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## Pakistan pays for Russian oil in yuan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan has paid for its first shipment of crude oil from Russia in Chinese yuan, Reuters reported on Monday, citing Pakistani Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik. The cargo was delivered to Karachi port thanks to a deal struck by Russia and Pakistan in January. The first order under the deal was placed in April. Malik did not disclose any other details on the price or discounts applied to the purchase. According to the outlet, the transaction in yuan represents a significant shift in Pakistan's US dollar-dominated export payments policy. Russia signed the oil deal with Pakistan as part of a drive to diversify its export avenues after it was slapped with a collective ban by the EU, the G7, and their allies in December, along with a price cap of \$60 per barrel. Moscow redirected its



oil flows to countries such as India and China and negotiated payment settlements in currencies other than the US dollar due to sanctions, which effectively cut Moscow off from the Western financial system. According to previous reports, Pakistan had agreed to a per-barrel price of around \$50-52 for Russian crude. Last year, the country imported 154,000 barrels

of oil per day, with roughly 80% of its supplies coming from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other Gulf nations. Energy imports account for most of the Pakistan's external payments. The hope is that discounted Russian crude will help stabilize oil prices in the country, which is facing high external debt, a weak local currency, and critically low foreign exchange reserves.

## Ishaq Dar for further enhancing economic ties with China



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday stressed the need to further deepen bilateral relations with China with special focus on economy, trade and financial sectors. He made the remarks while talking to Pang Chunxue, the charge'd affairs at the Chinese embassy, who called on the finance minister here in Islamabad today. According to a statement issued by the finance ministry, Dar appreciated the deep-rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, and much-admired Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts. The finance minister further updated the Charge'd Affairs about the progress on talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on

the completion of the 9th review. He apprised her of the positive response of the various sectors of the economy on the Budget 2023-24, presented by the incumbent government despite difficult economic circumstances. Dar expressed gratitude to Chunxue for the support and cooperation Pakistan has been receiving from the leadership in Beijing. Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments and acknowledged the friendly relations between the two countries. She also assured of continuous support from the Chinese government to the people of Pakistan. The two sides discussed various avenues, available to both countries in order to enhance the existing cooperation to unprecedented levels, read the statement.

## Ten dead in Australia wedding bus crash



SYDNEY (AFP/APP): Ten people have died in a wedding party bus crash in Australia's Hunter wine region in New South Wales, police said Monday, announcing the arrest of the 58-year-old driver. The light-coloured coach lay on its side after the accident, with a dozen emergency workers wearing high visibility yellow vests nearby in the foggy night, television images showed. The toll may yet rise, with 25 passengers taken to the hospital — two of them airlifted from the crash by helicopter, said Acting Assistant Commissioner Tracy Chapman. Police were not aware of any children being involved, she said. The coach driver was subjected to mandatory testing at the hospital, the police officer told reporters at the scene. "He's under arrest. He's been the driver of a motor vehicle collision where there have been fatal injuries and there will be charges pending," she said. The passengers had been at a wedding together, the officer said and were presumed to have been heading to their accommodation after the festivities.

## Unabomber died by suicide – AP

Ted Kaczynski, known to the FBI as the 'Unabomber', died by suicide, the Associated Press reported on Sunday. Kaczynski, who was 81 and suffering from late-stage cancer, was found dead in his North Carolina prison cell a day earlier. Four sources described by the Associated Press as people "familiar with the matter," told the agency that Kaczynski had ended his own life. The sources did not reveal how the 81-year-old cancer patient actually did this and also said they weren't authorized to publicly discuss his death. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Kaczynski was found unresponsive in his cell early on Saturday and was rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He had been held in the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, since 1998 but was moved to a medical center in North Carolina in 2021 to receive treatment for cancer. An autopsy has not yet been carried out on Kaczynski's body.

## Iran says indirect talks with US continue via Oman

TEHRAN: Iran on Monday said it has continued indirect negotiations with the United States through the Sultanate of Oman over its nuclear deal and a possible prisoner swap. Iran's nuclear program has long been the subject of scrutiny from Western powers, resulting in sanctions that have crippled the country's economy. A 2015 deal granted Tehran much-needed sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program before it was torpedoed by the United States' unilateral pullout in 2018. In recent days, the two capitals have denied media reports that they were close to reaching an interim deal to replace the 2015 accord. "We welcome the efforts of Omani officials and we exchanged messages with the other party through this mediator" over the lifting of US sanctions, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said Monday. "We have never stopped the diplomatic processes," he added during his weekly press conference, emphasising that the talks "were not secret." Diplomatic ties between Tehran and Washington soured



in 1980 following the 1979 Islamic revolution led by Iran's first supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Efforts to revive the 2015 nuclear deal have so far failed to yield results. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday reiterated the denial of moves toward acquiring a nuclear weapon. He also said deals could be reached, provided they do not change "the existing infrastructure of the nuclear industry." Iran and its arch-enemy the United States have also been involved in Oman-mediated talks over a possible prisoner swap. Kanani on Monday said a prisoner exchange could be agreed "in the near future," provided that Washington exhibits "the same level of seriousness" as Tehran.

## Former Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi dies at 86



ROME (Agencies): Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian PM who bounced back from sex scandals and corruption allegations, has died aged 86. He died at the San Raffaele hospital in Milan, according to Ital-

ian media. In April he was treated for a lung infection linked to a previously undisclosed case of chronic leukaemia. A flamboyant billionaire media tycoon, Berlusconi first came to office in 1994 and led four governments until 2011. He led the centre-right Forza Italia party which went into coalition under Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni after elections in September, when he was elected to Italy's upper house, the Senate.

## PLA deploys new Y-9 reconnaissance plane as US and Japanese Carriers hold drills east of Taiwan Island

BELJING (Agencies): Chinese military sources have confirmed that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has deployed a state-of-the-art reconnaissance aircraft to monitor and collect information on an ongoing naval exercise conducted jointly by the United States, Japan, France, and Canada in the Pacific waters east of Taiwan. The exercise involved the participation of two US Navy carrier strike groups, led by the USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan, along with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's helicopter carrier JS Izumo, and surface units from Canada and France. The South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, a Beijing-based think tank, closely monitored the joint drill and reported that the US carriers had been operating in the waters around the Ryukyu Islands in the Philippine Sea since Thursday. The strategic significance of this sea re-

gion, located to the east of Taiwan, lies in its potential for the PLA to encircle the island and deter foreign military interference. Experts warn that control over this region by external forces could provide support to pro-Taiwan independence secessionist groups. Simultaneously, Japan's Ministry of Defense Joint Staff announced the sighting of a PLA Y-9 reconnaissance plane over the West Pacific, marking the first confirmation of this specific aircraft type. The defense authority in Taiwan reported 37 PLA aircraft and five vessels in the vicinity of the island, including fighter jets, bombers, aerial tankers, communications countermeasures aircraft, and a reconnaissance drone. Analysts speculate that the PLA reconnaissance aircraft likely gathered intelligence on the joint exercise, while PLA bombers potentially conducted mock target training.

## Egypt refuses to hold funeral for officer who killed Israel soldiers

CAIRO (Agencies): Egyptian security services refused to hold a funeral for policeman, Mohamed Salah Ibrahim, who carried out the Egyptian-Israeli border operation resulting in the death of three Israeli soldiers and the wounding of a fourth, in an exchange of gunfire. Mada Masr quoted two sources close to the soldier's family saying, "the agreement between the family and the security authorities was that a funeral would be held after the burial took place secretly and quickly," and that the family would postpone the funeral until Tuesday "so the number of attendees would be reduced." But the security authorities have since informed the family of their refusal to hold a funeral. The site stated that hundreds of Egyptians went to Salah's house in the Ain Shams area in the capital, Cairo, yesterday to attend the funeral "but Ain Shams investigation forces dispersed them." Sources noted that there were between 200 and 300 people in the area surrounding the house. Sources in the family



said that a limited number of Salah's family had buried his body on Monday, in his hometown in the village of Al-Ammar in Qalyubia, noting that his mother was not able to attend as the burial had taken place quickly, according to Mada Masr. Immediately after Saturday's events, the security forces detained Salah's brother and uncle from the family home in Ain Shams, for interrogation before releasing them. Mada Masr had quoted a diplomatic source in the United Nations as saying that Egypt had agreed to allow an Israeli team of investigators to work within its borders, since Sunday evening, within the framework of the joint investigation that the two countries agreed to conduct as part of their mutual security commitments.

## Vehicle fire causes major US highway collapse

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): A fire caused an overpass on one of America's busiest highways to collapse early on Sunday in Philadelphia, authorities said, as reports attributed the cause to a truck that burst into flames under the bridge. The collapse took out four traffic lanes along an elevated section of heavily traveled Interstate 95, though no injuries were immediately reported. "Companies arrived on location and they found... heavy fire from a vehicle — we don't know what type of vehicle it was," Captain Derrick Bowmer, of the Philadelphia Fire Department, told a news conference. Bowmer added the situation was considered a hazmat incident, but could not confirm reports that the burning vehicle was an oil tanker. Federal and local law enforcement are looking for the driver, whose whereabouts are unknown, local media reported. The north-south highway — one of the busiest in the United States, connecting major cities along the East Coast from Maine to Florida — remains closed in both directions in the Philadelphia area, officials said. Rebuilding the section of destroyed highway could take weeks, authorities said, a nightmare scenario for commuters as



well as for road travelers at the start of the summer holiday season. "Avoid area. Plan and seek alternative travel routes," the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management said in a tweet. US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg said on Twitter he is offering "any assistance that USDOT can provide to help with recovery and reconstruction." Television images showed flames and billowing smoke coming from the crumbled section of I-95 in the northeastern city's Tacony neighborhood, with parts of the elevated roadway having fallen onto the lanes below. City authorities issued a series of alerts on Twitter about a tanker truck fire on the highway, which local media reported caught fire underneath the bridge, apparently causing the collapse. A city spokeswoman told AFP that a "large fire under I-95" caused the highway to collapse, but did not attribute it to any vehicle. She said the fire has been declared "under control."

