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, and the international community, including the UK, are stepping up pressure on the Yemeni government and the Houthis to reach an agreement that can end the long-running civil war. Extensive international efforts have so far failed to persuade the Houthis to formally renew a long-term UN-brokered cease-fire, after a temporary truce expired in October of last year, or to end their drone and missile attacks on oil facilities in government-controlled provinces, which have halted exports that provide the country's main source of income.

S Korea, Japan scramble jets due to China-Russia joint air patrol

SEOUL (Agencies): South Korea's defence ministry has lodged a "stern" protest with Beijing and Moscow, local media reported, after Chinese and Russian military planes entered the country's air defence identification zone unannounced during what China's defence ministry said was a joint patrol exercise. South Korean fighter jets were scrambled on Tuesday in response to the presence of four Chinese and four Russian military aircraft which did not violate the country's airspace but did enter South Korea's air defence identification zone (KADIZ). Unlike a country's airspace — the air above its territory and territorial waters — there are no international rules governing air defence zones. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said aircraft were expected to identify their presence when they enter the air defence zone "so as to prevent accidental clashes", South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported on Tuesday. "Our military identified the Chinese and



Russian planes before their entry into the KADIZ and deployed Air Force fighters to conduct tactical steps in preparation against potential accidental situations," Yonhap reported, citing a statement from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. South Korea's defence ministry said on Wednesday that it had lodged a protest with the Chinese and Russian embassies in Seoul and expressed regret their military aircraft had flown near "sensitive areas close to our air space", Yonhap reported. The ministry called on both countries to "take appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence, noting that such a flight could cause regional tensions", Yonhap added.

German, Indian companies sign accord on possible India submarine project



NEW DELHI (Agencies): German and Indian companies signed an agreement Wednesday that envisions the possible building of six military submarines for India. The memorandum of understanding was signed in the presence of German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, who was in India on a visit. The agreement calls for Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems to engineer and design six non-nuclear submarines that would be built and delivered by India's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders with "significant local content." The German company did not give a financial value for the proposed deal, which was inked during a ceremony in Mumbai. But it said the agreement lays the foundation for possible cooperation with Mazagon to compete in an Indian navy tender. Pistorius called it "an important signal, one could say a milestone, for a flag-ship project in a key technology.

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Two killed, 5 wounded at Virginia high school graduation shooting

Virginia (Agencies): A man armed with four handguns killed two people and wounded five others when he fired into a crowd after a high school graduation ceremony in the United States city of Richmond, Virginia, police have said. Police said they arrested one suspect, a 19-year-old man, in relation to the shooting on Tuesday near a theatre where the graduation ceremony had taken place adjacent to the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. The suspect was likely to be charged with two counts of second-degree murder in addition to other offences,

interim Richmond Police Chief Rick Edwards told a press conference. "As they heard the gunfire, it was obviously chaos," he said. "We had hundreds of people in Monroe Park, so people scattered. It was very chaotic at the scene." Edwards called the attacker's behaviour "disgusting and cowardly", since his dispute appeared to be with just one person. The deceased were men aged 18 and 36, Edwards said. Their names were not released, but police believe the suspect, who was not immediately identified, knew at least one of the victims.

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.

Delegation of LRH doctors, visits PBC; condemns May 9 vandalism

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of doctors and nurses of Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar on Wednesday visited the building of Radio Pakistan (PBC) here to witness the vandalism committed on May 9, 10 and strongly condemned the violent attacks by saboteurs. The delegation visited different parts of the burnt building and expressed shock and sorrow over the extent of ransacking, plundering and vandalism on May 9

and 10 and demanded strict punishment for the miscreants involved in the heart-wrenching events. They expressed solidarity with the staff of Radio Pakistan and Associated Press of Pakistan over their losses apart from the damages caused to the offices of the two state-owned entities. They said that PBC and APP always promoted peace and harmony in the society and provided credible information and news to the people, adding

that civilized nations do not damage national assets but peacefully record their protests, said Media Manager LRH. The delegation also condemned attacks on the martyrs’ monument and other public and private properties and said that a wrong message was sent to the world on May 9 and 10. The delegation paid homage to the martyrs of Pakistan and said, “The enemies of the Armed Forces are the enemy of the state”.

Student caught using smartphone during examination; Superintendent suspended

PESHAWAR (APP): Controller Examination, board of Intermediate and Secondary education (BISE), Malik Maqsood Anwar on Wednesday apprehended a student red-handed while using a smartphone during the examination of 12th grade. According to details, Malik Maqsood Anwar accompanied by Deputy Controller Alamzeb Khan conducted inspec-

tions at various examination centres across the district to check the fair conduct of intermediate examinations of BISE Peshawar. During the inspection of Centre No 137 here, the Controller found a student using a smartphone during the examination and cancelled his paper on the spot and directed the initiation of a case of unfair means against him

besides suspending the superintendent of the centre. Meanwhile, CE in a statement urged parents to refrain their children from bringing smartphones to the examination centres. He also issued necessary directives to examination staff and invigilators to have strict checks on smartphones and smartwatches in examination centres.

BRT service to continue routine operation: Spokesman

PESHAWAR (APP): The spokesman of Trans-Peshawar on Wednesday said that the provincial government has released Rs 344 million to a private company which was operating the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) service and now the bus service would

continue as usual. He said that the provincial government had paid half of the arrears to the private company in response to its letter after which the company assured to run the routine operation of BRT without closure. It is to mention here that the private company had sent a letter to the provincial government warning to stop the BRT service on June 7 in case of non-payment of its Rs 750 million dues against the ser-

vice. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) being a main sponsor of the project also took notice of the issue and urged the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to investigate the non-payment issue involving the BRT project and take prompt action to get it resolved to minimize any negative financial impact on the project, citizens of Peshawar and the provincial government, revealed the letter available with this agency.

UET Peshawar holds seminar on Clean Campus Drive



PESHAWAR (Staff Report): A seminar on Clean Campus Drive was held at UET Peshawar, organized by the Directorate of Clubs and Societies, UET Peshawar in collaboration with WSSP. The chief guest of the seminar was Prof. Dr. Sahar Noor, Dean Mechanical, Chemical and Industrial Engineering, UET Peshawar. In his address, he said, WSSP’s services are commendable which has been proved by their commitment UET Peshawar being the first ever university in Peshawar that had signed the MoU with WSSP a few years ago have seen a positive response from WSSP and their team members. He assured cooperation with WSSP on conducting joint research and development in the fields of “plastic and packaging”, solid waste management and water resource management”, he added. Hafiz Muhammad Ismail, Manager Community Liaison Cell (CLC) WSSP said, Clean Campus Drive is aimed to sensitize the students and teaching community on their role in helping WSSP to improve the environment through cleaning efforts and scientific solid waste management. He said,

at present we have 63 union councils where WSSP is offering its services while enabling 42 model streets, 251 wash clubs that are active in 43 union councils. He said that pet plastic bottle recycling is a big challenge and urged support of faculty and researchers for handling this issue on a technical basis. Dr. Imad Ullah Khan, Chief Proctor UET Peshawar gave a presentation on “Coal Briquettes” highlighting the importance of coal biomass briquetting technology developed by UET Peshawar contributing to the SDGs goal 6. Dr. Samad Baseer Director Clubs presented the vote of thanks. Later, an awareness walk was arranged on Campus in which the students and WSSP team participated in large numbers. Mr. Farman Ali, Zonal Manager Zone D WSSP presented shields to Dr. Sahar Noor, Dr. Imad Ullah Khan and Dr. Samad Baseer Director Clubs. Dr. Sahar Noor later on, gave away UET certificates to the community development officers of WSSP including Abdullah, Community Development Officer WSSP, Taimur Ali, Field Officer WSSP and others.

3 Held During Crackdown Against Fake Sales Tax Invoices Business

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal board of Revenue (FBR) Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation Inland Revenue has unearthed an organized gang involved in the issuance of fake sales tax invoices, which inflicted huge financial losses on the government kitty. The accused have registered different companies with various Names under the Sales Tax Act 1990 and issued fake sales tax invoices worth crores of rupees. As a result, many business units get fake input tax adjustment claims that caused colossal losses to the government kitty. “As per initial es-

timates, Rs645 million losses have been reported,” said a press release here on Wednesday. “The Directorate has arrested three accused including a businessman from an office in a plaza located on Ashraf Road and lodged FIR against them,” it added. The accused were produced in the court of special judge Customs Anti Smuggling and Taxation that granted two days physical remand of the accused. The arrest of more persons involved in issuance of the fake invoices of sales tax and fraud was expected and strong action was being taken.

Threats to peace, tolerance and inclusivity session held at University of Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): A one-day training session jointly organised by the University of Swabi and Women University Swabi was held at the University of Swabi under the umbrella of Peace Club on Wednesday. The theme of the session was “Threats to Peace, Tolerance and Inclusivity”. During the sessions, students were encouraged to share their views on the promotion of peace and tolerance in campuses

and in wider society. Faryal Ali, Focal Person, and Fatima Murad, member of the Peace Club, represented Women University Swabi. Emphasising the importance of peace and tolerance for the socio-economic development of the country, the organisers maintained that such sessions would help in developing culture of peace and tolerance both within and outside the universities.

