



Taliban's treatment of women could be 'gender apartheid': UN

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): The plight of women and girls in Afghanistan featured prominently at the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday where UN-appointed rights experts warned of systematic "gender apartheid" and "gender persecution". Volker Turk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, expressed similar concerns on the opening day of the Council's summer session, adding the de facto authorities had "dismantled the most fundamental principles of human rights, particularly for women and girls". In a joint report presented to the Council by the Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, the experts, Richard Bennett and Dorothy Estrada-Tanck, said their plight was among the worst in the world. Their report calls on the de facto authorities to respect and restore women's and girls' human rights. It also urges the interna-



tional community and the UN to pay greater attention to widespread discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan. "We also draw to the Council's attention our deep concern that these serious deprivations of women's and girls' fundamental human rights and the harsh enforcement by the de facto authorities of their restrictive measures may constitute the crime against humanity of gender persecution," said Bennett. "Grave, systematic and in-

stitutionalized discrimination against women and girls is at the heart of Taliban ideology and rule, which also gives rise to concerns that they may be responsible for gender apartheid." Echoing those concerns, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif insisted that despite repeated assertions to the contrary by the de-facto authorities, "over the past 22 months, every aspect of women's and girls' lives has been restricted. They are discriminated against in every way." Bennett, who visited Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan to fulfill his Special Rapporteur mandate, confirmed that he was unable to report improvements in the human rights situation "certainly not for women and girls whose predicament has only worsened, nor for others in the population who are marginalized, associated with the former Islamic Republic, or who resist or even disagree with the Taliban's ideology".

Small sub used to tour Titanic wreck is missing: US

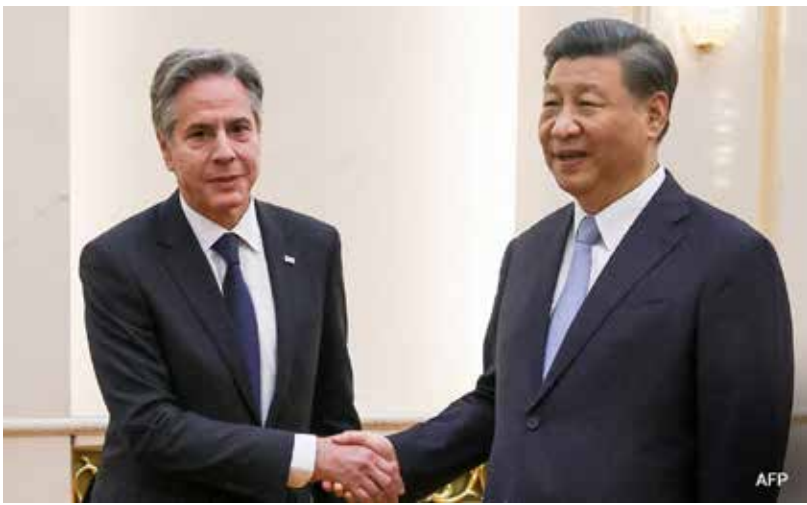


Washington (AFP/APP): A submersible vessel used to take tourists to see the wreckage of the Titanic in the North Atlantic has gone missing, triggering a search-and-rescue operation, the US Coast Guard said Monday. It was not immediately known how many people are on the vessel, operated by a company called OceanGate Expeditions. "Yes, we're searching for it," said an official from the US Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in Boston. On its website OceanGate Expedition says an expedition to the Titanic site was "currently underway." In a statement quoted by CBS News and other media outlets, OceanGate Expeditions said: "Our entire focus is on the crewmembers in the submersible and their families." It was not known if any tourists were onboard. The Guardian newspaper said there were five people on the vessel. OceanGate was not immediately reachable. In the statement it added that it was "deeply thankful for the extensive assistance we have received from several government agencies and deep sea companies in our efforts to re-establish contact with the submersible." The Canadian Coast Guard said it is taking part in the search effort with a fixed wing plane and a ship sent to the search area. The Titanic hit an iceberg and sank in 1912 during its maiden voyage from England to New York with 2,224 passengers and crew on board. More than 1,500 people died in the tragedy. The wreckage is in two main pieces 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, under 12,500 feet (3,800 meters) of water.

Woman who woke up during own funeral dies in hospital

An Ecuadorian woman has died in hospital just days after she stunned mourners at her wake by knocking from the inside of her coffin after she had been mistakenly declared as deceased by a doctor. Bella Montoya, 76, died last week in the Ecuadorian city of Babahoyo, or so doctors thought, before she made it clear to guests at her wake that reports of her death had been very much premature. Montoya was swiftly removed from what was intended to be her eternal resting place and rushed back to hospital where her condition was upgraded to 'alive.' But after seven days of treatment she died, for good, this time.

President Xi meets with US Secretary of State Blinken



BEIJING (APP): Chinese President Xi Jinping met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Great Hall of People's here on Monday. During the meeting, President Xi pointed out that the world was developing and the times were changing, and the world needed a generally stable China-US relationship, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. He said, "Whether the two countries can find the right way to get along bears on the future and destiny of humanity. Planet Earth is big enough to accommodate the respective development and common prosperity of China and the United States. He said the Chinese, like the Americans, were dignified, confident and self-reliant people. "They both have the right to pursue a better life. The common interests of the two countries should be valued, and their respective success is an opportunity instead of a threat to each other. "The international community is generally concerned about the current state of China-U.S. relations. It does not want to see conflict or confrontation between China and the United States or choose sides between the two countries. It expects the two countries to coexist in peace and have friendly and cooperative relations. "The two countries should act with a sense of responsibility for history, for the people and for the world, and handle China-US relations properly. In this way, they may contribute to global peace and development, and help make the world, which is changing and turbulent, more stable, certain and constructive." President Xi stressed that the major-country competition did not represent the trend of the times, still less it could solve America's own problems or the challenges facing the world. "China respects US interests and does not seek to challenge or displace the United States. In the same vein, the