**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.



## Shandur Polo Festival to be held in Shandur Valley from July 7 to 9: DG KPCTA

PESHAWAR (APP): Director General of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), Bakhtiar Khan on Sunday said that a large number of domestic and foreign tourists are expected to attend the Shandur Polo Festival, which will be held in Shandur Valley from July 7 to 9 2023. During a meeting held to discuss arrange-

ments for the festival, DG KPCTA expressed his excitement in welcoming foreign tourists to witness the event, where teams from lower and upper Chitral will participate. He further said that the concluding ceremony of the three-day festival will take place on July 9. Various events, including a traditional show of Gilgit-Baltistan music, will be or-

ganized for the tourists attending the festival. The DG said that preparations for the event have already begun, with the KPCTA, district administration, and Chitral Scouts actively involved. Additionally, he mentioned that camping pods have been installed in Upper Chitral to accommodate tourists, and they will be open before the start of the event.

## AC Dara visits FATA University

PESHAWAR (APP): Assistant Commissioner Dara Adam Khail Aamir Nawaz visited FATA University Dara Adam Khel on Sunday and inspected the ongoing construction work there. During his visit, the assistant commissioner inspected the construction work and checked the use of quality materials. He also di-

rected the contractors to avoid use of sub-standard materials by maintaining the standard of work, otherwise, stern action would be taken. He said, on the instructions given by Deputy Commissioner Kohat Azmatullah Wazir, he would visit from time to time to check the ongoing construction work. During his visit

AC Dara Adam Khail Aamir Nawaz also paid a visit to various petrol pumps and checked the rate and quantity of petrol and diesel on the occasion. He inspected the fruits, vegetable, bakery and other shops in Dara Bazar and the shopkeepers who violated the official price list were fined on the spot.

## IGP KP inaugurates newly constructed modern CTD Regional HQ Dera

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur Sunday inaugurated the newly constructed modern Regional Headquarters CTD Dera Ismail Khan building. During the inauguration ceremony Additional IGC TD Shaukat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi,

District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, SPCTD Region-I Fazal Wahid, SPCTD-II Izhar Shah and CTD officers and district police officials were also present. Regional Police Officer Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi gave a detailed briefing to Inspector General of Police KP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur about the CTD building. During this, IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur reviewed the internal and external security of the police station CTD and while visiting different parts of the Police Station building, the CCTV cameras there. IGP KP also inspected the electron-

ic monitoring system. The IGP visited the Regional Headquarters CTD offices, Hawalat, Investigation Cell and various counters and reviewed the performance of each department in detail. On this occasion, he said that modern equipment, weapons, ammunition and vehicles have been provided to the CTD police, the purpose of establishing the CTD is to completely eradicate terrorism from this province. He said that the close and friendly relationship between the police and the public can eliminate crime, so there is a need to increase bilateral cooperation in the current situation.

## Crimes rates increases by 136pc in Peshawar, 232 people killed this year

PESHAWAR (APP): The crime rates increased by 136 percent in Peshawar, a report prepared by City Police revealed here Sunday. Increasing crimes and incidents of terrorism are challenges, CCPO Syed Safaran Anwar told the media men. He said that improvements would be made through technology and better investigation. The report further revealed that 232 people were killed in Peshawar this year with an increase of 136 percent while 170 people were killed in the first five months of last year. There is also an increase in

the incidents of murder as 360 incidents were reported and in the first 5 months of last year, 310 cases of attempted murder were reported. A total of 216 people were injured in the city this year. Similarly last year, 224 people were injured in different crime incidents. However, 102 percent increase in the incidents of robbery in Peshawar city was reported as in the first five months of last year, 39 cases of rape were reported, while this year, 79 cases were reported and 29 rape cases were reported in the first five months of this year.

## KP Govt to present Rs 600bln budget for four-month of FY 2023-24: Finance Advisor

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister for Finance Himayatullah on Monday said that the caretaker government had prepared the budget for the financial year 2023-24, however, it would present an approximately Rs 600 billion budget for the next four-month. “If the new government does not come within time then there will not be any issue of budget for the rest of the year as the government has already prepared the budget for the whole fiscal year,” he said, adding that the size of the four-month budget was expected to be Rs 550 to 600 billion, according to a statement. The Advisor said

that there was a consideration of 15 to 20 percent increase in salaries and pensions while no new tax would be levied in the budget and no new development plan would be included. Himayatullah said that the province is likely to get 876 billion rupees from the centre during the next financial year while the province would generate 85 billion rupees from its own resources. He said that 30 percent of the budget has been allocated for education, 20 for health, 20 for pension and debt repayment and 10 for peace and security while the remaining 20 percent of the budget have been allocated for all other departments.

## 2000 substandard carbonated drinks seized

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa food Safety and Halal Food Authority on Monday conducted a raid on a factory of carbonated drinks and seized 2,000 litres of sub-standard and misbranded drinks. The spokesman of the Food Authori-

ty said that an Inspection team of the authority visited Phandu Road here and checked various factories working in the area, adding that during the surprise visit the team found sub-standard and misbranded carbonated drinks in a factory.

## Hot, dry weather with chances of isolated dust storm, rain in most KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Monday predicted hot and dry weather in most districts of the province however, partly cloudy weather is likely during the evening and night hours. It said that Isolated wind-dust storm and thunderstorm with rain is likely to occur over Abbottabad, Mansehra, Haripur, Battagram Torghar, Kohistan, Shangla, Chitral, Lower & Upper Dir, Swat, Bunner, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Mardan, Swabi, Charsadda, Nowshera, Peshawar, Khyber, Kohat, Hangu, Karak, Orakzai and Kurram districts in the afternoon hour. During the last 24 hours, the weather remained hot

and partly cloudy over most districts of the province. However, thunderstorms and rain occurred at isolated places over the Malakand division. Rain recorded (in mm): Timergara 13, Mirkhani 04, Chitral & Drosh 03(each), and Upper Dir 01. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 37/25, Chitral 36/16, Timergara 37/22, Dir 33/18, Mirkhani 38/17, Kalam 27/09, Drosh 36/18, Saidu Sharif 35/18, Pattan 37/26, Malam Jabba 23/15, Takht Bhai 36/24, Kakul 30/17, Balakot 35/22, Parachinar 28/14, Bannu 36/23, Cherat 31/18, D.I. Khan 38/24.

## Food deptt recovers 1300 dead chicken; arrests five accused

PESHAWAR (APP): The food Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a major crackdown against the suppliers and sellers of dead chicken in the market on Monday conducted a raid in poultry market here in Chargano Chowk and recovered 1300 dead chicken. During the operation the Food department along with a police team arrested five accused from the spot who were members of a network involved in the supply and selling of dead chicken to various vendors in

the market. On the identification of the accused, the Food department recovered 1300 dead chickens from various warehouses and shops and discarded on the spot. All the arrested accused were handed over to Faqiraabad police and sent to jail on a 14-day remand. Secretary Food Abid Wazir appreciated the successful operation of the Food department and said that those who were playing with the lives of masses deserve no mercy.

## KP Education Dept. announces summer vacations from Jun 12

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa education Department Sunday decided to change the summer holidays from June 12 instead of June 15 earlier being announced, a notification issued here Sunday on Sunday. According to the Education Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the date of the Summer Vacation to middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools has been changed due to abrupt and unusual changes in the weather condition of the province. Therefore, the summer vacation will be from June 12 instead of June 15 till August 31, 2023, said the notification. In the plains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in-

cluding Peshawar, changes were made keeping in mind the weather conditions. The government had earlier announced the summer vacation from June 15. Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan has approved summer vacations in the plains areas, Rahmat Salam Khattak said when contacted. Due to the heat wave, most of the schools are facing problems due to lack of electricity and solar power, Education Advisor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa replied to a question. In Peshawar, there have been complaints of children fainting in government and private schools, Rahmat Salam Khattak said.

## Govt to reach every citizen affected by recent rain-storm, says Info Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial government will reach every citizen affected by the recent storm and rains, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said, in a statement, issued here on Sunday. Financial assistance is being given to the families of the deceased and the survey of damages caused by wind and rains has started, Caretaker Minister for Information and Auqaf added. Barrister Feroze Jamal said that the caretaker provincial government has taken immediate and pragmatic steps to help the citizens in the affected districts. On the direction of caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan,

rescue and relief activities have been started immediately and funds have already been released. The provincial government will reach out to every citizen affected by the recent wind and rain. The caretaker provincial minister said that the provincial government has immediately released Rs. 40 million for the affected districts so that the rescue and relief activities would continue there as quickly as possible. Similarly, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and Caretaker Provincial Ministers along with Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Durrani also visited the affected areas and reviewed the relief activities and also visited the injured in the hospitals.

## District Administration Mardan takes action against Nan-Bais

MARDAN (APP): The district administration took action against the Nan-Bais who exceeded the official price list and imposed heavy fines on the sellers of underweight bread. According to the details, on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Mardan Captain (retd) Abdul Rehman, Additional Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Junaid Khalid

checked the weight and rate of roti at the Nanbais shops during the operation on Mardan Nowshera Road and heavy fines imposed on those selling low weight roti in violation. Meanwhile, citizens have welcomed the administration's action against those selling low-weight roti at high prices and demanded its continuation.

## PIDE’s 2nd regional conference to begin in UoM from June 13

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the University of Malakand (UoM), is going to organise its 2nd two-day conference at the University of Malakand (MoU) on June 13 and 14. The conference centered around the theme “Unleashing the Economic Potential of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,” will take place on June 13-14, 2023, at the prestigious University of Malakand, said in a press release issued here on Sunday. This remarkable two-day event will bring together over 400 participants from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including renowned

national experts, policymakers, development practitioners, entrepreneurs, students and scholars. The Conference aims to provide a platform for vibrant discussions and insightful debates on key economic and social issues, contributing to the development and progress of the region. Under the overarching theme, the Conference will feature ten sub-themes, covering critical dimensions that shape the economic landscape of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Topics such as sustainable development, entrepreneurship, innovation, infrastructure, human capital, and regional connectivity will be explored in-depth by esteemed speakers and panellists.

## Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce terms federal budget 2023-24 as balanced

PESHAWAR (APP): Director, Pakistan and Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi here Sunday termed federal budget 2023-24 as balanced. He welcomed an increase in the salaries and pensions of the government employees besides the minimum wage of labourer to Rs32,000 in Federal Budget 2023-24. Talking to APP, he said that 35 percent increase in the salaries of government employees of BS 1-16 and 30 per cent in BS 17 and above besides 17.5pc in the pension would

help minimize the difficulties of the price-hike sticken employees. Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, who is also President of Frontier Customs Agents Association said that exemption of erstwhile Fata and Pata from taxes for one year was a positive decision. However, he said that its benefits should reach only to the local communities. He expressed the hope that the government would reconsider its proposal regarding imposition of taxes on Rs50,000 cheque to help encourage deposit of money in the banks.





- Courtesy: Oil Price

- Courtesy: APP

- Courtesy: Gulf News

– Tariq Ali,  
Lahore



## Khurram Dastgir lays foundation stone of new 132-KV grid station

GUJRANWALA (APP): Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan laid a foundation stone of the new 132-KV Grid Station namely Ghulam Dastgir Khan Grid Station here on Sunday. The grid station costing Rs 1.06 billion would be completed in a record period of three and a half months. Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO)

board of Directors' Chairman Muhammad Shuaib Butt, Chief Executive Officer Engineer Muhammad Ayub, Project Director Faisal Nafees Yusuf were also present. General Managers Mazhar Naveed, Rana Ishtiaq Ahmed, Chief Engineers Naveed Anjum Cheema, Muhammad Ashiq Jatt, Imtiaz Ahmed Cheema, Managers Sheikh Amanullah, Muhammad Buta Gu-

rayah, Shahbaz Ahmed Sekhu, Ghulam Ghos and Regional Chairman Wapda Hydro Union Waliur Rehman Khan, and others were present on the occasion. Addressing the ceremony, the energy minister said that the construction work of 132-KV Ghulam Dastgir Khan grid station had been started and the project would be completed in the shortest possible time.

## District admin ask concerned authorities to remove billboards,signboards in view of cyclone

HYDERABAD (APP): The district administration of Hyderabad has asked the concerned authorities to remove on top priority all the billboards and signboards in view of the impending cyclone. The directives were conveyed here on Sunday in a letter addressed to the Regional Director of Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), the Municipal Commissioner of Hyderabad Mu-

nicipal Corporation (HMC), the Executive Officer of Cantonment board Hyderabad (CBH) and 3 other municipal officials. The offices had been asked to remove billboards and signboards from all public places to avoid any untoward incident. They had also been directed to keep the standby generators ready, which might be required for dewatering the rainwater.

## Pakistani intending pilgrims urged to obtain authorised sacrificial coupons from Saudi Post

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro on Sunday emphasised the importance of obtaining authorized sacrificial coupons from approved sources such as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Saudi Post, while urging Pakistani pilgrims to avoid obtaining them from unauthorized channels. In an interview with APP, he highlighted that acquiring these authorized coupons ensures their legitimacy and compliance with Saudi regulations for the sac-

rificial ritual. To facilitate the process, the Pakistani government, in collaboration with the Saudi bank, has made arrangements for the sacrificial ritual during Hajj. Pilgrims can obtain a token for the sacrificial offering by contributing 720 Saudi riyals. Mobile vans are available to conveniently distribute these coupons to pilgrims residing in different areas. The tokens will be provided near the accommodations of the pilgrims, either through booths or mobile vans.

## ED PIMS decides to expand hospital's new emergency block project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr Imran Sikan-dar has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of the best emergency services to citizens. According to ED PIMS spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Daha, the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan further 75 beds will be added to the project. He said that after approval from the Ministry of National Health Services,

Regulations, and Coordination, the documents of the projects have been sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds. He said that with the addition of 75 beds, the total number of beds will be 239 in the new emergency block of the hospital with state-of-the-art facilities including a laboratory, operation theatre, and x-ray. He said that the new emergency block project will be completed next year. He added the project will be helpful in providing quality emergency services to patients of not only Islamabad but also from surrounding areas.

## CM reviews progress on Darbar Bibi Pak Daman project

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office in which progress on the construction and extension of Darbar Bibi Pak Daman, along with its renovation project, was reviewed. He directed the authorities concerned that the colour of religious sanctity and esteem should be kept prominent in the new design of the building. He ordered for completing the construction, extension and renovation project be-

fore the month of Muharram-ul-Haram. It was informed during the briefing that the steel structure of the central dome of the Darbar Bibi Pak Daman had been completed. A central dome and three small domes in the Darbar would bestow a religious and historical sanctity to the building. Wood and marble work was going on speedily. Renowned architect Nayyar Ali Dada presented a model of the project to the caretaker chief minister.

## Sale of sacrificial animals starts in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP): The sacrificial animals have started arriving in Rawalpindi division from far-flung areas of the country for sale ahead of Eidul Azha. These animals can be seen in Raja Bazaar, Bara Market, Fawara Chowk, Dengi Khoi, Waris Khan, Naz Cinema, College Road, Benazir Bhutto Road, Bakra Mandi, Lal Kurti, Dheri Hassanabad and Saddar Bazaar. A visit to different sale points revealed that the animal prices are quite high and beyond the reach of the common man. Majority of the sellers of sacrificial animals are demanding very high prices as

there is no price regulatory mechanism introduced by the city government. Price of a normal size goat/sheep/lamb ranges from Rs 60,000 to Rs 80,000 whereas a cow/calf from Rs120,000 to Rs 4,00,000. On the other hand, the sellers of sacrificial animals claim that main reason behind high prices of animals are increased transportation costs as well as increase in prices of animal fodder. Raja Atif, a calf seller from DG Khan, said that rise in transportation charges, cost of animal breeding led to the increase in the animal prices.

## Foolproof security for churches in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamyana said on Sunday the police were providing comprehensive security for worship places of the Christian community in the city. In a statement released here, he said the police's commitment to maintaining a high-level of security at churches, especially on Sundays. He said additional forces, including snipers, were deployed at churches, and regular inspections were conducted at the city's entry and exit points to

enhance security measures. The police officers personally inspect the security arrangements at churches and other significant locations, he added. Furthermore, the Dolphin Squad, PRUs, and Elite force teams carry out effective patrolling around churches to ensure safety of worshippers, added the CCPO. Meanwhile, Nadeem Kamran, the Bishop of Lahore, expressed his gratitude to the Lahore police and CCPO Kamyana for providing foolproof security for Christian worship places.

## Four killed as bus overturns near Faizpur Interchange Lahore

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least four people were killed and 30 others critically injured when a speeding bus overturned near Motorway Faizpur Interchange in Lahore in the wee hours of Monday. According to Motorway police, the accident took place near the Faizpur interchange at the Sheikhupura Motorway (M3) where a passenger bus, coming to Lahore from Kot Adu, turned turtle, private news channels reported. As a result, four passengers were killed and 30 others received critical injuries. Rescuers 1122 reached the spot and shifted the bodies and injured to Mayo Hospital in Lahore. The driver allegedly could not control the bus while making a turn near the Faizpur interchange, due to which the bus met with an unfortunate accident, police added.

## 9 killed, 14 injured as a bus plunged into ravine in AJK

MIRPUR (APP): At least nine people were killed and 14 others injured when a bus fell into a deep ravine in the Kotli area of ??Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Monday. Deputy Commissioner Kotli Ch Haq Nawaz said that all the passengers were returning to Gujranwala after attending the Urs ceremony in the Nirian area near Kotli. Rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the dead and injured to District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital, Mirpur. Rescue sources said that the death toll may increase due to the critical condition of some of the injured. The injured were shifted to Mirpur Divisional Headquarters Hospital where the condition of 6 passengers was stated to be critical.

## Two students drown in Canal,third rescued

HYDERABAD (APP): Two students of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Jamshoro, drowned in Akram Canal here on Sunday while the third student was rescued by the local people. According to the police, Asadullah Khuhr and Jinsar Mangi drowned in the canal but their friend Yasir Channa was rescued. The eyewitnesses informed the police that one of the deceased fell in the canal while washing his hands and the other two students fell while trying to pull out their friend. The bodies as well as the rescued student were shifted to Liaquat University Hospital. A team of Rescue 1122 reached the spot and pulled out the dead bodies after searching for almost an hour.

## Italian CG,Ombudsman call on Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Italian Consul General Danilo Giurdanella and Ombudsman of Lazio, Italy Marino Fardelli called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the CM House here on Sunday. Marino Fardelli, who is also President of the National Co-ordination of Italian Civic Ombudsmen is visiting Karachi on the special invitation of the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh Ajaz Ali Khan. The chief minister welcomed the distinguished guests and appreciated the role of the Office of Ombudsman in grievance redressal for the public. The Italian Ombudsman suggested signing MoU with the Sindh Ombudsman for co-operation between the two Ombudsmen offices, which the chief minister approved. The CM directed the provincial ombudsman to complete the required formalities for signing the MOU. Provincial Ombudsman Ajaz Ali Khan presented Annual Report 2022 to the chief minister.

## President felicitates Pakistan's Special Olympic team for participating in world games

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi felicitates Pakistan's Special Olympics Team for participating in Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023. The Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sports event. Thousands of athletes with in-

tellectual disabilities compete together in 26 sports. Nine days of exciting and inspiring competitions, by athletes and for athletes. From 17 to 25 June 2023, the Special Olympics World Games will take place in Berlin – the first time that Germany will host the Games.

## Govt promise of importing crude oil from Russia fulfilled: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that the coalition government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had fulfilled the promise of importing crude oil from Russia. In a tweet, the minister said, "It is called the fulfillment of promises, the abil-

ity and intention to solve the problems of the country and the nation." This was called "true public service", she added. "As always, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is fulfilling his promises to the people", the minister said, adding that one year's sincere and honest work was paying off with the grace of Allah Almighty.