Hot and dry weather to prevail in most KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Wednesday predicted that hot and dry weather is expected in most districts while very hot in some plan areas. However; it said that cloudy weather with chances of isolated rain-wind/thunderstorm is likely to occur over Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, Kohistan, Swat, Buner, Khyber, Kurram districts in the evening and night. During the last 24 hours, the weather remained hot and dry over most districts of the

province while very hot over southern districts. Rain recorded (in mm): Nil The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 38/24, Chitral 32/15, Timergara 34/19, Dir 31/12, Mirkhani 34/14, Kalam 31/12, Drosh 34/14, Saidu Sharif 25/05, Pattan 32/18, Malam Jabba 25/05, Takht Bhai 37/25, Kakul 32/16, Balakot 33/18, Parachinar 28/12, Bannu 40/22, Cherat 30/17, D.I. Khan 40/23.

NAB starts investigation against PTI’s minister

PESHAWAR (APP): The anti-corruption watchdog has initiated an investigation against PTI’s former provincial minister of Livestock and Fisheries Mohib Ullah Khan, besides former Secretary and Director General of the fisheries department. It also sought records from the department concerned regarding details of the development projects and appointments during the last 16 years. According to an official letter, the National Accountability Bureau

(NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has asked the department to provide records of development programmes of the last 16 years and development funds allocated in the last six years. The bureau also asked for the details of PC-I of the development projects, allocated and utilized funds, the procedure for establishing fish farms, the applications received and the procedure of scrutiny besides the details of 120 recruitments in the fisheries department.

Pesco notifies power suspension on various feeders

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) on Wednesday notified that due to maintenance work, the power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Rehman Baba Grid Station on 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th and 29th June from 8:00 a.m.to 2:00 p.m, subsequently consumers of 11KV Kachori, Shalozai, Safdar Abad, Khanmst, New Hazarkhwani, Surizai, Phandu Baba, Urmar 2, Hazar Khwani, Yakatoot, New Chairman Daftar, Jameel Colony, Ring Road, BeriBagh, Rashid Ghari, Surizai, Akhon Abad, Ring Road 2, SIDB feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Kohat Road Grid Station on 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th and 29th June from 8:00 a.m.to 2:00 p.m, as a result, the consumers of 11 KV PAF Express, Kohat Road, Wazir Bagh, Sonehri Masjid, Bana Mari, Civil Quarter, Nothia, Murshad Abad, Abasin, Old DehBahadar, Deh Bahadar, Wazir Abad, Ameen Colony Bara, Nodhya Payan, Murshid Ababad, Dora Road, Nodiya Bahadar, Lundi Arbab 1, 2, 3, Sheikh Muhamadi, Pishtakhara,

Swati Gate, Gulbarg, Scheme Chowk feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar City Grid Station on 8th, 12th, 15th, 19th, 22nd, 26th and 29th June from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. due to which, the consumers of 11 KV Sikhandar Abad, Zaryab, Phandu Road, City Home, Bana Mari, Urmar, Islamabad, Faqir Abad, Sheikh Abad, Molvi G, Nishtarabad, NHA feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 220 KV Chakdara-Shahibaug-Mardan and Nowshera Transmission Line on 8th to 14th June from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m, as a result, the load managements will be carried out on 132 KV Barikot, Bathkela, Chakdara, Dhobiyan, Hussai, Jehangira, Karnalsher Khan, Katlang, KhwazaKhe-la, Lal Qilla Maidan, Mardan 1,2,3, Marble City, Madyan, Matta, Munda Jandool, Nizampur, Nowshera City, Nowshera Industrial, Shangla Par, Swat, Wari, Dargai, Daggar, Drosh, Jalala, Dir, Timergara and 66 KV Dir and Timergara grid connected with 11 KV feeders.

Russian envoy calls for strengthening ties with Pakistan



PESHAWAR (Agencies): Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Danila V Ganich on Wednesday called for strengthening Pak-Russian ties in every sector, hoping these relations would continue to grow like a fruitful tree. He stated this while speaking at a tree plantation ceremony at the Ladies Club in the University Town Peshawar, said a press release. This event was attended by Minister for Local Government, Elections and Rural Development (LGE and RD) Sawal Nazir, Secretary for LG, E&RD Amir Afaq, Project Director of KP Cities Improvement Project Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Secretary for Local Council Board Mian Shafiqur Rehman, Peshawar Development Authority Director-General Riaz Ali Khan and Secretary-General of Pak-China Friendship Association

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani. The ambassador agreed to a proposal made by KP Minister for LGE and RD Sawal Nazir for exchange visits to enhance the bilateral understanding. Danila V Ganich stressed the need for people-to-people contacts which, he said, could prove beneficial in the near future. The communication said the ambassador appreciated the idea of setting up a Russian Study or Culture Centre to bring the peoples of the two countries closer. Earlier, KP Minister Sawal Nazir welcomed the ambassador and expressed the KP government’s willingness to enhance cordial relations to the mutual benefits of our people. He called for linkages development in Local Government governance system, Education, commerce and Agriculture.



Courtesy: RT

tunnels for storing missiles. They aspire to control the east-west transit of munitions, drugs and contraband through Syria to the Mediterranean. Although these forces are nominally sided with Assad, they are understandably reluctant to see a resurgent Damascus cramping their style. Meanwhile, Daesh continues to stage regular attacks against Kurdish forces and other targets, and there are indications that this terrorist group is actively masking the true extent of its Syrian capabilities, with many militants laying low in the vast Badia desert region. The killing of about 250 truffle hunters in a flurry of incidents in the Syrian desert this spring had been widely blamed on Daesh. But experts believe that the worst of these killings were probably due to Iran-backed militias seeking to monopolize this vast region. Violent clashes even erupted in 2022 between Russia-backed and Iran-backed militias, each seeking to establish exclusive control over key routes and strategic locations. The city of Deir Ezzor lies along the dividing line of control between Damascus and eastern Kurdish forces. Assad has sought to curry favor with local tribes through a complex reconciliation process, while pro-Tehran forces have exploited the fragile situation to buy up large amounts of land and property in this wider area. There are ample indications that the Syrian conflict is entering a new phase, as Assad and his allies — emboldened in the west — seek to reassert themselves and wrong-foot the Americans in the east. What all these parties — Tehran, Washington, Russia, Daesh, Israel and Turkey — have in common is that they are pursuing their own foreign agendas on Syrian soil. None of the players in this globalized great game has any serious or sincere aspiration to bring peace and stability to Syria. The only end point to this quagmire is when Syrians can one day govern themselves under a leadership that respects their rights, freedoms and sovereignty. We may be in for a long wait.

- Courtesy: Arab News

cuses through the under-construction Aral head regulator and the reinforcement of the Manchhar Containing Bund are significant initiatives of the World Bank-financed Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project of the provincial government. The reconstruction of houses and livelihood restoration projects are at an early stage. But, if properly implemented, these projects can generate climate-resilient infrastructure in rural areas, where over half the katcha houses and a rickety community infrastructure are victims of climate shocks. Before the onset of the next monsoon, district-level flood contingency plans must be developed and implemented through meaningful engagement with local stakeholders. The plan should include preparedness for emergency evacuation, well-equipped relief camps, food and medicine stockpiles, unobstructed municipal and irrigation drains, functional pumping stations with power back-up, and arrangements for people needing special focus, such as pregnant and lactating women, newborns and toddlers, the elderly, the disabled and socially ostracised segments. These short-term measures can help if disaster returns, although sustainable solutions need long-term measures.

transgender individuals. The number of transgender individuals in Pakistan is substantial, and it is crucial to recognize that being transgender is not their fault. I firmly believe that they should be treated equally and granted the same rights as any other member of society. We need to address this issue and learn from countries in the West, where every individual is afforded the human rights they deserve. To conclude, I strongly advocate for the passing of a law in the assembly to grant transgender individuals equal rights, without any exceptions.

— Danial Tanvir, Islamabad

Meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology met under the chairmanship of Senator Muhammad Shafiq Tareen at the Ministry of Science and Technology to discuss long standing unresolved issues pertaining MoST and COMSAT University. The committee discussed at length various issues. While taking briefing by Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, acting rector Comsats University Islamabad regarding fixing salaries of regular employees & daily wagers / contract employees according to Federal Government Ba-



sic Pay Scales the Chairman committee remarked that an internal meeting between the staff and the administration must be conducted and come to a settlement on salaries. While making a comparison between the salaries of the govt. basic pay scale (BPS) 2022 and CUI Pay scale 2021 are highly variant and inconsistent. The admin-

istration of the university pledged that the salaries are being based and settled on the available funds, however meeting would be conducted to resolve the matter. Similarly, on the matter of assigning interim charge as Acting Registrar and regaining of Treasurer, after completion of his term, the Chairman committee said that the information provided by the ministry in this regard is incomplete and sought more detail on the subject matter. It was apprised that the Senate CUI has draft the summary and put up the case in the PM's office.

USD 820 million Planned Infrastructure Investment in (SEZ) to be completed within 2 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): NA body was told by the Ministry that USD 820 million Planned Infrastructure Investment in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) would be completed within 2 years. The Standing Committee on Board of Investment (BOI) appreciated the efforts of the ministry to encourage the business activities in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) by giving incentives in terms of exemption on Import duty of machinery and Tax exemption for 10 years in order to bring Foreign Investment in the Country. A meeting of the Standing Committee on Board of Investment (BOI) was held today on 6th June, 2023 at 11:00 a.m in Committee Room No. 7, Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of Dr. Zulfiqar Bhatti, MNA. 2.The Secretary, Ministry of Board of Investment briefly apprised the Committee about the steps taken by them to improve the Business activities in Special Economic Zones of the Country. He stated that Government has formulated uniform policies for both Public and Private Sectors and declared 9 sites for CPEC Special Economic Zones. The Committee was further informed that minimum area required in Special Economic Zone are 50 acers besides their plan of investment for consideration by the Board. The Committee directed the Ministry to establish Training Institute in Special Economic Zones for training of labor, skilled persons as it was found that language barrier create hurdles in Communication.