United States needs to respect China and must not hurt China's legitimate rights and interests. Neither side should try to shape the other side by its own will, still less deprive the other side of its legitimate right to development. "China always hopes to see a sound and steady China-US relationship and believes that the two major countries can overcome various difficulties and find the right way to get along based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation." He called on the US side to adopt a rational and pragmatic attitude, and work with China in the same direction. President Xi pointed out that the two sides needed to remain committed to the common understandings he and President Biden had reached in Bali, and translate the positive statements into actions so as to stabilize and improve China-US relations. Secretary Blinken conveyed President Biden's greetings to President Xi. He said, "President Biden believes that the United States and China have an obligation to responsibly manage their relations. This is in the interest of the United States, China and the world. "The United States is committed to returning to the agenda set by the two presidents in Bali. The United States stands by the commitments made by President Biden, namely the United States does not seek a new Cold War, it does not seek to change China's system, its alliances are not directed at China, it does not support "Taiwan independence", and it does not seek conflict with China. "The US side looks forward to having high-level engagement with the Chinese side, keeping open lines of communication, responsibly managing differences, and pursuing dialogue, exchanges and cooperation." President Xi asked Secretary Blinken to convey his regards to President Biden.

Israel to build fibre-optic link between Europe and Asia

JERUSALEM (Reuters): Israel will build a 254-kilometre (158 mile) fibre-optic cable between the Mediterranean and Red Sea, creating a continuous link between Europe and countries in the Gulf and Asia, the Finance Ministry said on Sunday. State-owned energy group EAPC will build the cable along the route of an oil pipeline it operates across Israel from the Mediterranean port of Ashkelon to Eilat on the northern Red Sea, the ministry said

in a statement. The project, said EAPC Chief Executive Itzik Levy, "will position Israel as a communication land bridge connecting the Gulf countries and Asia to Europe." The cable will hook up to subsea cables that reach Israel's shores. It will be available to any telecom company licensed in Israel under a 25-year lease, the ministry said. EAPC, or the Europe Asia Pipeline Company, offers its pipeline as an alternative to the Suez Canal.

Mexico bakes under killer heat wave

Mexico City (AFP/APP): Roberto de Jesus, a day laborer, stands beside the cathedral in Mexico City sweating a river as he waits for work, while homemaker Wendy Tijerina tries in vain to keep her food from spoiling. The latest blast of a heat wave that has killed eight people in Mexico is making life very difficult for millions of people. De Jesus, a 50-year-old construction worker, positions himself beside the Metropolitan Cathedral in the capital city, which saw a record temperature of 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) this week. He is braving the third heat wave to hit Mexico this year, and forecasters say the latest blazing temperatures could last another two weeks. It is noon and the streets and buildings of the sprawling, crowd-

ed metropolis are positively roasting. There are people everywhere, cars and smog everywhere, in which makes for a suffocating atmosphere. "The heat hits really hard, it really affects you. While waiting for work it even makes you sleepy," said De Jesus. He stands outside the cathedral up to nine hours a day hoping someone hires him for the day. The worst part is if the gig is outdoors. "We suffocate," he said. But it is not just work that becomes challenging in these conditions. Eating from food stalls in the street - a time-honored Mexican custom - becomes risky because the heat is spoiling the food. De Jesus got a taste of this recently and missed three days of work. "I got sick in the stomach from tacos I ate in the street," he said.

UK lawmakers set to punish ex-PM Johnson for 'Partygate lies'

London (AFP/APP): British MPs vote Monday on a damning report that found ex-prime minister Boris Johnson deliberately lied to parliament about lockdown-breaking parties, in what the government hopes will be the final chapter in the damaging "Partygate" scandal. The parliamentary vote is being held on Johnson's 59th birthday as the wounded former leader ponders his next move, with allies predicting a future return to the electoral fray. It also comes at a time of mounting political problems for Rishi Sunak's Conservative government as stubbornly high inflation and constantly rising interest

rates inflict economic pain on voters. The populist architect of Brexit, Johnson led the Conservative party to a landslide victory at the last general election in December 2019. But he was forced to quit as prime minister last July due to Partygate and a string of other scandals. Johnson has rejected the report by parliament's Privileges Committee, claiming he has been the victim of a stitch-up by political opponents and a "kangaroo court". The committee in a scathing 106-page report on Thursday found him guilty of "repeated contempts (of parliament) and... seeking to undermine the parliamentary process".

UN to finally adopt high seas treaty

United Nations (AFP/APP): The world's first international treaty to protect the high seas is due to be adopted Monday at the United Nations, a historic environmental accord designed to protect remote ecosystems vital to mankind. "It will be a huge accomplishment, one that we've already celebrated with the finalization of the text in March. But the adoption formalizes that, and really sets the pathway for the next steps," Liz Karan, of the NGO Pew Charitable Trusts, told AFP. The landmark treaty will establish a legal framework to extend swathes of environmental protections to international waters, which make up more than 60 percent of the world's oceans. Following more than 15 years of discussions, including four years of formal negotiations, UN member states finally agreed on the text for the treaty in March after a flurry of final, marathon talks. The text, since frozen, has been pored over by the UN's lawyers and translators to make sure it matches in the body's six official languages. "Healthy oceans, from coastal waters to remote high



seas and deep seabed areas, are integral to human health, wellbeing, and survival," a group of scientists noted in The Lancet journal. Scientists have increasingly come to realize the importance of oceans, which produce most of the oxygen we breathe, limit climate change by absorbing CO2, and host rich areas of biodiversity, often at the microscopic level. But with so much of the world's oceans lying outside of individual countries' exclusive economic zones, and thus the jurisdiction of any single state, providing protection for the so-called "high seas" requires international cooperation.

World Bank approves 250-mln-USD financing to support Jordan's water services

AMMAN (Xinhua/APP): The World Bank Group announced on Sunday that it has approved 250 million U.S. dollars in financing to improve the efficiency of water services in Jordan. The project, which seeks to provide 1.6 million people with improved water services

across the country, will help enhance services through the rehabilitation of water distribution networks, improving energy efficiency and strengthening the drought management system in the country, according to a statement by the World Bank.

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.