## Control room setup at Dy. Commissioner's office for monitoring Cyclone situation

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Deputy Commissioner Mirpurkhas Zain-ul-Aabdin Memon has set up a control room in his office to evaluate and supervise the Cyclone situation as predicted by the meteorological department. According to a prss release issued by the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Additional Commissioner-ii

Sona Khan Chandio will supervise the control room. The control room will work round the clock to monitor and supervise Cyclone, rain situations. People were asked to contact Telephone numbers 0233920071 and 0233920070, fax number 0233920254 and WhatsApp number 03003319880 for any help

## TAPI to be called project for development, prosperity of entire region: Qadir

QUETTA (APP): Senator Abdul Qadir, Chairman Standing Committee for Petroleum and Resources on Sunday said that Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (TAPI) could be called a project for the development and prosperity of the entire region, this gas pipeline would start from Ashgabat and reach Pakistan and then India via Kabul. In a statement issued here on Sunday, he that Pakistan and Turkmenistan recently signed an agreement on joint implementation of the project, which was positive sing for four countries. He said that Its length will be 1814 kilometers and the capacity will be to

transport 33 billion cubic meters of natural gas, the project, when operational, will provide economic prosperity through the supply of energy to the entire region, he said. He said that this wonderful project should be implemented soon and the relevant parties should use all available resources to complete this project as soon as possible, saying, that access to energy was a big challenge of today's era. For a developing country like Pakistan, it is important to work fast on the potential of getting energy and all possible efforts should be made to speed up the planning and execution of TAPI projects, he noted.

## Govt will not waste resources on opening ceremonies: CM

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Sunday, in a tweet, said that now people would inaugurate all public projects. "Be it school or college, hospital or playground, health card or green bus project, all these are people's own money," he said. He said that he would not waste resources on the opening ceremonies to take or give credit to these projects, saying,

children studying in the government institutions would inaugurate new educational institutions, "Hospitals will be opened for poor patients during treatment. Green bus service will be inaugurated by sisters and daughters who are travelling in public transport", he said. He said that the project's cost due to people's wealth and that the people should be credited by inaugurating public projects.

## PDMA prepared to tackle rising threat of Cyclone Biparjoy: DG

GWADAR (APP): Director General (DG) of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Jahanzeb Khan on Sunday said that the department has prepared a plan and taking more steps to tackle the rising threat of Cyclone Biparjoy in the coastal area of Balochistan. The GD PDMA Jahanzeb Khan has reviewed the arrangements in view of the cyclone while presiding over a meeting in Gwadar which was attended by Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Izzat Nazeer Baloch and officers of the District administration, said a news release. The meeting has decided to declare an emergency in hospitals on an emergency basis and imposed a complete ban on going

to the coastal area. The district administration has also directed to impose a ban on fishing and fishermen were advised not to venture in open sea during rough conditions and to remain extra cautious during the forecast period. In this regard, the administration has set up a Control Room where heavy rains and storms across the district will be monitored so that any untoward incident could be dealt with immediately. The PDMA has directed the local authorities to coordinate with relevant line departments and municipal administrations to secure boats of the fishermen, and remove billboards/hoardings in view of possible thunderstorms and high winds.

## Call for accountability: Ulema moot urges expose of perpetrators behind May 9 attacks

LAHORE (APP): In a joint declaration, Pakistan Stability Ulema-Mashaykh Conference, held here at Al-Hamra Hall on Sunday urged for the exposure of all those involved in the May 9 attacks on the Pakistan Army and security agencies. Led by Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, the conference brought together religious, political, and minority leaders from across the country expressing their strong opposition to campaigns against Pakistan and its security forces in the name of human rights. They urged the government to take legal action against those spreading propaganda target-

ing state institutions. Highlighting the gravity of the May 9 events, the declaration announced the PUC's decision to convene an all-party conference immediately after the Hajj pilgrimage to address the current situation in the country. Besides Ashrafi who is also the president of International Interfaith Harmony Council, the prominent religious scholars, including Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, and Maulana Nouman Hashir addressed the conference, which saw the participation of over 1,000 representatives from different religious schools of thought, religions and various segments of society.



Regional conference on socioeconomic from June 13

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) would organize a two-day regional conference from June 13 at University of Malakand. The conference titled “Unleashing the Economic Potential of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa”, aimed at providing a platform for vibrant discussions and insightful debates on key economic and social issues, contributing to the development and progress of the region, a press release said. This remarkable two-day event will bring together over 400 participants from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including renowned national experts, policymakers, development practitioners, entrepreneurs, students,

and scholars. Under the overarching theme, the Conference will feature ten sub-themes, covering critical dimensions that shape the economic landscape of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Topics such as sustainable development, entrepreneurship, innovation, infrastructure, human capital, and regional connectivity will be explored in-depth by esteemed speakers and panelists. One of the highlights of this year’s conference is the inclusive and diverse participation from universities across Pakistan. Vice-Chancellors, faculty members, and students from 20 provincial and Federal universities will join hands with PSDE, PIDE, and UoM in a collective effort to foster a culture of nation-building and inclusive economic growth.

Lok Virsa to bring cultural glimpses for Islooites from June 16

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) will bring cultural glimpses for fun lovers of twin cities in a weeklong “Saqafati Mela” Cultural Festival 2023 to be held here from June 16. The festival aims to promote Pakistan’s folk heritage strengthening national harmony and integration among all federating units through a cultural perspective and contributing to minimize poverty among master artisans by providing them a platform to demonstrate their skills at national level. The inaugural ceremony of the Festival will be held on Friday, 16th

June at Lok Virsa Open Air Theatre while a Cultural Diversity Show featuring folk artists and folk musicians will be held on Saturday, 17th June. Performances by PNCA Performing Art Theater and Musical Fusion Night will also be part of the activities. Daily attractions during the festival include the exhibition of artisans-at-work, the exhibition of folk paintings, the exhibition by Meo community, performances by traditional drummers (Dholis), folk dance performances, craft bazaar, folk cuisine, puppet show, children play area and cultural stalls.

Health authorities advises vaccination of sacrificial animals

RAWALPINDI (APP): To avoid the spread of Congo fever and lumpy skin viruses on the occasion of the forthcoming Eid Ul Azha, the District Health Authority has asked the Live Stock Department to vaccinate the animals being transported to city cattle markets. Talking to APP here Sunday, Chief Executive Officer of the District Health Authority Dr Ijaz Ahmed said that as sacrificial animals were being transported in the city areas, it has been decided to create public awareness to protect the people from the spread of viruses by taking preventive mea-

sures. He advised the people to slaughter the animals during day time on the occasion of Eid Ul Azha while the Livestock Department was instructed to ensure vaccination of the animals being brought to the city or cattle markets. Congo Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) is a lethal disease caused by the Congo virus which is present in a tick in animals. It may be mentioned here that around 200 small and big animals had arrived at the Eid cattle market at Bhatta Chowk and the number was increasing with each passing day.

Death anniversary of filmstar Santosh Kumar observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 41th death anniversary of actor Syed Musa Raza, popularly known as Santosh Kumar was observed on Sunday. Born on December 25, 1925 in Lahore he was active in Pakistani cinema during the 1950s and ‘60s and is considered to be the first romantic hero of Pakistan. His first film was ‘Ahensa’ made in 1947 in India and his first film in Pakistan was

‘Beli’. Santosh Kumar also starred in the first ever silver jubilee urdu film ‘Dou Aansu’ in 1950. He acted in a total of 92 films and also won three Nigar Awards for Best Actor. The very first Nigar Award for Best Actor was rewarded to him for the film ‘Waada’. ‘Shaam Dhalay’ is the only film he produced, directed and starred in. He passed away on June 11, 1982 in Lahore.

PIPS recognized as Global Centre of Excellence in Parliamentary Research

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) has been recognized as a center of excellence in Parliamentary Research amongst global mapping of research services around the world by the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament. According to the latest issue of the Parliamentarian, the journal of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the UK Parliamentary Office of Science of Technology undertook a year analysis to identify 181 potential parliamentary research mechanisms and compare them for the last five years’ standards, services and performance of these institutes across 125 countries. The Pakistan

Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) has been recognized as the Top Tier of this global mapping of reputed worldwide institutions providing evidence-based policy synthesis, analysis and scrutiny as per the international standards to the parliamentarians. Dr Vicky Wardat from the University of St Andrews in Scotland and Dr Mark Monaghan from the University of Loughborough University in England, undertook a detailed comparative analysis of purpose, structure and performance in the last five years (2018-2023) for 181 institutes to shortlist top 41 parliamentary institutes worldwide placed in three tiers.

Authorities on high alert as Cyclone Biparjoy likely to make landfall on Jun 14

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Mahr Sahibzad Khan has said that the authorities concerned were put on high alert as Cyclone Biparjoy is gaining strength and now turned into an extremely severe cyclonic storm. Talking to the ptv news channel on Monday, he said in the wake of a “very severe” cyclonic storm, which would likely hit Sindh’s coastline on June 14, the government advised relevant authorities in Sindh and Balochistan

to remain alert. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Meteorological Department have advised shipping corporations, fishermen, farmers, and people living around areas of dams, and rivers not to venture out to the sea till June 16. The PMD also advised the fishermen to avoid venturing to the open sea from June 14-16 as the conditions in the Arabian Sea might prove hazardous for fishing due to the storm and high tides that could occur along the coast, he added.

Campaign to create awareness about family planning launched

RAWALPINDI (APP): District Population Welfare Department was taking all measures to create awareness among the masses about the importance of family planning and extending relevant services so that marginalized and young people could plan their families. District Officer Sherry Sukhan while talking to the media said that a campaign titled” Think! If not now, when?” was being launched to create awareness about family planning, mother’s health, daughter’s education, the importance of

planning and forming a prosperous family. She said that the concept of prosperity was linked to balanced family formation and family planning. Under this vision, the Department of Population Welfare, Punjab was always trying to convey its message effectively to every section of society, she said and added that various successful advertising campaigns had been launched through all mediums of mass media while a new newspaper awareness campaign was being launched by the de-

partment under the title “Sochay! Ab nahi to kab?”. The campaign aimed to make parents aware and think that the best upbringing and education of every child was their Primary responsibility. Sheery said like every decision in life, the family planning decision requires careful consideration. She asked the parents and other elders to guide the newly wedded couple while youngsters should also not hesitate toget marriage counselling for future practical life, reproductive health, wife and children.