Launch of Pakistan Economic Survey

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Economic Survey, containing the details of major socio-economic achievements during the outgoing fiscal year 2022-23, will be launched in a ceremony. Auditorium of P- Block, Pak Secretariat. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, will chair the launching ceremony of the Economic Survey for the outgoing fiscal year. The Economic Survey will provide details about the major socio-economic developments, performance, and economic trends of various sectors of the economy including Agriculture, Manufacturing & Industry, Services, Energy, Information Technology & Telecom, Capital Markets, Health, Education, Transport and Communication etc.

Bahawalpur police bust gang, 29 goats recovered

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Bahawalpur police have arrested a cattle thief gang and recovered 29 stolen goats from their possession. A spokesman for Bahawalpur police said here that the police had received several complaints about the theft of cattle. "Acting on a tip-off, a police party conducted a raid against the cattle thief gang in the area lying within the jurisdiction of PS Hasilpur (Sadar) and successfully arrested three members of a cattle thief gang," he said, adding that the police also recovered 29 stolen goats from the possession of the suspects. The suspects were identified as Waqar, Waqas and Rashid, the residents of Arifwala and Hasilpur areas, respectively. They were involved in stealing goats from Hasilpur tehsil of Bahawalpur district. The police have registered a case against the accused. Further probe was underway.

HEC wins 118 medals in national games 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has won as many as 118 medals, including eight gold, 17 silver, and 93 bronze medals, in the National Games Quetta 2023. President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi conferred HEC with the 'Best Turnout Trophy' for being an extraordinary contingent of the National Games. HEC players competed in individual as well as team events participated by 14 units hailing from Pakistan Army, WAPDA, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Railways, Balochistan, Police, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. In his ad-



dress, Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed said, "This remarkable achievement of aspiring young players is a testament to hard work, dedication, and commitment to compete with professional departmental players." "We are proud of our athletes' accomplishments and are committed to supporting them in their future endeavors," he added.

MoU signed between Ihsan Trust and Sir Syed University

KARACHI (Agencies): Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ihsan Trust to mutually strengthen each other's capacity and in playing their role in providing education to those communities and individuals who have been admitted to SSUET on merit and are not in a position or cannot afford all the fees and other charges. Elaborating on the details of the agreement, Registrar SSUET, Syed Sarfraz Ali said that "For providing the Interest-Free Loan facility of 6 million rupees per year to the students of SSUET, a special and specific agreement will be made with each selected student by IT. The initial selection will be carried out by the SSUET and IT will conduct the final interview



and appraisal before entering into an agreement with the student for providing this Interest-Free Loan facility on a purely "Need-cum-Merit" basis." SSUET will facilitate IT in conducting a seminar (detailed presentation) to all the students and faculty of SSUET on Islamic banking and IT. Registrar Commodore (R) Engr. Syed Sarfraz Ali signed the MoU on behalf of the Sir Syed University, while General Manager Fayyaz ur Rehman, signed the agreement for Ihsan Trust.

Riaz Pirzada reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to uphold children's rights

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada attended as chief guest the opening ceremony of 20th meeting of Inter-Provincial Ministerial Group (IPMG). The meeting was organized by National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) with the help of UN Women. Chairperson NCSW, Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Country Representative UN Women Shar-meela Rasool, Ms. Andrea S. Hillyer Advisor Gender Security, representatives of Bureau of Statistics, Planning and Development Departments and Women Development Departments of all provinces and Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women including Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan attended the meeting. This group was established in 2009 to



enhance coordination among all leading public sector organizations working in the provinces and other regions mainly on gender equality and women empowerment. Main agenda of the 20th meeting was to have an update on National Gender Data Portal (NGDP) and reviewing the provincial coordination mechanism; strengthening the role of partners and identifying strategies to establish NGDP as a credible source for gender related data and information.

PML-N to give surprising results in general elections: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP):Federal Minister for Electricity Engineer Khuram Dastgir said on Wednesday that PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif will return home soon and his party will give surprising results in the next general elections. In an Interview with the PTV news channel, he said that Pakistan Muslim League-N would dominate the general elections due to its performance and excellent public service. He said PML-N will face those politi-

cal faces in the election who had ruined the progressing country, adding, the nation will never forgive those who have saved the country from such people. He further said that the politics of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was based on public welfare and national development. The people of the country always elected Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with a two-thirds majority, which shows their immense love for him, he added

Unidentified woman allegedly burnt

MULTAN (APP): An unidentified woman was allegedly burnt to death at Z town of Piran Ghaib area here on Wednesday. According to a Rescue 1122 spokesperson, after being alerted by the locals about a woman who caught fire, a Rescue 1122 team reached the spot and found her burnt body there. Police were

also called in by the rescuers, he explained. The deceased was about 42 years old, he said and added that body was shifted to Nishtar Hospital mortuary in the presence of police for legal formalities. The cause of death could not be ascertained immediately, the spokesperson concluded.

Awareness of family planning best key to control population growth: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General (DG) Population Programme Wing, Dr Sabina Durrani Wednesday stressed for enhancing public awareness, strict implementation of a quality family planning and counseling workshops at grass-root level as country's population is growing rapidly with an annual fertility rates. Talking to a private news channel, she expressed her serious concerns over the rapid population growth in the country, all stakeholders needs to collectively being part of an important initiative to strengthen the quality of maternal health and fam-

ily planning services. She stressed that it is need of hour for our leadership to realize only a limited, inclusive and well-managed population which can steer the country on the road to sustainable development, adding, overpopulation is a burden which causes imbalance living standard. Replying a question, she said in order to improve the overall maternal health in Pakistan's rural areas, inclusive national policies must be implemented strictly so that the rural population can also avail the healthcare facilities, gender-based inequalities must be eliminated.

Rawal Lake Poisoning Incident: Two Arrested Individuals Apprehended

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan – On Thursday, two individuals were arrested 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. The National Assembly's Standing Com-

mittee on Climate Change has taken serious notice of the incident and has expressed its concern over it. A report has been sought from the relevant authorities. The committee has strongly condemned all such actions that harm the environment, the people, and the animals. The committee also urged the people to follow ethical and legal means of fishing and to protect natural resources of the country.

PIMS makes medical waste disposal system fully functional

Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has made fully functional of its system to properly dispose of medical waste of the hospital. According to spokesperson PIMS ED Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Dahi, following the directions of the Secretary Health, measures were adopted on emergency basis to dispose of hospital's waste and making the system fully functional. He said that the ED PIMS Prof Dr Imran Sikandar had constituted a waste management committee to take immediate steps including removing

fault in the machine being used to incinerate the medical waste of the hospital. He said that the committee had also prepared guidelines to dispose of the medical waste. He added the hospital had also established a mechanism to separately dispose of the infectious and non-infectious waste. Dr Mubashir said, "Now well-organized system is in place in the hospital to incinerate medical waste. Only in last month of May, the hospital had disposed of medical waste of 21,985 kilogram."

Middle East ,a strategic economic partner of Pakistan, Minister Planning

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with We News organised an international seminar on 'Developments in the Middle East: Lessons and Opportunities for Pakistan.' The seminar, was addressed by former Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Ambassador Ali Awadh Asseri; Federal Minister for Planning and Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal; Pakistan's former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Vice-Admiral Hasham bin Siddique; Dr Robert Mason, Non-Resident Fellow at Arab

Gulf States Institute in Washington; Professor Mahjoob Zweiri Dir Gulf Studies Programme, Qatar University; Ambassador Javed Hafeez, former envoy of Pakistan, and Azfar Ahsan, former minister of State & Chairman Board of Investment (BOI). Federal Minister for Planning and Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said that a decade of stability is desired to transform Pakistan into a performing economy, and drew attention towards the goal of making Pakistan as the 25th economy in the world.

Expert asks citizens to shun unhygienic roadside food

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health Expert Wednesday warned that open sale of unhygienic food stuff on various roads of cities causing health hazards in which most of these edibles lie on carts and at shops uncovered in scorching heat. Talking to a private news channel, a consultant Physician Dr. Rana Inam explained that provision of healthy food has become a global issue, especially in non-developing countries, adding, unhygienic and unprotected food has very dreadful consequences upon human lives due to which death rates have increased dramatically. He said that the healthy food was the basic need of every citizen and without it we could not imagine life, adding, unhygienic food has now become

a serious problem and we have to solve it on emergency basis. Many citizens specially students are regularly consuming unhealthy food on roads which remain prone to diseases, such food satisfy the children's appetite but do not help them grow strong. As a result, they become physically weak, their colour turns pale and they get mentally frail," he added. Doctor advised that the people should increase intake of simple water, fresh juices and healthy food in summer to stay active and healthy. He also regretted that no serious measure is taken to stop selling these unhygienic foods, though street food is being sold in front of educational institutions under the noses of food safety authorities.