Measures taking to develop underprivileged, neglected districts in KP: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, on Sunday said that steps are being taken to bring underprivileged and neglected districts on par with developed areas of the province. The Malakand Division, particularly the district Dir, is blessed with natural beauty, and promoting tourism in the region will create employment opportunities for the local population. In this regard, it is crucial for local officials and youth to play their role in promoting tourist activities. Governor Haji Ghulam Ali expressed these views during a meeting here at Governor House with a 28-member delegation, consisting of elected chairpersons, councilors, and representatives from political parties, including the Peoples Party of Pakistan, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Awami National Party. The delegation, led by Chairman Maulana Ashfaq Hanafi, apprised the Governor of various issues related to the Dir district and highlighted the challenges faced by local

municipalities. Governor Haji Ghulam Ali assured the delegation of his full cooperation in finding solutions to their problems. He said that the provincial government is committed to ensure equal development in all urban and rural areas of the province. Furthermore, the federal government is also providing assistance to expedite the development process. The Governor said that local representatives are closest to the people and, therefore, funds have been allocated in the budget for elected municipal representatives to initiate developmental projects at the grassroots level. Governor Haji Ghulam Ali urged the elected representatives from all districts, especially those from northern areas, to promote the natural resources of their respective regions not only at the national level but also worldwide. He said that the scenic beauty of these areas is a gift of Allah, and it is the responsibility of the government to promote both tourism and sustainable population growth.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Governor for his cooperation and assured him of their commitment to resolving the issues at hand. In addition, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali attended the Star Property Show organized under the auspices of Star Marketing at a local hotel in Peshawar. The event showcased 22 major housing and construction projects. Addressing the gathering, the Governor appreciated the private sector's enthusiastic investment in the housing sector, which not only provides employment opportunities but also reduces the burden on the government to provide housing solutions. He urged investors in the construction industry to ensure that modern standards are met and to prioritize the provision of recreational and sports facilities for the people. He acknowledged the services of the construction sector, which plays a significant role in providing employment opportunities and introducing innovative architectural designs in the country.

KP CM chairs meeting, finalizes proposals of expenditures

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting in which he finalised proposals regarding the proposed expenditures both of current and development sides during the first four months of the upcoming financial year. The proposed expenditures would be presented to the caretaker provincial cabinet for authorisation. Besides caretaker cabinet members Hamid Shah and Himayatullah Khan, the meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Secretary Finance, Muhammad Ayaz and other relevant high ups. The meeting was given detailed briefing about various aspects of the current and development expenditures to be incurred during the first four months of the fiscal year 2023-24.

The meeting also finalised various proposals regarding austerity measures with the aim to create maximum fiscal space for development. These proposed measures would also be presented to the caretaker cabinet for final approval. The proposals contain short term, mid term and long term measures to create more and more fiscal space. For this purpose, a special meeting of the provincial caretaker cabinet would be held on 20th instant, it was decided in the meeting. Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister said that proposed expenditures for the first four months of the upcoming financial year, have been finalised in a very prudent manner in the prevailing financial constraints being faced by the provincial government, adding that the provincial caretaker setup, from the very first day of its inception, had been struggling hard to steer the province out of this financial crunch.

Narcotics social scourge, govt, people work together with missionary spirit for uprooting. Manzoor Afridi

PESHAWAR (APP):Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi on Sunday said that Narcotics are an ugly social scourge wherein the government and the people must work together with a missionary spirit to uproot it from society. He was talking to a delegation of Dir Welfare Organization, that called on him in Peshawar under the leadership of its president Haji Sultan Yusuf alias Dir Lalaji the delegation also included Chairman Executive Body Haji Muhammad Saeed, General Secretary Master Zahir Shah and other officials. The delegation drew the minister's attention to certain public welfare and civic issues and wors, which were thoroughly discussed, while Haji Manzoor Afridi assured them of their proper redressal. The delegation also informed the provincial minister about the growing epidemic of narcotics that was infused in our youth especially. It was told that new types of drugs are spreading like poison in Peshawar as elsewhere in other parts of the province and appealed that emergency measures be taken at the government level to control

this monster, while in some places it was also pointed out that complaints existing about the presence of suppliers in addition to drug addicts in certain suburbs of the city. The minister directed the Excise and Narcotics Control Secretary to take immediate action with tangible results in this regard. Similarly, the delegation requested the provincial minister to exempt small housing units up to five marlas from property tax, to which he said that the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been already approached in this respect and it is expected that he will announce the good news to the people soon.The delegation also apprised him about the issues being faced by the people in the registration and transfer of houses and commercial properties in Peshawar, especially the problems of Khana e Kasht issue, to which the minister replied that though it's concerned with the Revenue Department he would surely contact the related quarters to solve it accordingly. The delegation drew the provincial minister's attention to the improvement of recreational facilities in Peshawar city and also complained that due to several restrictions,

people could not use the available park facilities. The minister clarified that he has already discussed it with the Provincial Minister of Local Government, Barrister Sawal Nazir, and it has been decided that the ladies and gentlemen who come for morning walks in parks of Peshawar city till 8 am. Entry will be absolutely free so citizens should take full advantage of this relief. According to this decision, he said, no gate fee will be charged from the public in Hazar Khawani Park and no gate pass will be required so citizens can use the walking track and exercise equipment free of cost in addition to morning walks in the park. About other problems at Hazar Khawani Park, the minister said that he will visit there in the next two to three days along with the Local Government Minister to take immediate steps to solve these public issues for good. The delegation also apprised the provincial minister about other public welfare projects, health and sanitation, drinking water and education facilities, for which Haji Manzoor Afridi issued orders to the relevant authorities for its proper resolution.