Soldiers martyred in North Waziristan fire exchange laid to rest with military honours

RAWALPINDI (APP): The funeral prayers of Pakistan Army soldiers, who embraced martyrdom while fighting gallantly with terrorists in Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on the night of June 9/10, were performed at their native areas with full military honours. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the funeral prayers of Subedar Asghar Ali Shaheed (40), a resident of District

Lakki Marwat, Sepoy Naseem Khan (26), a resident of District Lakki Marwat and Sepoy Muhammad Zaman (22), a resident of Abbotabad, were offered at their hometowns. Senior serving and retired officers and soldiers, relatives and a large number of people attended the funerals. “Pakistan Army remains committed to ensuring the defence of the motherland at all costs,” the ISPR said.

Provision of education, social justice can help eradicate child labour: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that the challenge of child labour could be overcome by promoting social justice and ensuring the provision of quality education to children. “World Day against Child Labour is observed all over the world to raise awareness for the prevention of child labour, and encourage stakeholders to speak against this social evil,” the president said in a message on the observance of the Day on June 12. The president said that child labour was a growing curse in

the world, as according to the United Nations, around 160 million children were forced into child labour. “Globally, one out of every 10 children is working.” He said although child labour had been reduced on the international level, still there was a dire need for further efforts to eradicate the social evil. The president emphasized that poverty, wars, terrorism and lack of access to education were the basic causes of child labour, adding that the basic causes needed to be overcome to completely eradicate the challenge.

SDPI’s CRRN apprise journalists on increasing mass mobilization against extremism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)’s Community Resilience Research Network (CRRN) apprised the journalists from different media organizations and mediums on increasing mass mobilization on enhancing societal resilience to violent extremism. The SDPI held the media training workshop here to raise awareness of the research findings and encouraged journalists to report on the findings of CRRN research products, build the capacity of Journalists in knowledge and skills that they need to report on violent extremism in a responsible

and accurate way and provide participants with the skills and knowledge they need to develop effective storyline about Community Resilience to Violent Extremism (CRVE). The Research Network has three local chapters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)-Islamabad, Sindh, and Punjab. The network has a Senior Research Council (SRC) platform that develops, guides, and coordinates the activities of the Community Resilience Research Network members. It comprised nine leading experts in the field of social science, three each from the Islamabad/KP, Sindh, and Punjab chapters.

Students urge govt to include AIOU in PM Laptop Scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The students of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Monday demanded the government to include the varsity in the Prime Minister Laptop scheme so that its students, especially Ph.D and Mphil are facilitated to carry on their higher studies. They were of the views that being a largest public sector university with higher ranks, AIOU was not included in the PM laptop scheme. As per the Impact Ranking 2023 of the Times Higher Education, Allama Iqbal Open University was ranked first among 66 public and private universities in Pakistan while it is ranked 25th among 1304 universities worldwide. The students term the non-inclusion decision as totally injustice as it would have affect on hundreds of students particularly Ph.D and

Mphil in various disciplines who were carrying forward their education as per other public sector universities. “AIOU is the only university in Pakistan which was included in the top 25 universities of the world,” said Ambreen Iqbal an Mphil scholar told APP here that. Ambreen said that since she and her fellows belong to middle-class families so could not afford to buy laptops for research work adding that the exclusion of AIOU University from PM laptop scheme, dashed down their hopes to get a laptop. Another Ph.D scholar Ahsan while quoting their senior fellows said that AIOU students were also ignored in PM’s Laptop scheme earlier on the pretext that the university was imparting education through distance learning.

Integration of ISA, PTV, Radio Pakistan academies milestone in history of MoIB: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday declared the integration of the Information Service Academy, PTV Academy and Radio Pakistan Academy as part of the first film policy and said it was a major milestone in the history of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. In a tweet, sharing the teaser of the newly integrated academy, she said on May 13, 2023, she had announced the launch of PTV Film Institute and today she was thrilled to share the teaser. The minister said that the merger of ISA, PTV and Radio acad-



emies reflected her goal to launch a world-class center of excellence for media, broadcasting, films, acting, training and capacity building across Pakistan, which should be open and accessible to all especially youth. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that this initiative was very close to her heart. Practical training was incorporated with the academic pro-

grams of the academies using media equipment and facilities at PTV and Radio Pakistan, she said. The academy, she continued, will not only be open to new inductees and existing employees of the Ministry of Information, PTV and Radio Pakistan but students and youth from across Pakistan will be able to enroll in courses including the academy’s summer school. The minister congratulated and thanked the teams of the Ministry of Information, PTV Academy, Managing Director PTV and Radio Pakistan teams that worked tirelessly to make the launch of PTV Film Institute a reality.



## Oil Updates — crude prices fall over 1% ahead of US Fed rate decision

RIYADH (Agencies): Oil prices declined on Monday ahead of a US Federal Reserve meeting as investors tried to gauge the central bank's appetite for further rate hikes, while concerns about China's fuel demand growth and rising Russian crude supply weighed on the market. Brent crude futures fell 89 cents, or 1.19 percent, to \$73.90 a barrel by 9:23 a.m. Saudi time. US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$69.33 a barrel, also down 1.20



percent. Both benchmarks notched their second straight weekly decline last week as disappointing China economic data raised concerns about demand growth in the world's largest crude importer, offsetting

a boost in prices from Saudi Arabia pledging to cut production by 1 million barrels per day in July. The Fed's rate hikes have strengthened the greenback, making dollar-denominated commodities more expensive for holders of other currencies and weighing on prices. Most market participants expect the US central bank to leave interest rates unchanged when it concludes its two-day monetary policy meeting on Wednesday.

## Nio joins EV price war with cuts on all models

SHANGHAI (Agencies): Chinese electric vehicle maker Nio Inc slashed starting prices on all of its models by 30,000 yuan (US\$4,200), days after reporting a worse-than-expected quarterly loss. Monday's move further entwines Nio with others including Tesla Inc in a price war to grab more customers in China, the world's biggest EV market. The Chinese government also last week started a campaign to boost car purchases and clean-car adoption, particularly in ru-



ral areas, after sales growth of EVs and plug-in hybrids slowed to 41% in January-May from 120% a year earlier. "This adjustment has been discussed internally for a long time," CEO William Li said in a post on Nio's

app. "There were many things to consider and even until 3am this morning we were still deliberating. Now is the most appropriate time." The price changes take effect immediately, Nio said. Nio's sales dipped below 13,000 vehicles in April and May combined from 31,041 in January-March. The Shanghai-based company, which still aims to sell 250,000 EVs this year, said last week its first-quarter net loss widened to 4.74 billion yuan from a deficit of 1.78 billion yuan a year earlier.

## No pause in sight as ECB eyes next rate hike

FRANKFURT (Agencies): The European Central Bank will almost certainly deliver another interest rate hike on Thursday, pressing ahead with its fight against inflation even as the eurozone slides into a recession. Analysts predict that ECB policymakers will copy May's move and again raise borrowing costs by 25 basis points, taking the closely watched deposit rate to 3.50%. It would be the Frankfurt institution's eighth-consecutive hike since last July,



when it kicked off an unprecedented campaign of monetary tightening after Russia's war in Ukraine sent food and energy costs surging. Eurozone inflation slowed to 6.1% year-on-year

in May after hitting a peak of 10.6% last October, suggesting the ECB's efforts were having an impact. But with the bank's 2% inflation target still out of reach, policymakers have stressed it was too early to take the foot off the gas, hinting at rate hikes even beyond June. ECB President Christine Lagarde said earlier this month that rates were getting "closer to our cruising altitude", but "we need to continue climbing".

## Goldman cuts Brent outlook to below US\$90 by year-end

NEW YORK (Agencies): Goldman Sachs Group Inc, one of the most bullish banks on the outlook for oil, has once again lowered its price forecasts amid increasing global supplies and waning demand. The bank has now dropped its Brent forecast for December to US\$86 a barrel, down from its previous estimate of US\$95 a barrel. This is Goldman's third downward revision in the last six months after hav-



ing previously stood by its bullish US\$100-a-barrel prediction. Brent's August contract settled at US\$74.79 a barrel on Friday. "We have never been this wrong for this long with-

out seeing evidence to change our views," Jeff Currie, Goldman's head of commodities research, said in a Bloomberg Television interview last week. Supply increases from nations facing sanctions — Russia, Iran and Venezuela — are a key driver in the lower price outlook, according to Goldman. Russia supply production, in particular, has "nearly fully recovered" despite sanctions from Western countries.

## Germany refusing Intel's demand for subsidies for €17bil factory

BERLIN (Agencies): Germany's finance minister Christian Lindner is refusing Intel's demands for higher subsidies for a €17 billion (US\$18 billion) chip plant, saying the country could not afford it, the Financial Times reported today. "There is no more money available in the budget," the newspaper quoted Lindner as saying in an interview. "We are trying to consolidate the budget right now, not expand it." The company was due to receive €6.8 billion in government support for its fabri-



cation plant in Germany. However, due to higher energy and construction costs, it is now demanding about €10 billion, the newspaper reported. Intel did not immediately respond to Reuters request for comment out-

side office hours. The company announced last year it had picked the central German city of Magdeburg for a new chip-making complex as a part of an US\$88 billion investment drive across Europe, which included boosting a factory in Ireland, a packaging and assembly site in Italy and setting up a design and research facility in France. Intel is among several chipmakers, including Taiwan's TSMC and Wolfspeed of the US, seeking government funding to build a factories in Europe.