Youth empowerment, increasing education budget priority of govt: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that imparting IT education of international standard to the youth and increasing budgetary allocation for the education sector was the foremost priority of the government. The fiscal year 2023-24 budget would enable youth to get more employment opportunities in the IT sector, he said while talking to a private news channel on Wednesday. In the upcoming budget, the government would introduce multiple IT-related projects for the youth for enabling them to earn their livelihoods besides contributing to the country's productivity, he mentioned. The government was utilizing all available resources to ensure improvement in all sectors,

including education, for the resolution of current problems, Iqbal added. He assured that unemployment would be eradicated from the country by providing technical education and vocational training to the youth. The minister said efforts were afoot to ensure equal distribution of the resources among the youth in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who wanted to make the young people successful by providing gainful employment and meaningful engagement. He said many new youth-related IT-based projects were being introduced to reduce unemployment in the region, adding, the government was introducing special projects for the youth of the country involving billions of rupees in the next annual fiscal budget.

World Day against Child Labor to be marked on June 12

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Day Against Child Labor will be marked on June 12 (Monday) across the globe including Pakistan to raise awareness of the plight of child laborers world-wide. Hundreds of millions of girls and boys around the world are affected. Child labor is a problem in both developing and industrialized countries. Every year, numerous events are held around the world on June 12 to mark the World Day Against Child Labor and call attention to the problem. Child labor is especially rampant in many developing countries - but even in industrialized nations many

children are forced to work. According to UNICEF, children in the United States “are employed in agriculture, a high proportion of them from immigrant or ethnic-minority families.” There have also been a number of incidents of westerns companies exploiting child laborers in developing countries to save production costs. In 2011, there were an estimated 215 million child laborers in the world - 115 million of which were involved in hazardous work. To combat child labor around the world the International Labour Organization (ILO) initiated the World Day Against Child Labor in 2002.

Two bike lifters arrested;nine stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two bike lifters, members of ‘Habib’ gang besides recovering nine stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Race Course Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Habib, ringleader and Mohsin and recovered nine stolen mo-

torcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar, Muhammad Waqas Khan said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. He said that the operations against the lawbreakers would be accelerated further.

Police crack down on complainant in fake theft call, legal action Initiated

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police have taken swift action against a citizen, Khurram Javed, after he placed a hoax call reporting a dacoity incident in the jurisdiction of Koral police station. Senior police officers and the Koral police team promptly responded to the call, but subsequent investigations, including CCTV footage analysis, revealed that the call was

fabricated. Legal proceedings have been initiated against Javed, who confessed to concocting the theft plot and making the false report to the police helpline, Pucar-15. Capital Police Officer, Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari, has issued a stern warning against making hoax calls, stressing the negative impact on police resources and the potential risk to innocent lives.

CDA takes steps for fulfilling the religious needs of minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has taken significant steps in fulfilling the religious needs of minority communities here. The CDA has allocated two cremation grounds, measuring 0.49 acres and 0.50 acres, for the Hindu and Buddhist communities respectively in Sector H-9. Moreover, graveyards have been provided for

Christians (9.01 acres), Bhais (1.70 acres), and Qadianis (3.424 acres) in Sector H-9 and Sector H-8. This move aims to ensure that all communities have access to appropriate facilities for their burial rites. CDA has also addressed the issue of sewage treatment and water recycling, highlighting its commitment to environmental sustainability.

PML(N) leader demands impartial trial in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha on Wednesday emphasized the need for a transparent and unbiased trial in the Toshakhana case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. Speaking at a press conference, he called upon Imran Khan to appear before the court to face the charges related to the case. He questioned the differential treatment given to Imran Khan compared to other political leaders, such as

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari, who faced trials. Ranjha alleged that the courts had granted special privileges to Imran Khan. He further pointed out that the Islamabad High Court had suspended criminal proceedings against Imran Khan in a case that should not have been exempted under the law. The PML-N leader emphasized that the PTI Chairman had failed to disclose the gifts he retained from Toshakhana in his declarations, warranting the necessity of a fair and just trial.

Pakistan,Russia agree to enhance cooperation in bilateral trade,parliamentary relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Wednesday held delegation-level talks with Chairman of the Russian Duma (lower house) Mr Volodin in Moscow and discussed matters of bilateral relations. The chairman senate emphasised parliamentary exchanges as an important component of effective diplomacy. Both sides agreed to further enhance parliamentary interaction between the two countries, a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy in Moscow

said. Chairman Senate reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthen bilateral relations with Russia in all areas of mutually beneficial cooperation, especially trade, investment, and energy. Both sides also agreed to continue cooperation in international forums including United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Chairman Sanjrani conveyed an invitation to Chairman Volodin from the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan to visit Pakistan which was accepted.

FCCI to facilitate GCWUF students for enhancing skills

FAISALABAD (APP): The FCCI will facilitate the Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) to enhance employability of its students and graduates by engaging an international IT organization. This was said by Dr Khurram Tariq, President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), during a meeting with Vice Chancellor GCWUF Dr Rubina Farooq on Wednesday. He said that initially students and graduates of IT, computer science and mathematics would be provided much needed skills to get employment on the

basis of their academic knowledge. He said that services of a global IT giant “Corvid” would be hired to harness skills of the girl students. He also stressed the need to impart education of future knowledge instead of sticking to the unproductive traditional and obsolete subjects. “It would help our youth to play its creative role in the coming decades”, he said and added that:” We should also focus on sharpening the critical and analytical proficiency of the students so that they could understand the emerging challenges and present their viable solutions.

Police hold ceremony to honor martyrs and ghazis,recognizing their sacrifices

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police have organized a ceremony at the Jinnah Convention Center to pay tributes to brave martyrs and ghazis who made immense sacrifices in the line of duty. The event, attended by high-ranking officials, law enforcement agencies, families of fallen personnel, civil society members, journalists, and trainee recruits, aimed to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of these individuals in upholding peace, preserving the economy, and

maintaining law and order. CPO (Law and Order) Shakir Dawar expressed heartfelt gratitude to the attendees for honoring the event with their presence. He emphasized the significance of the martyrs’ and ghazis’ sacrifices in safeguarding the well-being of the nation and emphasizing the importance of maintaining peace. The President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), representing the business community, acknowledged the pivotal role played by the

police . The president commended the unwavering dedication of the police in ensuring the security and well-being of citizens. Secretary Interior Ali Murtaza emphasized the importance of such events in honoring the sacrifices of the martyrs and reaffirming the government’s commitment to support and console their families. He expressed deep appreciation for the brave officers who made ultimate sacrifices and highlighted the unity of the government and the nation as a whole.

IRSA releases 165,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 165,600 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 173,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1426.13 feet and was 28.13 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 61,500 cusecs each. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1133.85 feet, which was 83.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 47,500 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 72,900, 82,000, 60,100 and 22,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 35,800 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 9,300 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

13 vehicles impounded for overcharging

SARGODHA (APP): District Regional Transport Authority (DRTA) Sargodha launched a comprehensive crackdown against the transporters for overcharging across the District and impounded 13 vehicles over several violations. According to the spokesperson here on Wednesday,the Secretary along with team checked various terminals and bus stands at Khushab, Sillanwali and Lahore road and impounded 13 transport vehicles,besides issuing challans to them.

ANF recovers over 519 kg drugs; arrests five

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in six operations conducted in different areas of the country, managed to recover over 519 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in a raid conducted near Yaro Railway Crossing in Pishin, 400 kg charras was recovered from a truck. ANF also arrested three accused residents of Quetta who were trying to smuggle drugs from Balochistan to Sindh. On the plantation of the arrested accused, another raid was conducted at a flat on Mir Ahmed Road in Quetta and 40 kg charras were seized.

Three illegal petrol agencies sealed

SARGODHA (APP): The district administration on Wednesday sealed three illegal petrol agencies for selling fuel at exorbitant rates in Sargodha. According to the official sources, a team of civil defense along with police inspected various petrol pumps at Chak no 46 SB,Chak no 29 SB and Kabari bazar and checked the quality, measurement and rates of the fuel. The team sealed three pumps over violation.

Soybean futures close higher

ISLAMABAD (APP): No.1 soybean futures closed higher on Wednesday in daytime trading at the Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE). The most active No.1 soybean contract for July 2023 delivery gained 60 Yuan (about 8.43 U.S. Dollars) to close at 5,066 yuan per tonne. On Wednesday, the total trading volume of six listed No.1 soybean futures contracts on the exchange was 203,794 lots, with a turnover of about 10.17 billion yuan.

Police arrest 12 gamblers; recover Rs 51,400 stake money

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district Police arrested 12 gamblers and recovered Rs 51,400 stake money, nine mobile phones and valuables from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that Rattaamral police conducted a raid and arrested 12 gamblers namely Kamran, Niaz, Raz Muhammad, Bilal, Mustafa, Amjad, Imran, Fazal, Numan, Irfan, Saeed and Muhammad Tahir, who were allegedly involved in betting while

playing cards. Police also recovered Rs 51,400 cash stake money, nine mobile phones and other items from the possession of the arrested accused. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is under process. Superintendent of Police, Rawal Faisal Sal-eem appreciated the police parties and said that gambling is the root cause of other evils and those involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession.