PML-N steers out country of difficulties: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday said that under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the country was steered out of difficulties; otherwise, the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had plunged the nation into chaos. Addressing at Shakas district Khyber after Alhaj Shaji Gul joining PML-N, Amir Muqam said that during Imran Khan's government, the prices of all commodities, including essential items were out of control but when PML-N came into power, the economic situation was stabilized. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif effectively managed the prices of essential items, resulting in a noticeable decrease, and during Ramazan, free flour was distributed among the poor and needy. Amir Muqam highlighted that it was the PML-N government that

brought reforms in the tribal areas and incorporated tribal districts into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa based on the demands of the local population and elected representatives. He assured that the future governments, both in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and at the federal level, would be formed by the Pakistan Muslim League, ensuring the welfare of tribal communities and undertaking developmental projects in the region. He added that tribal districts and the Malakand Division had been designated as tax-free zones for one year to promote their development on par with other regions. Amir Muqam said that after joining of Shaji Gul Afridi in PMLN, the party would be strengthen more. Former MNA Haji Shaji Gul Afridi, formr MPAs Bilawal Afridi, Haji Shafiq Sher Afridi, Tehsil Chairman Haji Syed Nawab Afridi, and Tehsil Chairman Landikotal Haji Shah Khalid Afridi also addressed the meeting.

Green Youth Movement (GYM) Club takes a stand for Ecotourism: Ayubia National Park receives a visit from 50 enthusiastic participants



AYUBIA (Staff Report): In a remarkable initiative to promote ecotourism and environmental awareness, the Green Youth Movement (GYM) club organized a visit to Ayubia National Park. Led by the renowned environmentalist, Dr. Muhammad Rafiq, the club members engaged in various activities to appreciate and preserve the natural beauty of the park. The visit to Ayubia National Park, located in the picturesque surroundings of Nathia Gali, served as a platform for GYM club members to actively contribute to the conservation of our natural resources. With the aim of nurturing a sense of responsibility towards the environment, approximately 50 participants from the club embarked on this remarkable journey. The day was filled with valuable activities, the first of which was a comprehensive garbage collection drive within the park. Armed with gloves and trash bags, the enthusiastic participants diligently collected litter and waste materials, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness and preserving the park's pristine environment. Additionally, the GYM club members took the initiative to raise awareness among visitors and locals alike. With eye-catching placards and informative brochures in hand, they embarked on an awareness campaign in and around the vicinity of Ayubia National Park. Their efforts aimed to educate people about the significance of ecotourism and the need

for sustainable practices to protect our natural heritage. Commenting on the successful event, Dr. Muhammad Rafiq expressed his gratitude towards the club members and their commitment to environmental conservation. He stated, "It is heartening to witness the dedication and passion of our youth in safeguarding our planet. The Green Youth Movement club's visit to Ayubia National Park is a testament to their unwavering spirit and their determination to preserve our natural treasures." The GYM club's visit to Ayubia National Park highlights the urgent need for society to prioritize ecological preservation. By instilling environmental values and raising awareness among the youth, GYM club members are paving the way for a greener, sustainable future. - About Green Youth Movement (GYM): The Green Youth Movement (GYM) is a dedicated organization comprising environmentally conscious individuals who are committed to raising awareness about environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices. With a mission to educate and inspire young individuals, GYM strives to foster a sense of responsibility towards the planet and encourage active participation in environmental conservation. For media inquiries, please contact: Name: Bakhtiyar Khan Organization: Green Youth Movement (GYM) Phone: +92 5861024-26 (413)

Emergency Numbers	
Organization	Phone No
Rescue 1122 HQrs	091-2264224-25
Rescue 1122 Mardan	0937-9230770
Fire Brigade Cantt:	091-9212534
Fire Brigade City	091-2566666
Police Emergency	091-9212222
Edhi Ambulance	091-2214575
Red Crescent Ambulance	091-2210836
Emergency Ambulance	091-2590846
Civil Defence, Peshawar	091-9212176
Lady Reading Hospital	091-9211430
HMC Peshawar	091-9217140-46
KTH Peshawar	091-9216340-8
Irnam Hospital	091-9216115
Mission Hospital	091-2212371
Al-Khidmat Hospital	091-2215945
Fauji Foundation Hospital	091-9212771-4
Frontier Foundation Blood Services	091-5703463
Hamza Foundation, Peshawar	091-5841632
Sui Gas, Peshawar	091-9213016
Wapda Complaint Peshawar	091-9212041
PIA, Peshawar	091-9213351
Airport Inquiry	114
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Anti-measles campaign started in KP 14 districts: EPI

PESHAWAR (APP): Director Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Muhammad Arif, here on Monday said that the anti-Measles campaign has commenced from June 19 to 24, 2023 in 14 districts of the province. The primary objective of this campaign is to vaccinate approximately 900,000

children aged between six months and five years against the measles virus, he said. The director of EPI urged all parents to collaborate with the EPI teams and ensured that their children receive the measles vaccination.This crucial step is essential to safeguard their little ones from dangerous and potentially life-threatening diseases.

Population explosion poses socioeconomic challenges: CM aide

PESHAWAR (Agencies): Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Population Welfare Syed Jarrar Hussain Bukhari visited District Population Welfare Office Swat and that population explosions were posing different socioeconomic challenges that could be tackled through the adoption of family planning techniques. He said this during a briefing given by District

Population Welfare Officer Asim Zia Kakakhel about the organizational structure, field formation, activities and performance of the department at the district level. Syed Jarrar Hussain Bukhari expressed satisfaction with the performance and emphasized that more attention should be paid to creating awareness regarding the adverse effects of overpopulation.

Responsibility for promotion of peace, harmony rests on every member of society: KP IGP

PESHAWAR (Agencies): The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan has said that heavy responsibility rests on every member of the society as per status and positi on for promoting brotherhood and harmony, saying that everyone should wholeheartedly demonstrate for peace and tranquility in the society. Talking to a delegation of ulema of different schools of thoughts here at Central Police Office (CPO) on Monday, the police chief pointed out that the protection of lives, honour and property of the general public without any discrimination was the prime responsibility of police added that coherence, brotherhood and harmony amongst different sects was the need of the hour.

The IGP informed that ulema played a pivotal role in making public opinion and character building of its followers and urged them to forge unity in their ranks and foil the nefarious designs of the anti-social elements well in time. The IGP said that we belong to this country and it was our moral obligation to work for the prosperity and development of the country. He said that solid steps are being taken to establish writ of the government in each and every corner of the province, added that especially in this regard abandoned police posts have been made functional in southern districts of the province. The IGP categorically made it clear that there was no room for bad elements in the force.