## BioNTech faces German lawsuit over Covid vaccine side effects

HAMBURG (Agencies): BioNTech will go to court on Monday to defend itself against a lawsuit from a German woman who is seeking damages for alleged side effects of its Covid-19 vaccine, the first of potentially hundreds of cases in the country. The woman, exercising her right under German privacy law for her name not to be made public, is suing the German vaccine maker for at least €150,000 (US\$161,500) in damages for bodily harm as well as



compensation for unspecified material damage, according to the regional court in Hamburg which is hearing the case and law firm Rogert & Ulbrich,

which is representing her. The plaintiff claims she suffered upper-body pain, swollen extremities, fatigue and sleeping disorder due to the vaccine. The first hearing is on Monday. Tobias Ulbrich, a lawyer at Rogert & Ulbrich, told Reuters he aimed to challenge in court the assessment made by European Union regulators and German vaccine assessment bodies that the BioNTech shot has a positive risk-benefit profile.

## Sanctioned Russian billionaires investing at home – Bloomberg

Russia's richest business figures continue to reap huge profits from their operations but, because of Western sanctions, they are reinvesting in their own country, Bloomberg reported on Friday. Five tycoons in the oil, nickel and fertilizer industries have each received roughly \$10 billion in dividends since the beginning of 2022, the outlet said, citing the Bloomberg Billionaire's



Index. For billionaires in the energy sector such as Lukoil founder Vagit Alekperov, head of Novatek Leonid

Mikhelson, and the owner of energy investment company Volga Group, Gennady Timchenko, the large payouts stemmed from soaring energy prices after the West imposed restrictions on Russian supplies. Novatek, the country's largest liquefied natural gas producer, has paid out the highest dividends in its history, followed by Lukoil, its second largest oil producer.

## Russia signs tax treaty with Gulf state

Russia and Oman have signed an agreement which eliminates double taxation in a sign of strengthening economic ties between the two countries, the Russian Finance Ministry announced on Thursday. The treaty is designed to protect investors in both countries and to regulate the im-

sition of levies. The measure should boost investments and trade between Russia and Oman, according to Moscow. "In 2022, the volume of mutual trade between our countries already showed growth of 46%," Deputy Finance Minister Aleksey Sazanov noted. "It is necessary to further increase

trade turnover and strengthen economic cooperation." The agreement establishes a general 15% withholding tax on dividend income and a reduced rate of 10% for companies holding at least a 20% stake in a dividend paying company, the Finance Ministry explained.

## Ex-Samsung exec charged for leaking chip tech to China

SEOUL (Agencies): South Korean prosecutors said they indicted a former Samsung Electronics executive on Monday on suspicion of stealing the company's technology to build a chip factory in China. The defendant, who also formerly worked at SK Hynix as a vice president, is accused of illegally acquiring Samsung data to build a factory in the northwestern Chinese city of Xian between 2018 and 2019, the Suwon District Prosecutors' Office said in a statement. The trial date was yet to be confirmed by the local court where the indictment has been filed.



The defendant, arrested last month, is denying the allegations, a prosecutor said. He worked a combined 28 years at the South Korean chipmakers, prosecutors said. The officials did not identify the accused. Reuters was not immediately able to reach him for comment.

## UBS seals Swiss mega-merger, lifts global wealth role

ZURICH (Agencies): UBS on Monday said it completed its emergency takeover of embattled local rival Credit Suisse, creating a giant Swiss bank with a balance sheet of US\$1.6 trillion and greater muscle in wealth management. Commenting on the biggest banking deal since the 2008 global financial crisis, UBS CEO Sergio Ermotti and Chairman Colm Kelleher said "this is the start of a new chapter" in an open letter published in Swiss newspapers. The group will oversee US\$5 trillion of assets giving UBS, the world's largest wealth manager, a leading position in key markets it would otherwise have needed



years to grow in size and reach. The merger also brings to an end Credit Suisse's 167-year history, marred in recent years by scandals and losses. The two banks jointly employ 120,000 worldwide, although UBS has already said it will be cutting jobs to take advantage of synergies and reduce costs.

## Asian traders cautious ahead of Fed rate verdict

HONG KONG (Agencies): Asian investors traded cautiously Monday as they awaited key US inflation data and the Federal Reserve's interest rate decision later this week. Markets globally have enjoyed a broadly strong run-up this month on hopes the US central bank will decide against an eleventh successive hike at the end of the meeting on Wednesday. Positive readings on jobs in the past few weeks – indicating the economy remained healthy but gave the Fed room to stand pat

in June – have added to the broadly upbeat mood. However, with the policy board split on the best way forward for fighting still-too-high inflation, there remains a certain amount of uncertainty on trading floors. The decision comes a day after the release of consumer price inflation data, which could play a major role in officials' thinking. The decision comes a day after the release of consumer price inflation data, which could play a major role in officials' thinking.

## Dollar steady ahead of busy central bank week

SINGAPORE (Agencies): The dollar held its ground on Monday but was still near multi-week lows against some of its major peers as traders were on guard ahead of central bank meetings this week, including the Federal Reserve's where it will announce its rates decision. The US currency was pinned near a one-month low against the British pound and the Aussie in early Asia trade at US\$1.25805 and US\$0.6745, respectively, though moves were subdued with most of Australia closed for a holiday. Policy meetings of the Fed, the European Central Bank (ECB),



and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) will set the tone for the week, as markets seek clues from policymakers on the future path of interest rates. "Given the event risks ahead of us, market activity is likely to be relatively muted today," said Alvin Tan, head of Asia FX strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

## Russia's McDonald's replacement outperforms original – owner

Fast-food chain Vkusno i Tochka, which took over from McDonald's in Russia after the US chain opted to leave the market, has outperformed the original, the group's owner Aleksandr Govor said earlier this week. Vkusno i Tochka, which roughly means 'Just Tasty,' has seen more than 500 million visits over the past year, according to Govor, who revealed plans to open 50 more outlets by the end of the current year, and to expand the chain into remote cities that had been out of reach of the



US fast food brand. "At of the end of May 2023, our share among the three major fast-food players amounted to 58%," Govor said, speaking at a press conference devoted to the first anniversary of the rebranded chain.

## Latin American nation seeks to join BRICS bank

Honduras has formally requested to join the New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS group of major emerging economies, the office of President Xiomara Castro said on Saturday. Castro met with the bank's president, former Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff, during the latter's official six-day visit to China. Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by BRICS member states – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – back in 2014. The five economies of the bloc account for more than 40% of the world's population and nearly a quarter of global GDP. The bank was set up with the purpose of financing infrastructure and sustainable development in member states and other emerging economies. It also



aims to help member states to reduce dependence on the US dollar and euro. The multinational lender continues to expand its global reach and already includes Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Egypt. Earlier this month, Rousseff, a former president of Brazil, said the NBD's board of directors had formally enabled her to vote on Argentina's entry to the organization, which would allow Buenos Aires to access financial assistance.



Defender Abdelmonem the hero as Ahly conquer Africa again

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies): Defender Mohamed Abdelmonem equalised on the night as Al Ahly of Egypt drew 1-1 at Wydad Casablanca of Morocco on Sunday to win the CAF Champions League for a record-extending 11th time. His goal cancelled the lead Yahia Attiyat Allah gave the defending champions and earned the Cairo club a 3-2 aggregate victory after building a 2-1 first-leg lead seven days ago. Ahly scored 27 goals in 14 matches en route to continental glory and four of them came from Egypt centre-back Abdelmonem. Defeat for Wydad ended a run of two final victories over Ahly,



and they paid the penalty for concentrating on defending their fragile second-leg lead instead of seeking further goals. Unlike Europe, away goals count double in African club competitions when sides finish level on aggregate

and Wydad would have retained the trophy had they won 1-0. Ahly pocketed a record four million Dollars for winning and Marcel Koller became the first Swiss coach to win the premier African club competition. It was the third Champions League triumph in four seasons for Ahly after victories over fellow Egyptians Zamalek in 2020 and Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa the following year. Wydad made two changes to the side that began the first leg in Cairo last weekend with attackers Mohamed Ounajem and Saifeddine Bouhra replacing Reda Jaadi and Zouhair el Moutaraji.

History-making Djokovic claims record 23rd Grand Slam triumph

PARIS (Agencies): Novak Djokovic created history on Sunday when he captured a record-breaking 23rd Grand Slam title with a third French Open triumph, reinforcing his case to be crowned the greatest player of all time. The 36-year-old Serb brushed off an early wobble to defeat Casper Ruud of Norway 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 7-5 and snap the tie of 22 Slams he shared with career-long rival Rafael Nadal. "It's an incredible feeling to win 23. I'm beyond grateful and blessed to be standing here with so many incredible achievements," said Djokovic as Nadal immediately described his rival's victory as "an incredible achieve-



ment". Victory for the third time in Paris, after 2016 and 2021, adds to Djokovic's 10 Australian Open titles, seven at Wimbledon and three at the US Open. "It's no coincidence that my 23rd Grand Slam title has come here because it has been the hardest one

for me to win in my career. I am very emotional right now and I am very, very proud," added Djokovic who fired 11 aces and 52 winners in total past Ruud. Djokovic is the first man to win all four majors at least three times and is once again halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969. "Your skill and unwavering mental fortitude on all surfaces is astonishing," tweeted Laver. Only Margaret Court and Serena Williams in women's tennis have managed to rack up 23 Grand Slam titles. Court's all-time mark of 24 will now be in Djokovic's sights at Wimbledon next month.