High alert issued in wake of flash floods

DG Khan (APP): Commissioner Dr Nasir Wednesday issued a high alert to combat the emergency situation in the wake of flash floods which could hit anytime in parts of the Dera Ghazi Khan division. Dr Nasir ordered to fill of cracks of the previous flood first of all along with conducting mock exercises in water to cope with emergency situations emerging through the expected flood. The Commissioner also directed to conduct a survey of the rivers and linked canals, also ensured the cleanliness of natural paths with causeways of the linked canals. He asked the relevant author-

ity to prepare short and long-term development projects in the flood-hit areas. Chief Engineer of the canal department, Ghulam Mustafa said while giving a briefing as the local division faced constant flood threats through two rivers linked with about 13 canals in the surrounding. It used to affect two districts, Rajanpur and DG Khan particularly as they were nearer to the Sindh river; he added in the briefing. The Commissioner emphasised the district administration to hold a survey of the flood-affected places until its tail to remain in the safer zone in the future.

Schedule of Registration of electoral groups issued

SARGODHA (APP): On the direction of the Election Commission of Pakistan, schedule of formation and registration of electoral groups for the conduct of local government elections has been issued in Sargodha. According to the schedule, the independent candidates participating in the local elections would have to register the electoral groups. Deputy Director Development Waqas Ranjha has been appointed as an authorized officer for District Council Sargodha. In this regard, the deputy director said that apart from the chairman of the district council, 07 deputy chairman, 42 councilors and 28 special seats, the forms for the

panel could be received till June 12 from the office of the deputy director of development while form payment would be suspended on Saturday and Sunday. Objections on the submitted forms would be received from June 12 to 18, while the head of the panel could receive the form in person, for which a fee of Rs 1000 per member would have to be deposited, he said. Moreover, the Election Commission of Pakistan divided the local governments into two levels for local elections, in which the upper level was the district council while the lower level was consists of urban and rural union councils within the limits of the tehsils.

PM decides to include special uplift projects in budget for KP’s merged districts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday decided to include special development projects in the upcoming budget for merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Talking to the Members of National Assembly from merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here, the prime minister said uplift of people of the area was top priority of the government. Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Sajid Hussain Turi and MNAs Mohsin Dawar and Muhammad Jamaludin were part of the delegation which called on the

prime minister, while Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and other relevant high officials also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the delegation presented proposals to the prime minister with respect to the development projects and measures to solve the problems of the merged districts of the province. Welcoming their recommendation, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that after due consultation, the relevant authorities should include the proposals in the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24.

SPARC organizes launching event for the policy brief on cigarette production,taxation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) on Wednesday organized a launching event for the policy brief ‘Facts vs Industry Narrative: Cigarette Production and Taxation in Pakistan’, published by Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC). Principal Economist of SPDC Muhammad Sabir on the occasion said,” There are three listed companies which are the country’s major cigarette producers, accounting for more than 90% of total cigarette production in Pakistan. These include Pakistan Tobacco Company (PTC), Phillip Morris Pakistan (PMPK), and Khyber Tobacco Company.” Analysis of the financial statements of these companies reveals that the net turnover and gross profit of the com-

panies altogether increased from 72 billion Rupees during Jul 2021 Mar 2022 to 94 billion Rupees during Jul 2022 Mar 2023. Gross profit also increased from 33 billion Rupees to 46 billion Rupees during the same period. During the quarter of Jan-Mar 2023, when tax rates were increased substantially and declared production declined to half, companies’ profits did not fall, he said. “The tobacco industry is under-reporting its production to avoid taxes. If it is not, then the industry shouldn’t have any complaints about the increased taxes because its profits have increased,” Muhammad Sabir added. Country head of Campaign for Tobacco-Free kids (CTFK) Malik Imran stated, “As far as the tax revenue is concerned.

China's exports tumble in May as global demand falters

BEIJING (Agencies): China's exports shrank much faster than expected in May while imports extended declines with a grim outlook for global demand, especially from developed markets, raising doubts about the fragile economic recovery. The world's second-largest economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter thanks to robust services consumption and a backlog of orders following years of COVID disruption.



tions, but factory output has slowed as rising interest rates and inflation squeeze demand in the US and Europe. Exports slumped 7.5 percent year-on-year in May, data from Chi-

na's Customs Bureau showed on Wednesday, much larger than the forecast 0.4 percent fall and the biggest decline since January. Imports contracted 4.5 percent, slower than an expected 8.0 percent decline and April's 7.9 percent fall. "The weak exports confirm that China needs to rely on domestic demand as the global economy slows," said Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management.

World Bank offers dim outlook for the global economy in face of higher interest rates

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The global economy is likely slowing sharply this year, hobbled by high interest rates, the repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic. That's the latest outlook of the World Bank, a 189-country anti-poverty agency, which estimates that the international economy will expand just 2.1 percent in 2023 after growing 3.1 percent in 2022. Speak-



ing to reporters Tuesday, Indermit Gill, the World Bank's chief economist, called the latest findings "another gloomy report." The bank, he said, expects "last year's sharp and

synchronized slowdown to continue to this year into a sharp slowdown." "By the end of next year, a third of the developing world will not meet the per-capita income level that they had at the end of 2019," he said. Still, the bank's latest Global Economic Prospects report marks an upgrade from its previous forecast in January. That estimate had envisioned worldwide growth of just 1.7 percent this year.

Russian budget deficit narrows to US\$42bil after May surplus

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russia recorded a marginal budget surplus in May, enabling it to slightly reduce its deficit for the first five months of the year to 3.41 trillion roubles (US\$41.9 billion), the finance ministry said on Tuesday, as monthly spending slowed. In January-May 2022 Russia posted a surplus of 1.59 trillion roubles, but outlays to support its military campaign in Ukraine and Western sanctions on its oil

and gas exports have since depleted government coffers. This year's deficit is already 117% of the annual plan. Soaring defence spending has kept Russia's industrial sector ticking along, driving forecasts for economic growth this year and helping Moscow to continue its military campaign in Ukraine. The finance ministry stopped publishing individual monthly budget fulfilment data last year, but based on Tuesday's figures,

Russia posted a surplus in May of 13 billion roubles. That compares with a 1-trillion-rouble deficit in April. Monthly spending in May was its lowest this year, 1.1 trillion roubles lower than in April, but to meet this year's overall 29.1-trillion-rouble expenditure target, spending will have to fall further. Meanwhile, non-oil-and-gas revenues for January-May were 9.1% higher than the same period last year.

Zhao-controlled Binance trading firms at heart of SEC lawsuit

LONDON (Agencies): Two offshore trading firms controlled by Binance founder and CEO Changpeng Zhao lie at the centre of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) lawsuit launched against the world's largest crypto exchange, which highlights concerns over client funds. Swiss-registered Sigma Chain received customer funds from Binance, the US regulator said in its complaint on Monday, and then engaged in "manipulative trading" to artificially inflate the ex-



change's trading volumes. British Virgin Islands-based Merit Peak, meanwhile, used billions of dollars in client money to buy Binance's own dollar-linked "BUSD" crypto token, according to the SEC's civil complaint and previous reporting

by Reuters. Binance to commingle corporate funds with client assets and use the monies "as they please," the SEC wrote. This put customers' assets at risk while Binance sought to "maximise" its profits, the SEC added. Binance said it would "vigorously defend" itself against the SEC charges and that all user assets were "safe and secure". The company did not respond to emailed questions about the two trading firms for this article. A Binance spokesman could not be reached by phone.

New York City sues Hyundai, Kia over vehicle thefts

NEW YORK (Agencies): New York City on Tuesday sued Hyundai Motor Co and Kia Corp, accusing the South Korean automakers of negligence and creating a public nuisance by selling vehicles that are too easy to steal. The most populous US city joined several other major cities that have sued Hyundai and Kia over the thefts, including Baltimore, Cleveland, Milwaukee, San Diego and Seattle.

Hyundai and Kia did not immediately respond to requests for comment after market hours. In a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, New York faulted the automakers for having between 2011 and 2022 failed to install anti-theft devices called immobilisers on most of their cars, making them "nearly unique" among automobile manufacturers. New York said this has "opened the floodgates to vehicle

theft, crime spree, reckless driving, and public harm." The city said the number of reported stolen Hyundais and Kias doubled last year, followed by a "virtual explosion of thefts" in the first four months of 2023 with 977 reported thefts, up from 148 in the same period in 2022. In contrast, the city said thefts of BMW, Ford, Honda, Mercedes, Nissan and Toyota vehicles have fallen this year.

Russian nuclear giant looks to replace Western medical devices

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russian state-owned nuclear energy corporation Rosatom has launched a new manufacturing branch that will produce titanium alloy implants for traumatology and orthopedics, the company's TVEL division announced on Tuesday. TVEL incorporates a metallurgical subdivision, Rusatom Metalltech, which produces titanium, zirconium and other metals for high-technology products. "We've established



a new enterprise, LLC Rusatom Implantat, which will produce import-substituting titanium implants for osteosynthesis and intraosseous osteosynthesis," the statement said. Intraosseous osteosynthesis is the

surgical management of bone fractures by the insertion of a fixing device, usually a titanium implant, into the affected area. The new company aims to produce at least 140,000 titanium implants annually and meet at least one third of the demand on the Russian market. Its products will include plates for osteosynthesis of bone fragments, intramedullary pins for the treatment of bone fractures and surgical tools for their installation, extraction and replacement.

EU's economic engine grinding to a halt

BERLIN (Agencies): Factory orders in Germany dropped in April amid persistently high prices that caused a decline in large-scale purchases, data from the country's federal statistics office Destatis showed on Tuesday. Overall new orders in manufacturing fell by 0.4% from the previous month. The drop in bookings was smaller than in March, when they plummeted 10.9% from February, the biggest fall



since April 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdowns. However, the decline was notable in comparison to last year's figures, with orders plunging 9.9%

versus last April. The data revealed significant differences in orders across industrial sectors. Bookings in machinery and equipment manufacturing fell 6.2% month-on-month in April, while miscellaneous vehicle construction, which includes ships, trains, aircraft, spacecraft, and army vehicles, showed a 34% plunge. These sectors had a particularly strong negative impact on the overall statistics, Destatis said.