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Commander Iran Navy Calls On Air Chief

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, Commander of Islamic Republic of Iran Navy called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office. The meeting was focused on areas of mutual interest and regional developments. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted that the advancement in space, electronic warfare, cyber and niche technologies coupled with artificial intelligence had profoundly affected the traditional environment of national security. He briefed the visiting dignitary about various ongoing projects being carried out by Pakistan Air Force with special focus on modernization and development of indigenous capabilities. The Air Chief also emphasized that Pakistan and Iran enjoy longstanding religious, cultural and



historical bonds which are manifested through strong ties between both the countries. Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, Commander of Islamic Republic of Iran Navy commended the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by Pakistan Air Force on its path to modernization. He also appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for regional stability and pledged

to play his role for further improvement in military-to-military ties especially in the domains of operations, training and aviation industry. The meeting between Chief of the Air Staff and Commander of Islamic Republic of Iran Navy is a testament of the deep-rooted friendship and unwavering commitment between the two nations to work towards a peaceful and stable region.

GACA Inspection of Islamabad International Airport (IIAP)-Update

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Third leg and final leg of the GACA Inspection has started in Islamabad. A seven-member GACA team led by inspector Mr. Mohammed Alajmi conducting assessment of IIAP Islamabad. The team is inspecting the application of security measures by security service providers including ASF, Airlines, GHA, Catering and Cargo Handlers. The team was received by Directorate of Security CAA (Regulatory) and Airport Management IIAP and was briefed about the airport including its geography, layout, passenger and flight statistics and security procedures. CAA appreciated Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Road to Makkah initiative and its benefits to the pilgrims from Pakistan as immigration is done at Islamabad International Airport. Pakistani side expressed its desire for the extension of this facility to Karachi and Lahore Airport. The GACA team agreed



to recommend the said extension request to KSA Government. Satisfactory completion of the inspection will lead to an increased number of flights to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The team will also inspect Peshawar Airport in this third leg of the visit. Parallel to the inspection, Lead GACA Inspector Mohammed Alajmi and Director Security CAA Air Cdre (R) Shahid Qadir met with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador H. E.

Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, the ambassador appreciated CAA for arranging visit to all the airports in an extremely warmly manner depicting the close brotherly ties between the two countries. He also expressed that this visit and PCAA's warm response will take the aviation ties between the two countries to a new and stronger level. He was also very appreciative of Ministry of Aviation for its effort to make the visit a success.

'Saqafti Mela' concludes with prestigious, colorful closing ceremony

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A "Saqafti Mela" concluded here on Monday at Shakarparian with a prestigious and colourful closing ceremony along with shield and certificate distributions. Ameer Muqam adviser of cultural heritage was the chief guest on the occasion, said a news release. Lok Virsa Executive Director, Muzaffar Ali Burki thanked all heads of cultural departments, craftspeople, folk artists, and musicians for their cooperation with Lok Virsa for making the national event a great success. Adviser Ameer Muqam also addressed the audience. During the closing ceremony, a number of certificates and shields were given to the most authentic craftsmen and craftswomen on the recommendation of a jury constituted by Lok Virsa comprising knowledgeable experts in the field of art and culture. The five-day Mela pulled a big crowd throughout and featured artisans-at-work, folkloric song and dance performances, a craft bazaar, theatre performances and many other attractions. The craftsman & folk arts have fully participated in the Mela by way of presenting their beautiful indigenous culture, arts, crafts, music and cuisine in specially designed pavilions symbolizing their respective historical monuments, contributing art, music and entertainment activities. The chief guest gave away the shields and certificates to the participating cultural departments, print and electronic media, and ICT administration. Cultural and musical performances were also presented during the ceremony, which was greatly enjoyed by the audience. A large number of art, craft and music lovers cultural personalities, media persons and the general public attended the event and enjoyed a lot.

Askari Tower attack: ATC sends Khadija Shah to jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and fashion designer Khadija Shah, to jail on 14-day judicial remand in Askari Tower attack case. Earlier, Khadija Shah, a daughter of ex-advisor to chief minister Punjab Salman Shah, was produced before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan from jail.

Tang Pakistan Orchestrates Remarkable Dragon Boat Festival, Fostering Bilateral Cultural Integration

Islamabad (Adnan Hameed): Tang Pakistan, a distinguished ed-tech SAAS company rooted in China, proudly organized the Dragon Boat Festival that captivated attendees with its profound display of Chinese culture seamlessly interwoven with the spirit of friendship and compassion between Pakistan and China. This awe-inspiring event took place on 17th June 2023 in Islamabad, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those in attendance. Gracing the occasion as the esteemed Chief Guest was Engineer Liaquat Ali Jamro, from Sindh TEVTA, whose presence served as a testament to the significance of this cultural exchange. Furthermore, the event was graced by the Director of the Nust China Study Center, Ms. Xiangyang, who delivered a succinct and enlightening introduction to the historical origins of the Dragon Boat Festival, offering attendees a glimpse into its rich heritage. Adding an enchanting melodic charm to the festivities, Mr. Max Ma and Mr. Yasir Zoraiz delighted the audience with their stunning performances, showcasing beautiful songs in Chinese and Urdu. Their soulful renditions promoted friendship between Pakistan and China and embodied the harmonious symphony that arises when two cultures intertwine. The talented ensemble from the Rang Music and Art School performed stirring Pakistani Classical music, illuminating Pakistani culture's profound depths to our esteemed Chinese friends. Tang Pakistan takes immense pride in fostering such a vibrant cultural exchange, creating awareness of the rich tapestry of Chinese heritage and facilitating a deep understanding between nations. This Dragon Boat Festival stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of friendship and compassion that binds Pakistan and China together.