Football club Al-Hilal and Saudi Entertainment Ventures team up to boost sport in Kingdom

RIYADH (Agencies): Al-Hilal, one of Saudi Arabia's leading football clubs, and Saudi Entertainment Ventures, also known as SEVEN, on Monday signed a three-year official partnership agreement. They said the deal includes mutual commercial and marketing rights designed to benefit guests at SEVEN's entertainment destinations in the Kingdom and Al-Hilal fans, beginning from the start of the 2023/2024 Saudi Pro League season in August. SEVEN, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Saudi Public Investment Fund, said the partnership aligns with its aspi-



rations to be an enabler of the next generation of Saudi sporting talent through the services at its venues. Individuals interested in pursuing a career in sport will be able to hone their skills by participating in the

numerous activities on offer at SEVEN's destinations, it added, including skiing, climbing, surfing, bowling, golfing, indoor sky-diving and e-karting. Abdullah Al-Jarbou, the CEO of Al-Hilal, said the partnership agreement illustrates the ways in which the sports and entertainment sectors are increasingly intertwined in the Kingdom, in keeping with the aims of the Saudi Vision 2030 development and diversification agenda. "It enables both parties to fulfill their goals to enhance the quality of life for the people of Saudi Arabia," he added.

Golfing stars Nelly Korda, Leona Maguire set to wow fans at Aramco Team Series – London

RIYADH (Agencies): The highly anticipated Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – London has announced the participation of two of the world's top golf players, Nelly Korda and Leona Maguire. Returning to the iconic Centurion Club, the event, taking place from July 14 to 16, will mark the third instalment of the global golf series. Korda, currently ranked second in the world, has carried her scintillating form from 2022 into this year, securing an impressive six top-10 finishes out of just eight starts in 2023. Most notably, the Olympic champion claimed



a third-place finish in the first major of the year at the prestigious Chevron Championship. Since 2019, the 24-year-old American has constantly held a coveted spot in the top five of the Rolex World Rankings, which

has solidified her status as one of golf's elite players and is a testament to her unwavering consistency and exceptional skills. Having tasted victory at the Aramco Team Series – Sotogrande last year, Korda has set her sights on adding a second Aramco Team Series trophy to her collection. She said: "The Aramco Team Series is a special event that showcases a unique blend of individual talent and team dynamics in golf, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to once again compete alongside top professionals and amateurs.

Inter players arrive for Nations League duty with Italy

ROME (Agencies): Inter Milan's contingent of players arrived for Italy duty on Monday ahead of their Nations League semi-final against Spain two days after their Champions League final defeat. Roberto Mancini's side take on Spain in Enschede, the Netherlands on Thursday. The five Inter players called up -- Nicolo Barella, Alessandro Bastoni, Federico Dimarco, Francesco Acerbi and Matteo Darmian -- arrived at the Italian team's national training centre at Coverciano, near Florence, after losing the Champions League



final to Manchester City in Istanbul. "The focus is now on Thursday's game," defender Acerbi told a press conference. "There is respect for Spain, but no fear: we know their strengths and their weaknesses. Eu-

ropean champions Italy are looking to bounce back after failing to qualify for a second consecutive World Cup. "Not qualifying for the World Cup was probably our fault. Now there's this Nations League, we want to win it, we're going to give something extra to make it happen," he added. Mancini paid tribute to former AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi, who died Monday morning at the age of 86. "It's a sad day for everyone because Silvio Berlusconi is a man who has meant so much to Italy," said Mancini.

Yannick Mettler to join Theeba Motorsport as fourth driver for Spa 24H

Yannick Mettler will join Reema Juffali, Ralf Aron and Alain Valente as they compete around Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps for the fourth round of the 2023 GT World Challenge Europe and the third round of competition this season for Theeba Motorsport. Hailing from Switzerland, Mettler's career spans more than a decade, having previously competed in the German Formula Three Cup, Michelin Le Mans Cup and International GT Open. Well-versed in GT racing, Mettler has previous experience driving in a 24-hour race, having competed in the Nurburgring 24 Hours, taking a hat-trick of class wins from 2017-



2019. He is currently competing in another Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo in the Pro-Am Class in the 2023 International GT Open. He also competed in the 2021 GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup. "I'm excited to join Theeba Motorsport for the 24H of Spa later this month," said Met-

tler. "They are a young and motivated team and from the previous season, I know them as tough competitors on track, but also as great personalities in the paddock. I'm therefore very happy to join Reema, Ralf and Alain for their season highlight and will do my best to contribute to a strong result. "I already got to work with the team at the official test days a few weeks ago, where we experienced two productive days and had the chance to familiarize (ourselves) with everything," he added. "We are now looking forward to (building) on that momentum as we head into the race in a few weeks' time."

Australia hailed for 'momentous' WTC title but told: now win Ashes

Sydney (APP): Australia's World Test Championship triumph was hailed on Monday as "momentous" -- but warned it will quickly be forgotten if they do not win the Ashes. Pat Cummins' side crushed India by 209 runs in the final at The Oval in a show of strength ahead of the Ashes against arch-rivals England starting on Friday. The Sydney Daily Telegraph said Australia "deserve praise" for routing Rohit Sharma's team, but warned: "Deep down they know that the main prize is still to be won. "Because the brutal truth is this fine accomplishment from Pat Cummins' men will soon be forgotten if Australia doesn't win the Ashes," said the tabloid. "The good news is, performing in the pressure of a Test Championship final seems a pretty good way to warm up for En-

gland." Australian selectors now face a major decision on whether to stick with seamer Scott Boland for the first Test at Edgbaston or bring back pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood, who is returning from injury. After Boland's second-innings exploits at The Oval, including the prize scalp of Virat Kohli on Sunday on his way to figures of 3-46 in 16 overs, local media agreed it would be almost impossible to drop him. Australia's victory was the culmination of a two-year programme of Tests that saw them win 12 out of 20 matches, with five draws and three defeats. Local media said there had been "turbulence and reinvention" after former skipper Tim Paine stepped down over a sexting scandal in late 2021 and Justin Langer quit as coach in acrimonious circumstances months later.

Saudi yoga team focus on more success after bagging medals at first international competition

KATHMANDU (APP): Saudi Arabia's national yoga team are focusing on more success following the Kingdom's five medals at their first international competition, the side's president told Arab News on Monday. Saudi Arabia was the only Gulf country participating in the Mt. Everest International Yoga Championship held in Kathmandu last week, competing against South Asian countries more traditionally associated with the practice. Team member Samaher Al-Malki claimed gold at the tournament, in the 26-35 age group, as India dominated the contest with 11 wins in 12 categories. Nouf Al-Marwaai, president of the Saudi Yoga Committee, told Arab News: "We impressed in the compa-



ny of teams like India, Nepal, and Bangladesh where the players have practiced yoga since childhood. "So we are really proud and we're looking for more success." Saudi team members Badr Al-Ghamdi, Ahmed Shilati and Sarah Al-Amoudi claimed a silver medal, while Joud Abed bagged a bronze.

Champions League hero Rodri: Manchester City can build European 'legacy'

Having scored the goal that delivered Manchester City an elusive first Champions League, Rodri challenged his team-mates to win more to emulate Europe's greatest teams. The Spaniard's sweetly struck effort proved the difference against Inter Milan in Istanbul. But Rodri, 26, wants City to now dominate European football and create a dynasty like 14-time winners Real Madrid or seven-time European champions AC Milan. "Yes," he said. "For me, and I said this before the game, it was so important to win against Inter because we can build a legacy for the future. "We can trust in ourselves that we did it and this is what teams like Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Barcelona, AC Milan -- these kind of clubs -- did in the past.



"So yes we believe we can do it again. I think that's why it's so important." Rodri also praised chairman Khaldoon Al-Mubarak and past City heroes for helping to pave the way to fulfil this dream, which was only deemed possible after Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, deputy prime minister of the UAE, bought the club in 2008.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JUNE 13, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.  
– **ARIES**: You need to check what's going on in your life against your value system. It might be time for you to make a few changes or walk away from something that's just not that good for you.  
– **TAURUS**: You're feeling somewhat decadent today and might want to skip out of work early or otherwise skimp on your responsibilities. Almost anything you do should actually work out for the best!  
– **GEMINI**: Take care of any bills or other paperwork that has accrued lately. Better now than later! You're unusually focused on such tasks, and you can't count on that kind of energy staying for long.  
– **CANCER**: Your ideas are pretty out-there today, but that's what you need! Go ahead and pick one to tackle that seems almost impossible and you should find that the right things start to line up for you.  
– **LEO**: Legal issues dominate today's work, though they may be subtle or

even invisible to you. It's pretty easy for you to handle them, but if you don't see them, prepare for a big surprise!  
– **VIRGO**: Your mental energy is just right at the moment, and you should be able to learn facts about almost anything (on anyone) that seems appealing to you. Use all the resources at your disposal!  
– **LIBRA**: Things aren't quite as they appear on the surface, so take another look and see if you can figure out more of the situation. It may take a while, but you will get there eventually!  
– **SCORPIO**: You need to be sure you're letting your people take their share of the spoils from your recent victory. It's too easy to take a little extra and breed unnecessary resentment. Share and share alike!  
– **SAGITTARIUS**: No matter how crazy things get, remember that you can handle it all. Your ability to roll with the punches and avoid the worst of any situation should help you in a big way today and tomorrow.  
– **CAPRICORN**: Your good energy is manifesting itself in a thoroughness that some might see as almost compulsive. Your conscience won't let you leave anything half-finished, though, so get going!  
– **ACQUARIUS**: It's a good time to reflect on your past and how you can move beyond it, because the present is stuck. You can make progress soon if only you move past whatever is holding you back.  
– **PISCES**: You're feeling quiet and domestic today and might rather stay in and make a dinner than head out for a party tonight. Your good energy will be a blessing to your friends and family.



## Chronic bias against women still remains: UN report

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A new UN report launched on Monday revealed no improvement in the level of prejudice shown against women over the past decade, with almost nine out of 10 men and women worldwide, still holding such biases. “Half of people worldwide still believe men make better political leaders than women and more than 40 per cent believe men make better business executives than women,” according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in its latest Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report. “Social norms that impair women’s rights are detrimental to

society more broadly, dampening the expansion of human development,” said Pedro Conceicao, head of UNDP’s Human Development Report Office. A staggering 25 per cent of people believe it is justified for a man to beat his wife, according to the report, reflecting the latest data from the World Values Survey. The report argues that these biases drive hurdles faced by women, manifested in a dismantling of women’s rights in many parts of the world with movements against gender equality gaining traction and, in some countries, a surge of human rights violations. Biases are also reflected in the

severe underrepresentation of women in leadership. On average, the share of women as heads of State or heads of government has remained around 10 per cent since 1995 and in the labour market women occupy less than a third of managerial positions. The report also sheds light on a broken link between women’s progress in education and economic empowerment. Women are more skilled and educated than ever before, yet even in the 59 countries where women are now more educated than men, the average gender income gap remains 39 per cent in favour of men.