Indian firm bets big on Russian factory

Indian paint and glue producer UFlex Group has signed a deal on the construction of a new production facility in Moscow Region, the region's governmental press service revealed on Tuesday. The investment agreement was signed between the governor of the Moscow Region, Andrei Vorobyov, and the managing director of UFlex Group,

Ashok Chaturvedi. UFlex, which is India's largest multinational packaging company, will invest 3 billion rubles (\$37 million) into the venture and create 150 jobs, according to the official report. The project will see the construction of a production line for paint and glue and for food packaging materials in the special economic zone of

Stupino Kvadrat south of Moscow. "We are grateful that our delegation, our investment block, was kindly received by partners in India which made it possible to find new investors," the governor's press-service said, adding that the project will bring new technologies to the processing and manufacturing industry of the region.

Shell to exit European home retail energy businesses

LONDON (Agencies): Shell said today that it had decided to exit its home retail energy businesses in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands due to their poor returns. Shell launched a strategic review of its European retail businesses in January, citing "tough market conditions", shortly after CEO Wael Sawan took office. "That review has now concluded and as a consequence, we intend to exit those businesses. A sales process is already underway, with the intent to reach



an agreement with a potential buyer in the coming months," Shell said in a statement. Reuters reported last month that three of Britain's largest power providers had expressed interest in acquiring Shell's UK retail business.

US SEC sues Coinbase a day after suing Binance

NEW YORK (Agencies): The US securities and exchange commission (SEC) today sued Coinbase, accusing the largest US cryptocurrency exchange of operating illegally without having first registered with the regulator. Today's lawsuit came one day after the SEC sued Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, and its founder Changpeng Zhao. Both cases are part of SEC chair Gary Gensler's push to assert jurisdiction over crypto and offer better protection to investors who trade virtual currencies. "Coinbase's alleged failures deprive investors of critical protections,



including rulebooks that prevent fraud and manipulation, proper disclosure, safeguards against conflicts of interest, and routine inspection," Gensler said in a tweet. Coinbase did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Shares of its parent Coinbase Global Inc, which is also a defendant, fell 17.1% in pre-market trading.

Merck sues US govt to halt Medicare drug price negotiation

NEW YORK (Agencies): Merck & Co sued the US government on Tuesday, seeking to halt the Medicare drug price negotiation program contained in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which it argues violates the Fifth and First Amendments to the US Constitution. This is the first attempt by a drugmaker to challenge the law, which the pharmaceutical industry says will result in a loss of profits that will force them to pull back on developing groundbreaking new treatments. Americans pay more for prescription medicines than any other country. The Biden administration's drug



pricing reform aims to save US\$25 billion annually by 2031 through price negotiations for drugs paid for by Medicare, the government health plan for those age 65 and over. The lawsuit, filed in US district court for the District of Columbia, argues that under the law, drugmakers would be forced to negotiate prices for drugs at below market rates.

China to further open financial sector, regulator tells Citigroup

BEIJING (Agencies): Citigroup's chief executive Jane Fraser held a meeting with the head of China's new financial regulator on Monday, the National Financial Regulatory Administration (NFRA) said, as the bank expands its presence in the market after withdrawing from retail banking globally. China will open up its financial sector further, Li Yunze, chief of China's financial regulator told Fraser, the NFRA said in a statement on Wednesday. Citigroup's chief executive Jane Fraser held a meeting with the head of China's new financial regulator on Monday, the National Financial Regulatory Administration (NFRA) said, as the



bank expands its presence in the market after withdrawing from retail banking globally. China will open up its financial sector further, Li Yunze, chief of China's financial regulator told Fraser, the NFRA said in a statement on Wednesday. Her trip follows JP Morgan's chief Jamie Dimon, who visited Shanghai last week, after a flurry of other global financial chief having trips to Beijing in March.

Boeing finds new defect in 787 Dreamliner

NEW YORK (Agencies): US airplane maker Boeing has identified a new defect in its long-haul 787 Dreamliner jet today, reported German news agency dpa. Boeing is investigating a number of aircraft that have not yet been delivered to customers and may require rework before delivery, the company said today. "We are inspecting the 787s in our inventory for a non-conforming condition related to a fitting on the horizontal stabiliser. "Airplanes found to have a non-conforming condition will be reworked prior to ticket and delivery," said Boeing in a statement. The aviation giant said the problems were not "an immediate safety of flight issue and the



in-service fleet may continue to operate", adding that the issue would likely not change its delivery target for the year. Boeing's shares fell by 2% in the meantime. The Dreamliner – one of Boeing's most important aircraft models – has repeatedly caused problems in recent years. Due to various production defects, the aircraft was not allowed to be delivered to customers from May 2021 to August 2022.

Zara owner Inditex enjoys strong start to summer

MADRID (Agencies): Zara owner Inditex said today sales of its spring-summer collection jumped by 16% over the past month, maintaining its strong run despite higher wage costs and the loss of its sizeable Russian business. The world's biggest fast-fashion company reported a better-than-expected 54% rise in net profit of €1.2 billion (US\$1.24 billion) for the first quarter that ended in April, exceeding analysts' average expectations of €980 mil-

lion in a Refinitiv poll. In-store and online sales rose 13% to €7.6 billion in the first quarter, in line with the 13.5% seen in the first six weeks of the financial year. The results show Inditex, whose market capitalisation exceeded €100 billion (US\$107 billion) for the first time last week, has managed to stay competitive while raising prices, mitigating cost pressures, including a 20% rise in average wages for shop workers in its home market of Spain.

Saudi Esports Federation and LG partner for Gamers8:
The Land of Heroes

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. Ahmed Albishri, deputy CEO at the



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 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.

Lionel Messi: ‘I’ve decided to go to Inter Miami’

BARCELONA (Agencies): Lionel Messi will sign for Major League Soccer side Inter Miami, the player said Wednesday in interviews with Spanish media, choosing the United States as his next destination over a Barcelona reunion or blockbuster deal to play in Saudi Arabia. The Argentine forward, 35, has spent the last two seasons at Paris Saint-Germain, playing his final game for the club on Saturday, after moving from Barcelona in 2021, where he spent the majority of his career. Messi said that he did not want to have to wait for Barcelona to find a formula to be able to sign him given their financial situation — they were unable to keep him before his move to PSG, leading to a tearful departure. “I was afraid that it would happen again,” Messi told Spanish newspapers Diario Sport and Mundo Deportivo. “I’ve taken the decision that I am going to Miami, I don’t have (the deal) 100 percent sealed or maybe there’s something left to do, but we decided to



continue our path there. “(I decided) to leave Europe, it’s true that I had offers from another European team but I didn’t even think about it because in Europe, my idea was only to go to Barcelona. “After winning the World Cup and not being able to go to Barca, it’s time to go to MLS to live football in a different way and enjoy my day to day life more. “Obviously with the same responsibility and desire to win, and to do things well, but with more calm.”

Messi is a seven-time Ballon d’Or winner and is expected to earn the individual accolade once more after leading Argentina to World Cup glory in Qatar in December 2022. The football world was eagerly awaiting Messi’s decision after PSG confirmed this week the playmaker, widely considered the best player in the history of football, was departing. Inter Miami, co-owned by former England international David Beckham and founded in 2018, sacked coach Phil Neville last week with the team bottom of the Eastern Conference — with Argentine Javier Morales taking over on an interim basis. The romance of a Barcelona return and prospect of eye-watering riches in Saudi Arabia fell by the wayside as Messi opted to join MLS, with sun-soaked Miami a city he has holidayed in on previous occasions. Some reports say key MLS sponsors including sportswear brand Adidas and Apple TV, who own the league’s domestic broadcasting rights, may be contributing to his deal.

Saudi woman to become 1st female referee at Mt.Everest International Yoga Championship

JEDDAH (Agencies): Mashael Akram Abdulrasheed will on Thursday make history when she becomes the first Saudi woman to referee at the Mt. Everest International Yoga Championship. The second edition of the event has been organized by the Nepal Yoga Association and the International Yoga Sports Federation. Abdulrasheed was among Saudi Arabia’s first batch of 19 female and two male yogasana referees who graduated in October at an event in Riyadh. Nouf Al-Marwaai, president of the Saudi Yoga Committee, said she was proud that Abdulmajeed would be participating alongside the Saudi team, competing for the



first time in an international championship. She noted that considerable planning had gone into helping more Saudis qualify as referees to officiate at local, regional, and international championships. “With the increasing number of yoga practitioners and pro-

fessionals in all parts of the Kingdom, there has been an urgent need to equip national cadres of male and female referees to supervise the arbitration of local championships. “To achieve this goal, the Saudi Yoga Committee hosted experts from the Asian Yoga Federation to qualify young cadres of both sexes through training courses. Intensive training for referees,” Al-Marwaai added. Abdulrasheed will be the first Saudi referee to participate in an international championship since the establishment of the yoga committee, although Nouf bint Muhammad Al-Maroui had officiated at the level prior its setup.