Senate body on housing discusses wide range of issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works was held on Monday to discuss a wide range of issues. The meeting, held at the Parliament House, was chaired by Senator Haji Hidayatullah and attended by Senators Falak Naz, Khalida Ateeq, Fida Muhammad, Saifullah Abro, Afnanullah Khan, Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri and senior officials of the Ministry of Housing and Works along with its attached departments and agencies. The forum discussed the status of affidavits received from PWD officers wherein they provided an undertaking that they owned no residence in Islamabad, briefing on the legal opinion obtained by the Ministry of Law and Justice regarding cancellation of existing lease agreements at any stage or otherwise prior to the completion of a lease period and matters related to commercial business properties in Karachi. Similarly, the report on 8,200 Kanals of the land of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBAP) and property-wise details on account of payments made along with complete details of the hiring process of M/S Urban Unit Lahore as Surveyor also came under discussion. While discussing the status of affidavits of officers from PWD, the Committee was informed that out of a total of 55 persons 49 had submitted the required document,

whereas five of these have retired and one has voluntarily vacated the accommodation. The matter has been 100 percent complied with. Briefing on the legal opinion obtained by the Ministry of Law and Justice regarding the cancellation of existing lease agreements at any stage or otherwise prior to the completion of the lease period pertaining to commercial business properties in Karachi, the Committee was informed by the Ministry of Law and Justice that it could not give any specific advice on the matter since the issue was very vast. It further briefed that the rental laws of the province would have to be revisited to provide any insight on the subject. The Estate Office informed the Committee that a total of nine petrol pump sites and 216 federal shops are available in Karachi. The Committee was told that Shop Rental Auction Policy 2017 was in force wherein the procedure of Auction is elaborated and adopted accordingly. The Auction Committee has already been constituted by the Ministry of Housing and Works. Deliberating over details pertaining to 8,200 Kanals of the land of SCBAP and property-wise BUP details on account of payments, the Committee deferred the matter as the briefing agendas lacked important information. The Committee directed the ministry to come prepared in the next meeting and brief it on both agendas in detail.

Equitable financial share for merged areas in NFC to expedite pace of economic development: Seminar

PESHAWAR (Agencies): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Secretary Muhammad Ayaz here Monday emphasized the need for pursuing an equitable financial share for the merged areas in the National Financial Commission (NFC) Award post-merger for its speedy growth and development. He said the development commitment for the merged areas under the Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP) was a significant step in the right direction and underlined the need for its swift release for prosperity of tribesmen. He was addressing a seminar organized by the KP Department of Finance where speakers deliberated on different issues to address the financing requirements for the development of the merged areas and build a con-

sensus among those willing to take forward the needs of the province. The seminar brought together key government stakeholders, politicians, and provincial cabinet members for a dialogue on the under-financing experienced by the merged areas and the possible short and long-term solutions. Himayat Ullah Khan, KP Advisor to Chief Minister on Finance, Energy and Power, reiterated the need to raise the issue of pursuing the due NFC share for the development of the merged areas on various forums. He pushed for improved collaboration between the political leadership and the bureaucratic system, as well as academia and the media to build public opinion and fulfill the promises made to people of the merged areas.

NA speaker urges global assistance in resolving refugee crisis

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): On the eve of World Refugee Day, Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf has underscored the necessity for a revitalized policy approach and appropriate allocation of resources to tackle the predicament faced by refugees on a global scale. In an official statement, the Speaker acknowledged the hardships endured by refugees worldwide and emphasized on the urgent need to address their circumstances and provide essential resources. Refugees, as remarked by Speaker Ashraf, represent the most vulnerable victims of conflicts and wars, grappling not only with the loss of their homes and livelihoods but also with the challenges of poverty and economic disparity. The Speaker, thereof called for

collaborative efforts on an international level to support developing nations that have generously welcomed large populations of displaced individuals. He further highlighted Pakistan's longstanding commitment to hosting millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades, applauding the remarkable generosity, hospitality, and compassion displayed by the people of Pakistan towards these refugees. Considering the compounded challenges arising from socio-economic issues, Speaker Ashraf stressed the urgent requirement for increased international commitment in providing regular, predictable, and adequate funding to support Afghan refugees and facilitate their safe and dignified repatriation.

Pakistani products attract visitors at SCO expo

BEIJING (APP): Visitors flocked to the Pakistan National Pavilion at the 2023 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo held in Qingdao, China, where more than 20 Pakistani merchants displayed their goods. The Permanent Pakistan National Pavilion at the SCODA Pearl International Expo Center, authorized by the Embassy of Pakistan in China and operated by the Pakistan China Center at the SCO Demonstration Area, displays and sells nearly 200 Pakistani specialties, including food (biscuits, spices), tea, wooden crafts, onyx, bedding, hand-woven tapestries, silk scarves, leather bags, and salt lamps, etc. In addition to displaying and selling Pakistani products on the first floor, the Pakistan Pavilion also undertakes the tasks of China-Pakistan cultural and tourism exchange and serves as an e-commerce platform for Pakistani products. With an area of 512 square meters, the second floor of the pavilion is for livestreaming and e-commerce, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. Muhammad Kamil, Managing Director of Pak Link Enterprises, one of the resident merchants of the Pakistan Pavilion, expressed his "100 percent delight" at the

platform for promoting Pakistani handicrafts. "This highly anticipated exhibition has brought us new opportunities for international trade cooperation", he said. Wang Zihai, Pakistani Honorable Investment Counsellor highlighted that the expo has had a significant positive effect on the promotion of Pakistani products and culture. Besides the significant increase in turnover, an steady stream of visitors keep showing their interests in further understanding all aspects of the country. "Pakistan shares with SCO and its members deep-rooted historical and cultural links and strong economic and strategic complementarities. By working together, the stakeholders can address issues and lead to innovation and development of new technologies," Wang added that, "holding expos like this will go a long way for B2B cooperation amongst the member states." Coordinator FPCCI Head Office Karachi Sheikh Sultan Rehman underlined that the cooperation among SCO countries would boost not only trade and investment but also tourism and culture. "We call on more Pakistani enterprises to come to the Pakistan National Pavilion to display their products and expand exports", he concluded.