## Taman Mini Park Jakarta: A Captivating Cultural Showcase attracts foreign visitors



JAKARTA (APP): Nestled in the heart of Indonesia’s bustling capital city, Jakarta, Taman Mini Park stands as a captivating cultural showcase, attracting foreign visitors to immerse themselves in Indonesia’s rich heritage and diversity. Serving as a miniature replica of the nation, this cultural Park offers an enchanting experience highlighting Indonesia’s unique traditions, story, and culture. Taman Mini Park, which translates to “Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park,” has 150 acres of land. With its diverse range of traditional houses, museums, theaters, and beautifully landscaped gardens, the Park offers a comprehensive glimpse into the myriad cultures of 37 provinces that make up Indonesia. Talking to APP in Indonesia, Ms. Claudia Ingkiriwang, Director of the Park, said that this Park shows the historical culture of Indonesia besides explaining cultural transformation and developments from the ancient to the modern era. She said that this Park offers visitors the culture of each province and is being supported by their respective provincial governments. She added that it could be termed a complete reflection of Indonesian culture, history, and futuristic approach to development. Director Claudia also states that more than six million national and international visitors visit to explore Indonesian culture.

## Several killed, wounded in Vietnam police station attacks

HANOI (APP): Several people were killed and wounded in shootings at two police headquarters in Vietnam’s Central Highlands on Sunday, authorities said. Sixteen people were arrested in connection with the shootings in Cu Kuin district of Dak Lak province, according to state media, citing To An Xo, spokesman for the ministry of public security. Two people being held hostage by the attackers were freed, To added, while another person being held managed to free himself. The attacks on the police headquarters of both Ea Tieu and Ea Ktur communes occurred in the early hours of Sunday, according to the official website of the ministry of public security. The site said a number of people, including police, local officials and civilians, were killed and wounded but did not provide exact figures. Investigators were searching for more suspects, it added. Police could not be reached for comment. The Central Highlands, home to a number of ethnic minorities, is considered a sensitive area for Vietnam’s authoritarian government and has long been a hotbed of discontent over issues that include land rights. Some tribes in the area – collectively known as Montagnards – sided with the US-backed south during Vietnam’s decades-long war. Some are calling for more autonomy, while others abroad advocate independence for the region.

## Thousands of dead fish wash ashore in U.S. Texas

HOUSTON (Agencies): Thousands of fish washed ashore along the Texas Gulf Coast due to “a low dissolved oxygen event” in warm water, US officials have said. Quintana Beach County Park officials said on Sunday that the species most impacted by this fish kill was the Gulf menhaden, adding that the pedestrian beach is mostly cleared with the “exception of a spattering of fish that the machinery couldn’t get”. Warm water holds much less oxygen than cold water, and fish that find themselves in warm water could end up in big trouble. “When the water temperature rises above 21 degrees Celsius (70 degrees Fahrenheit), it becomes hard for menhaden to receive enough oxygen to survive,” the statement said. “Shallow waters warm more quickly than deeper, so if a school of menhaden are trapped in the shallows as the water begins to heat, the fish will start to suffer from hypoxia.”



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## Magnitude 5.0 quake hits S. Africa’s largest province

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies): A 5.0-magnitude earthquake on Sunday struck near Johannesburg, shaking buildings across South Africa’s most populous province, the Unites States Geological Survey reported. The tremor struck at 2:38 am (0038 GMT) around 10 kilometres (six miles) below the surface, the USGS said. Buildings shook across the province of Gauteng, where Johannesburg, the country’s largest city and commercial hub, is located. Residents across the province felt the tremor and some posted pictures on social media showing minor structural damages of walls. Emergency services department reported neither casual-

ties nor injuries but said its disaster management teams would remain on standby. Johannesburg emergency services spokeswoman Xolile Khumalo warned residents to “be on alert in case after tremors occur, (as) these tend to be more dangerous than the initial earthquake”. The epicentre of what the provincial weather services described as a “relatively long tremor” was at Boksburg, small a town located about 20 kilometres east of Johannesburg. In August 2014, a 5.3 magnitude earthquake hit a gold mining town near Johannesburg. The last major quake to hit South Africa was a 6.3-magnitude tremor that struck the Western Cape province in 1969.

## The painstaking task of identifying WWI dead

LOOSENGOHELLE (Agencies): At least 600,000 soldiers who died in France during the First World War are still officially missing, their resting places unknown and unmarked. While the passage of time renders the task of recovering the lost war dead increasingly complex, it is still possible to identify a few of the fallen. The first step to is to determine whether discovered remains are really those of a soldier from WWI. Researchers use the state of the remains and scraps of uniform or equipment to check that the skeleton doesn’t date from an earlier period or is evidence of a crime scene. Then they try to ascertain the soldier’s nationality. “The best sources of proof are metal-reinforced leather boots, which preserve well and are different depending on the country,” said Stephan Naji, head of the recovery unit at Commonwealth



War Graves Commission (CWGC). His team in the Calais region of northern France is regularly contacted when remains are discovered. Soldiers who are uncontestedly French or German are handed over to France’s War Veteran’s Office (ONAC) or Germany’s VDK war graves agency. “If there’s a military plaque with a name of it and proof of next of kin, the soldier’s descendants can repatriate him to his family home or they can let the state bury him in a national cemetery,” said ONAC’s Stephane Jocquel.

## Israel: New bill to detain PA officials active in Jerusalem



Israel’s Ministerial Committee for Legislation yesterday discussed a draft law stipulating the detention of Palestinian Authority (PA) officials who are active in occupied Jerusalem, Arab48 reported. The detention in the proposed law is based on the claims that action by PA officials in Jerusalem violates Israel’s sovereignty in occupied East Jerusalem. Religious Zionist Party MK Zvi Sukkot proposed the bill claiming that it is part of the Oslo Accords, pointing out that the accords included a condition that the

PA officials must not interfere in Israel’s internal affairs. Sukkot said that this term remained dead because the Oslo Accords did not stipulate punishment for violators. The MK also claimed that many PA officials have interfered in the affairs of the Arabs in Israel, mainly in relation to the education system in the occupied city of Jerusalem. Sukkot proposed five years in prison for any PA official charged with interfering in the Israel’s internal affairs, and ten years in prison if the interference included threats.

## Mother of rescued Colombia children survived four days after jungle crash

BOGOTÁ (Agencies): The mother of the four Indigenous children rescued after 40 days lost in the Colombian jungle remained alive for four days before succumbing to her injuries suffered in the May 1 plane crash, her widower said Sunday. The Uitoto Indigenous children – ages 13, nine, five and one – were found alive Friday by rescuers, having wandered alone in the Amazon rainforest since the crash of a small Cessna 206 plane on which they were traveling with their mother, the pilot and another adult. All three adults died in the accident, but Manuel Miller Ranoque said his injured wife survived briefly – with their children beside her. “The one thing that (13-year-old Lesly) has cleared up for me is that, in fact, her mother was alive for four days,” Ranoque told reporters next to the military hospital in Bogota where the children are being cared for.

“Before she died, their mom told them something like, ‘You guys get out of here. You guys are going to see the kind of man your dad is, and he’s going to show you the same kind of great love that I have shown you.’” Magdalena Mucutuy, the children’s mother, was an Indigenous leader herself. It was in part down to the local knowledge of the children and Indigenous adults involved in the search alongside Colombian troops that the youths were ultimately found alive despite the threats of jaguars and snakes, and relentless downpours which may have prevented them from hearing possible calls from search parties. “The survival of the children is a sign of the knowledge and relationship with the natural environment that is taught starting in the mother’s womb,” according to the National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Colombia.

## First post-Covid jab claims land in German courts

FRANKFURT (Agencies): Vaccine-maker BioNTech faced Monday its first legal claim in its home country of Germany over adverse effects allegedly suffered by some users of its Covid vaccines, more than two years after one of the world’s fastest and most extensive inoculation campaigns. In the face of the deadly pandemic that emerged in early 2020, which prompted border closures and lockdowns that trapped millions of people in their homes, the arrival of Covid vaccines had been widely hailed as a life-saver. But the jabs, which had been developed at breakneck speed and granted early approval for usage, are now the focus of legal procedures in several countries including France and Britain where plaintiffs argue that the vaccines harmed their health. In Germany, a court in Hamburg was prepared to hear a case from Monday against BioNTech, which, together with US giant Pfizer, produced the first mRNA vaccine Comirnaty. The hearing was delayed however after the claimant’s lawyers put in a last-minute challenge of the judge’s impartiality, and asking instead for a panel of judges to rule on the case. In her claim, the plaintiff reported suffering effects including “pain in the upper body, swelling of the extremities, exhaustion, fatigue and sleeping disorders” after receiving the vaccine, the court said. She is seeking 150,000 euros (\$162,000) in damages and recognition that the “defendant is bound to provide material damages”, the court added. Her lawyer Thomas Ulbrich, who is also representing another 250 people in similar cases, said his clients were “all healthy” before suffering from symptoms, allegedly following their jabs.

## Cholera epidemic over in Lebanon: Health Ministry



The Lebanese Ministry of Public Health announced yesterday that the cholera epidemic has ended in the country, with no new infections recorded since the end of February. The ministry noted that the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends announcing the end of a cholera outbreak no less than four weeks after the last laboratory-confirmed recorded case, adding that its decision is based on the opinion of the National Committee for Communicable Diseases, according to the statement. Last October, the Lebanese Ministry of Health recorded the first cholera infection in the country for the first time in three decades. The epidemic constituted a big challenge for Lebanon which I has been struggling through what the World Bank has said is one of world’s worst financial crises in over a century.

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