Kyle Walker: Manchester City one step away from ‘invincibility’

LONDON (Agencies): English football player Kyle Walker says Manchester City are a step away from invincibility and matching football’s greatest sides. Having won the Premier League and FA Cup, Pep Guardiola’s team will seal a treble if they beat Inter Milan in Saturday’s Champions League final. Only Manchester United, back in 1999 under Sir Alex Ferguson, have ever achieved that feat among English clubs. Walker says United and Arsenal — who went through the entire 2003-04 Premier League season unbeaten and were known as the Invincibles — are the standard-bearers in the modern era for the best English clubs. Now, he hopes City will confirm their status among them with success in Istanbul. “I think that United team, along with the Invincibles, is probably up there with the best Premier League teams of all time,” said Walker, who joined City from Tottenham Hotspur in 2017 for £50 million (\$62 million). “(United) have got the big Champions League trophy that we can never say we have got.” Inter Milan, he added, also “need to be considered as a great team.” While City have enjoyed domestic success — they have now won five of the last six Premier League titles — they crave European glory. But Walker, 33, added: “It doesn’t define what this squad has achieved over the last six years. It doesn’t define us if we go on and win this or not. “It helps massively to say that we can be put in that category of probably one of the best Premier League teams of all time, but we don’t win five Premier Leagues in six years if we are not a good team. “We ... know we are a good team, but to be recognized globally as one



of the best teams, you need to win the Champions League. “We are not beating around the bush with that; we know this is now a great opportunity. We have a second chance definitely with Pep and the group of players who have stayed around, and we need to put right the wrongs we did against Chelsea.” That 1-0 defeat to Chelsea came in the 2021 Champions League final in Porto, where City were below par. Walker, John Stones and Phil Foden then went on to lose the European Championship final with England against Italy at Wembley to cap a painful period for club and country. “I didn’t really have much time to get over the 2021 final as I had to tune back into England and go and compete in a tournament for my country,” he added. “It was hard seeing all the Chelsea boys there. You say congratulations to them because they are your teammates now, but it was tough. “Then I experienced a loss against Italy in the final and I had to pick myself up again and get ready for the season.” Walker says it is part and parcel of football to experience such disappointment. “I don’t think any great team goes straight to the final and

wins it,” he said. “I think you always have to go through setbacks ... Hopefully big things are around the corner.” Walker has endured a frustrating season with injuries forcing him on the sidelines and then Guardiola preferring Stones, Manuel Akanji and teenager Rico Lewis in the right-sided position, where players have moved into midfield during games. The City boss felt Walker was not capable of playing that role, saying he did not have the “educated movements” of Stones. While the criticism hurt, the defender said he did not let it affect him, and he has responded with impressive displays to be a starter again. “No, it’s his opinion,” said Walker. “He’s my manager and I have to listen to him. If his opinion is right or wrong — it’s not my decision. “He’s the boss of this club and makes the decision of who goes onto the field, and I have to accept that, right or wrong, get my head down, do my extra work in the gym, make sure I am putting in performances on the training field so when I am called upon, he’s not saying, ‘That’s why I was dropping you, because you are not playing well.’ “When I have got the chance, I have tried to do what I do, play good football and defend well, and hopefully that will give him the confidence to carry on picking me in the big games. “I wasn’t playing at the start of the season, but things change in football.” Walker’s upbringing has helped him cope with setbacks. He grew up on a Sheffield estate where he witnessed a fatal arson attack and the dead body of a person who had committed suicide next to his front door.

6time AllStar 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 the world.

Moeen Ali considering Test return ahead of Ashes

LONDON: England all-rounder Moeen Ali is considering a comeback to Test cricket ahead of the Ashes against Australia after spinner Jack Leach was ruled out with a lower back stress fracture, British media reported. The 35-year-old, who announced his retirement from the longest format of the game in September 2021, is said to have been contacted by England skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum over a potential return to Test cricket. British media said Moeen, who was part of Chennai Super Kings’

squad that went on to win the 2021 and 2023 Indian Premier League, has been given some time to make a decision. Moeen made his Test debut in 2014 and scored 2,914 runs in 64 Tests at an average of 28.29, picking up 195 wickets with his off-spin. England are seeking a replacement for Leach, whose injury was the latest setback to their bowling department in the build-up to the series, with fast bowler Jofra Archer also ruled out due to an elbow injury. The Ashes gets underway at Edgbaston on June 16.

PCB awaits ACC meeting amid reports of
Asia Cup pullout

KARACHI (Agencies): The Pakistan Cricket Board is still waiting for the Asian Cricket Council to call-up its executive committee meeting to decide the fate of the Asia Cup with the tournament now just two months away. Reports in the Indian media, however, suggest a decision has already been made outside the offices. After the PCB had proposed the “hybrid model” — which would see Pakistan, the rightful hosts of the Asia Cup, hold the tournament’s first-round matches, excluding those involving India at home before the competition moves to a neutral venue where the latter would feature — there has been no development on the matter at the official level. But a report published by the Press Trust of India news agency on Tuesday claimed the PCB was left with no option but to either play the Asia Cup in its entirety at a venue other than Pakistan or to withdraw from the tournament — which the board had already established as its reaction in case the “hybrid model” is turned down. The PTI report said that key ACC members Sri

Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, have “all backed the BCCI’s (Board of Control for Cricket in India) push for moving the tournament out of Pakistan”. The “push” in question is the one that BCCI secretary and ACC president Jay Shah’s had reportedly made on the sidelines of the Indian Premier League final on May 27 in the presence of Afghanistan Cricket Board and Sri Lanka Cricket representatives. According to reports, the SLC is ready to host the Asia Cup if it is officially moved out of Pakistan and its bid is being backed by other members including the BCCI. The PCB, Dawn understands, however is in possession of the agreements by ACC members other than India of “having no problems” with the hybrid-model or playing in Pakistan. The said members have also not made any official communication to the PCB about their reported change of mind. It has also been reported that the PCB has turned down Sri Lanka’s offer for a three-match One-day International series around Pakistan’s two-Test tour to the country in July.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JUNE 8, 2023



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES:** You like to make big decisions and fly by the seat of your pants, but today is a good time to plan things to the last detail. You should be able to come up with something approaching genius!
– **TAURUS:** You’re feeling somewhat irritable or grumpy today, and it doesn’t take much to set you off. There is an upside, though. You should have plenty of time to take care of personal business.
– **GEMINI:** Your brainpower is fully activated right now and both halves are working in perfect sync. You may want to stretch out a bit and see if you can get moving on that issue that’s been so much trouble.
– **CANCER:** You need to be careful about expressing your opinions today, not that you need to stay silent! It’s just easier than usual to offend people or forget to leave room for alternatives to your ideas.
– **LEO:** Your pride is justified and a part of who you are, but sometimes it gets you in trouble. Right now, someone who needs to know what’s really hap-

pening is having a hard time seeing past you.
– **VIRGO:** Your schedule is more flexible than you realize, which is a good thing, because it needs to be shaken up today! You might do it yourself preemptively or find it done on your behalf.
– **LIBRA:** Your brainpower is stronger than ever right now, and all that energy should be put to good use. You may discover that someone you know well has more in common with you than you imagined.
– **SCORPIO:** You like the balance you find at home, but today throws it off and leaves you temporarily scrambling. It’s a good time to reconfigure things so they’re more stable than they have been lately.
– **SAGITTARIUS:** Almost anything is possible today to those with an open mind. You might not realize that certain options are open to you if they don’t line up with your preconceptions, so rid yourself of them!
– **CAPRICORN:** Almost anything is possible today to those with an open mind. You might not realize that certain options are open to you if they don’t line up with your preconceptions, so rid yourself of them!
– **ACQUARIUS:** You usually love big changes and today brings the chance to make something big and wonderful happen. It takes a fair number of people to pull off, but you can do it with ease!
– **PISCES:** You feel an urge to volunteer for the community or get involved politically. anything that helps lots of people. Your time and energy can be put to good use, so find the right group and join!

Sprinter Jim Hines, once the world's fastest man, dies at 76

Two-time Olympic gold medalist Jim Hines, who was the first man to run 100m in under 10 seconds, passed away on Saturday at the age of 76, according to World Athletics. Hines recorded a hand-timed 9.9 second 100m dash at the US Championships in Sacramento in June 1968 according to USA Track and Field (USATF), before running the first electronically timed 100m under 10 seconds at the Olympic Games in Mexico City. Hines' world record earned him his first individual Olympic gold medal. That time (9.95 seconds) lasted as



the world record in the event for 15 years, until Calvin Smith broke it in 1983 – the longest the 100m record has stood during the fully automated era, according to World Athletics, the global governing body for track and field. Hines also won the 4x100m in a world record time at the same Olym-

pics, anchoring the US team to victory in a time of 38.24 seconds. The sprinter grew up in Oakland, California, though he was born in Arkansas, according to USATF. He was inducted into the USATF Hall of Fame in 1979. He attended Texas Southern University, where he competed in track, and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1986. After his track career, Hines went on to compete in the National Football League (NFL) for two years, playing for the Miami Dolphins in 1969 and the Kansas City Chiefs the following year.