Fire breaks out in house due to gas leakage

RAWALPINDI (APP): At least four persons were injured when a fire broke out in a house due to gas leakage at Sagri Village, Mankiala road Road, Kallar Syedan here on Monday. Rescue 1122 teams immediately rushed to the scene. The blast occurred when a fire broke out

in a house in Kallar Syedan due to gas leakage. As a result, four members of a family identified as Azad 55, Dheeba 45, Zeeshan 06 and Zeeshan 03 received critical injuries and were shifted to hospital. However, the fire was extinguished after hectic efforts.

CPEC Success Story reflected in Karot Power Project,say Senators;

- Parliamentary Delegation lauds Green Development,
- Mushahid says time for course correction & regional connectivity to bid goodbye to IMF



Islamabad: (Staff Report): A Parliamentary Delegation visited the Karot Hydropower Project to commemorate its 1st Anniversary and celebrate the 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the 10 Years of BRI. The Delegation was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, also accompanied the delegation. This was the first of its kind Cross Party Parliamentary delegation to have visited the Karot Hydropower Project which included Senator Waleed Iqbal, Senator Taj Haider, Senator Sadia Abbasi, Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, Senator Rukhsana Zuberi, Mohammed Daha, MNA, Senator Pir Sabir Shah, and Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo. Moreover, journalists, bloggers, and students were also a part of this delegation. The Parliamentary delegation expressed admiration for the commitment of the Karot Hydropower Project to clean energy generation and its contribution to Pakistan's development agenda. They also acknowledged the project's pivotal role in meeting the country's energy-increasing demands while addressing environmental concerns. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Wang Minsheng, CEO of CSAIL, who delivered an introductory speech emphasizing the significance of the Karot Project and the operations underway to boost Pakistan's energy sector. He said that the Karot Hydropower Project is the flagship project of CPEC, featuring sincere cooperation and mutual benefit between China and Pakistan. Expanding on the project benefits he said, "With an annual generating capacity of about 3.2 billion kWh, the project is expected to save about 1.4 million tons of standard coal and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3.5 million tons each year, meeting the electricity needs of 5 million people in Pakistan." In an interview given to CCTV, Xinhua and Phoenix TV, the Head of the Parliamentary Delegation, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed appreciated the project team for the effective operation and maintenance of the Karot Hydropower Project. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of CPEC as the backbone of Pakistan's economic growth – voicing optimism regarding the CPEC and regional connectivity to ensure course correction to lessen Pakistan's dependency on IMF. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed also appreciated the CSR initiatives taken by the 3 Gorges company, in which the company supported a 60-bed THQ Hospital Kahuta, which serves 30,000 patients per month. In addition to the various schools, access roads, and other infrastructure supported by the Karat Project for its local communities. Senator Mushahid said through CPEC and regional economic and energy connectivity with Iran, Russia, Central Asian Republics and Gulf states like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar, Pakistan can

bid goodbye to the IMF. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, while welcoming the visit of the parliamentary delegation, termed it a consensus-building exercise and called for more such visits to other CPEC sites as well. In his view, these visits serve as providing first-hand information about facts and achievements on the ground, helping to refute the propaganda against CPEC in Pakistan. He said Karot has a 3-fold significance: Karot is a CPEC success story as it was completed a year ahead of schedule at less than the stipulated time, then Karot is about Clean Energy & Green Development, and finally, Karot has helped local communities to change their lives for the better through schools, hospitals, roads and infrastructure like bridges. Senator Waleed Iqbal, another delegation member, stated that the Karot Hydropower Project is the first large-scale hydropower project under the Belt and Road Initiative, emphasizing that its significance is not only for Pakistan but also for the regional development of Green Energy. Counsellor Bao Zhong from the Chinese embassy said that with the joint efforts of people from all walks of life in the two countries, the Karot Hydropower Project has made remarkable achievements, which strongly resonate with the spirit of the "Belt and Road" initiative joint consultation, joint construction and shared benefits. She said, "China is willing to work with Pakistan to earnestly implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and jointly promote the high-quality development of the Belt and Road". The delegation had the opportunity to examine key project components such as the spillway, dam structure, and powerhouse during their visit. China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGO) professionals presented technical briefings on project elements and environmental protection measures implemented in the project region. The delegation experienced the Karot HPP's cutting-edge technology and infrastructure for generating clean electricity from water resources. A group picture was taken to commemorate the occasion, capturing the shared enthusiasm between the parliamentary delegation and the project team. Commemorative shields marking the one-year anniversary of the Karot HPP were presented to the delegation members as souvenirs, symbolizing the fruitful collaboration between the government and project stakeholders. The Karot Project, with a capacity of 720 MW, has been developed and sponsored by the China Three Gorges South Asian Investment Limited (CSAIL), the investment arm of China Three Gorges Corporation managing investments in Pakistan. The Karot Hydropower Project is committed to maintaining the greatest levels of efficiency, sustainability, and community involvement. The visit by the Parliamentary delegation would further cement the project's position as a pioneering endeavor in Pakistan's clean energy sector.

Pakistan,Russia to hold 5th round of Bilateral Political Consultations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan and the Russian Federation will hold the 5th round of Bilateral Political Consultations here on Tuesday. The Russian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko will visit Islamabad on June 20-21. Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation. The two sides will review the state of bilater-

al relations, identify areas of mutual interest for further cooperation, and exchange views on important regional and global developments. Pakistan and Russia enjoy friendly relations marked by mutual respect, trust and understanding. The two countries are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.