Odisha train accident: Nearly 100 bodies unidentified after India train crash

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Five days after a deadly three-train crash killed 275 people in India, close to a 100 bodies remain unclaimed. The crash on Friday evening in the state of Odisha involved two passenger trains and a stationary goods train. More than 1,000 injured were taken to hospitals for treatment. Many families say they are still looking for loved ones. The deadly collision is India's worst rail accident this century. The crash

saw a passenger train derail after wrongly entering into a loop track by the side of the main line and colliding with a stationary goods train that was parked there. Its derailed carriages then struck the rear coaches of a second passenger train going in the opposite direction. More than 3,000 passengers are thought to have been travelling on the two trains, with reports saying both were packed. Desperate family members of passengers

from Odisha and other states have been crowding hospitals, seeking information about their loved ones. But in some cases, identifying the body is proving to be a real challenge. At the Balasore District Hospital in Odisha, Muhammad Nizamuddin couldn't claim his grandsons' bodies. Tafsir Ansari, 16 and his brother, Tausif, 13, were traveling by the Coromandel Express with their father when it met with an accident.

CNN fires CEO for being soft on Trump



NEW YORK (Agencies): CNN has parted ways with CEO Chris Licht a year after he promised to revive the floundering news network as a force for serious journalism, David Zaslav, the CEO of the network's parent company Warner Brothers Discovery, told employees on Wednesday. Licht will be replaced on an interim basis by a group of senior CNN execs led by Amy Entelis, the one-time deputy of his polarizing predecessor, Jeff Zucker. Before his ouster last year, Zucker oversaw the transformation of CNN from a relatively neutral news network to a virulently anti-Trump opinion platform – a transformation Licht was supposedly tasked with reversing. Industry insiders trace Licht's downfall to the Trump town hall held last month. The event was widely panned as catastrophic for supposedly ceding control to the real estate mogul and his adoring fans. Licht had apparently been expecting an "extra Trumpy" crowd for the event, but insisted that rather than marginalizing and demonizing the former US president, as the network had done while he was in the Oval Office, the town hall moderator should seek to "confront him with facts." Licht had been promoted to the top role with a mandate to walk CNN back from the anti-Trump precipice it had reached under his predecessor, Jeff Zucker, and – according to the Atlantic – viewed his purpose as nothing less than to "save journalism."

Japan OKs bills to digitalize divorce and bankruptcy procedures

TOKYO (Agencies): Japan's parliament on Tuesday enacted a set of bills to digitalize civil procedures that do not involve lawsuits, such as divorce mediation and bankruptcy applications. The House of Representatives passed the bills by a majority vote at the day's plenary meeting, with support mainly from the ruling bloc. The bills were approved by the the Upper House earlier. The legislation will allow people to submit necessary applications online, instead of the current system of such documents being brought or mailed to courts. Online submission is mandatory for lawyers and other proxies. Online submission is also allowed for documents related to partition of property and civil execution such as seizures and auctions of debtors' assets by courts as part of bankruptcy procedures. Documents submitted in paper form will be digitized and kept by courts. Such data can be viewed online at home or other locations.

EU running out of money – Handelsblatt

- The bloc has no capacity to finance important new initiatives without cutting on essential projects, the outlet reports
Higher interest rates have added pressure to the EU's long-term budget, already squeezed by multiple crises, including the conflict in Ukraine, migration, and energy supply shortages, Handelsblatt newspaper reported on Monday. In the aftermath of the pandemic, those issues are overwhelming the EU's financial resources, the German outlet wrote. Budget reserves are "practically exhausted," the article says, while challenges are growing and Brussels' ability to act is dwindling. The report comes ahead of an EU review of its 2024 budget as well as the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2021-2027. According to the paper, the EU member

states' willingness to cover the costs of the single budget is low, particularly in Germany, the most important net contributor to the union. All of this could undermine the EU's capacity to finance its priorities or react to unforeseen events, and puts flagship programs at risk, the outlet warns. The report pointed out that the bloc has a lot of mandatory spending, which leaves it with less than €30 billion (\$32 billion) a year to support Ukraine, accelerate the energy transformation, strengthen the chip industry, boost domestic clean-tech production, open up new sources of raw materials and counter China's Silk Road initiative. Confined to rigid mandatory spending, "the EU cannot rise to become a geopolitical power," Handelsblatt concluded, noting that with the current budgetary structure the economic bloc is not up to its challenges.

Pentagon hiding alien spaceships - whistleblower

- US Air Force veteran David Grusch insists they exist, though he has never seen the ETs or their craft himself
The Pentagon is concealing "quite a number" of crashed alien spaceships and even dead extraterrestrial entities, former US Air Force intelligence officer and whistleblower David Grusch told NewsNation on Monday. The crash retrieval program - so secret even the Pentagon's Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) task force has been refused access - has for decades been involved in "retrieving non-human-origin technical vehicles," Grusch explained. He added that some are distinguishable from human-made craft by their morphology and the types of materials, with "unique atomic arrangements and radiological signatures." "Naturally when you recover something that's either landed or crashed,



sometimes you encounter dead pilots," he told the news outlet. While Grusch served as the liaison to the UAP Task Force for the National Reconnaissance Office from 2019 to 2021 and subsequently ran UAP analysis for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, he admitted to NewsNation that he had never actually seen any of the spacecraft or their otherworldly operators. Instead, he claimed, "plenty of current and former senior intelligence officers that came to me, many which I knew almost my whole career," had "confided in me" regarding their involvement in the program.

Many highly trained Eurofighter pilots train J-20 pilots in Asia

A group of well-trained Eurofighter Typhoon pilots are currently in China. They are German citizens, former Luftwaffe [German Air Force] pilots, privy to NATO secrets, as ZDF writes. According to an investigation in the German media, two of these pilots are Eurofighter instructors Peter S. and Alexander H., and Tornado pilot Dirk J. The three names quoted above are in contact and business relationship with the Chinese spy Su Bin. In 2016, he was convicted of espionage in the United States, and a little later he was extradited back to China. The three German pilots have an agreement with the Chinese company Lode Technology Ltd. as "Aviation Consultant Contractors". Su Bin is the main shareholder in Lode. An investigation of the documentary traces left by one of the three Germans, Alexander H, may indicate the exact whereabouts of the three pilots [or at least he] in China. Alexander H has moved from Rostock to Quqihar. This city is located in Northeast China and is a large Chinese city by local standards. BulgarianMilitary.



com recalls that in this area, in the immediate vicinity of Quqihar, there is an air base of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. This base houses a fighter squadron of J-20s, the fifth-generation stealth fighter of China's combat aviation. The base has Shenyang J-11 fighter jets also known as Flanker-L. This is not the first record of non-Chinese pilots being hired by Chinese companies to "consult" [train] Chinese pilots, revealing secrets of Western air tactics. Last year, as well as this year, there were reports of British pilots being hired, also ex-Eurofighter pilots. Reports of Australian pilots being recruited by China arrived last year in late October. According to Reuters, at least 30 British and Australian pilots are in China. The

Students From Chinese Military-Linked Universities Studied in Japan, Raising Weapons-Tech Worries

TOKYO (Agencies): A total of 39 students from six of China's so-called Seven Sons of National Defense — seven universities that are believed to have close ties to the Chinese military's weapons development programs — were studying at Japanese universities as of fiscal 2020, it has been learned. The government revealed this fact in a written answer approved by the Cabinet on Friday in response to questions from a Diet member. Although measures were strengthened in May last year to prevent the outflow of sensitive technology that can be converted for military use overseas, it has remained difficult to regulate foreign students. According to the written response, a survey by the Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry found that 10 universities — Tokushima University, Tohoku

University, Chiba University, Kochi University, Niigata University, Nagoya University, University of Aizu, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics and Fukuoka Institute of Technology — were accepting students from six of the seven Chinese universities as of fiscal 2020. The Chinese government is promoting "military-civil fusion," in which cutting-edge civilian technology is used for the strengthening of military power. The seven universities are considered to be the core of this effort. Of these, universities such as Beihang University and Beijing Institute of Technology are on the End User List, a list of foreign organizations that the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry considers entities of concern due to their suspected involvement in the development of weapons of mass destruction.

New York City installs free crack pipe dispensers – media

NEW YORK (Agencies): New York City's first "public health" vending machine, stocked with free drug paraphernalia and unveiled on a corner of Brooklyn's drug-infested Brownsville neighborhood on Monday, had already been cleaned out of almost all its contents 24 hours later, the New York Post reported on Tuesday. Well-stocked with "safer smoking" kits containing free crack pipes, "safer sniffing" equipment, fentanyl testing strips, overdose-reversing Narcan nasal sprays, nicotine gum and condoms on Monday morning, the big blue box contained just one overdose-reversal kit and a pair of testing strips the next day. The city plans to install three more of the street-corner smoke shops, each costing \$11,000, in neighborhoods suffering the most from the opioid overdose crisis. The contents will remain free to anyone who enters their zip code on the keypad, and nonprofit Services for the Underserved will maintain them. "We are in the midst of an overdose crisis in our city, which is taking a fellow New Yorker from us every three hours and is a major cause of falling life expectancy in NYC," New York Health Commissioner Ashwin Vasan said in a statement announcing the vending machine rollout. "We will continue to fight to keep our neighbors and loved ones alive with care, compassion and action," he declared, emphasizing the dispensing of "life-saving tools like [overdose reverser] Naloxone" over the distribution of "safer use" kits. There are reportedly plans to stock syringes in the machines as well. Perry Perlmutter, CEO of Services for the Underserved, described the initiative as "a game-changer for this part of East Brooklyn," noting that the machines' contents would "prevent overdoses, infections, and other health risks associated with substance use" in addition to "essential items that can improve the quality of life of all New Yorkers, regardless of their income, insurance or housing status."

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