AAA Associates unveiled its iconic Project "AAA OCTA 2", in the presence of renowned Celebrities

KARACHI*- Over the weekend, AAA Associates unveiled its most ambitious project to date - the AAA Octa 2 Karachi. This state-of-the-art development, located on the strategic M9 Karachi Motorway, was launched in a grand event including a dazzling array of celebrities from the entertainment industry. These celebrities included Mehvish Hayat, Mikal Zulfiqar, Faisal Qureshi, Bushra Ansari, Yunas Khan, Sheharyar Munwar, Ijaz Aslam, Hira Mani, Shehroz Sabzwari, Jannat Mirza, Ahmed Ali Akbar, Nida Yasir, Syed Jibran, Muneeb Butt, Momal Sheikh and Fatima Hassan. The shows were hosted by Ayesha Omer, Syed Shafat, Amna Malik, Ahmed Ali Butt, Zainab Abbas and Dino. The launching event had performances by Pakistan's globally renowned names as Ali Azmat, Ahmed Jahanzaib, Hadia Hashmi, Aima Baig & Faisal Kapadia. AAA Octa 2 Karachi brand ambassador Shahid Khan Afridi was also spotted on both days. Apart from the celebrities of tinsel town, it was attended by a diverse mix of people from all walks of life. The files were given to the nominees by their favourite actors who also interacted with the attendees at the event."We are proud to announce the launch of AAA Octa 2 Karachi, a testament to our commitment to not only enhance the living standards of the people but also contribute to the economy of our beloved city." Chairman AAA Associates Sheikh



Fawad Bashir expressed his gratitude to the attendees and assured that AAA Octa 2 Karachi will redefine premium living standards in Pakistan. "Karachi is the vein of Pakistan, a city that pulses with life and contributes significantly to the nation's GDP. Our goal with AAA Octa 2 Karachi is to reflect that energy and contribute to the city's prosperity," he quoted. "We assure you that AAA Octa 2 Karachi will be the best premium project you will see in Pakistan." MD AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) echoed the Chairman's sentiments, adding, "AAA Octa 2 Karachi is not just a testament to luxury living; it's a project rooted in the community. As we continue to develop and inno-

vate, we keep the city's essence and our residents' well-being at the heart of our project. This project will not only offer a luxurious lifestyle but also create meaningful employment opportunities for the people of Karachi." The AAA Octa 2 Karachi is the first building adjacent to the gate of Bahria Town Karachi on the M9 Motorway. This luxurious property raises the bar for premium accommodations in the city and is set to redefine the residential living experience. The M9 Motorway, a vital artery that connects Karachi to the rest of Pakistan, brings AAA Octa 2 Karachi into prime focus as a destination for both investors and future residents. This project, featuring serviced apartments managed by a five-star hotel for the first time, introduces a new level of opulence to residential living. It is equipped with world-class amenities, including exclusive executive clubs, infinity pools offering panoramic views of the Karachi skyline, and vibrant food courts catering to diverse culinary preferences. Starting from an accessible 2.5 lac, AAA Octa 2 Karachi presents unique investment opportunities in its food courts, making this extraordinary project a possibility for many. With the successful launch of AAA Octa 2 Karachi, AAA Associates continues its commitment to excellence and innovation, ensuring that the future of residential living in Karachi is bright, luxurious, and inclusive.

Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power Station likely to resume generation by July



ISLAMABAD (APP): Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power Station is likely to resume electricity generation by the end of July as hectic efforts are underway to complete the remedial works being carried out in the tail race tunnel of the project. This was the crux of the briefing given to Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani by the management during his visit to the project on Monday, said a press release. The chairman had a detailed visit of the 3.5-Km long tail race tunnel, the affected stretch in particular. The consultants, dilating upon the progress of rehabilitation works, briefed the Chairman that concrete lining is in progress in the area that had collapsed and caused a blockade of the tail race tunnel. The rest of the affected area is also being strengthened through lattice girders and rock bolting followed by shotcrete inside the tunnel. The contractor has been carrying out rehabilitation works round-the-clock in accordance with the guidelines of international consultants. The chairman urged the project team to complete the remedial works as per the timeline and re-start Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power Station by the end of next month without any compromise on the structural integrity of the project. Later, Chairman WAPDA presided over Board of Directors (BOD) meeting of Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Company, held at the project site. The BOD Members also visited the powerhouse and the tunnel. It is pertinent to mention that the 969 MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project started electricity generation in April 2018. Prior to blockade of its tail race tunnel last year, the project had provided more than 18 billion units of electricity to the National Grid.

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): An english translation of Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry collection "Diwan Abu Talib" book launching ceremony was held at Punjab Arts Council (PAC) in collaboration with Central Imam Hussain Council. Diwan Abu Talib has been translated by Syed Altaf Hussain Shah, former controller of Radio Pakistan. The ceremony was presided over by prominent scholar Dr Ghazanfar Mehdi, while former Chairman of the Pakistan Academy of Letters, Dr Yusuf

Pakistan,Iran agree to further enhance collaboration in security,counter terrorism measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Iran have agreed to further enhance collaboration in various areas of common interest, including security, joint counter terrorism measures and ensuring regional economic connectivity. The agreement to this effect was reached during the visit of Secretary Defence Lieutenant General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan along with a delegation to Islamic Republic of Iran, a news release said. The Iranian Deputy Defence Minister welcomed the delegation and expressed best wishes for Pakistan's

political and military leadership. The Secretary Defence emphasized the importance of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran. He expressed the hope that bilateral relations would continue to evolve on principles of mutual respect and shared common interests. During the visit, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on maritime cooperation was also signed between Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and Iranian border guards, which would strengthen relations between the two sides.

AJK President seeks Australia's role to get Kashmir issue settled

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that Australia should play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue. He expressed these views while talking to Australian High Commission Neil Hawkins, who called on him in the federal metropolis, said a press release issued here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the President while appreciating Australia's excellent track record on human rights said, "Being a common friend of India and Pakistan, Australia can play a

better role in resolving the long-running Kashmir dispute". Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IO-JK), Barrister Chaudhry said the Indian occupation forces deployed in the region have been committing human rights violations at an unprecedented scale. He said that it was high time that Australia should use its political and diplomatic clout to help resolve the dispute that has been the main cause and consequence of bloodshed and violence in the region.

ATC sends PTI women wing leader to jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (Agencies): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Women Wing leader Shabnam Jahangir to jail on 14-day judicial remand in Askari Tower attack case. Earlier, the police produced Shabnam Jahangir before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan, amid strict security, on expiry of her 4-day physical remand. The investigation officer apprised the court that the

investigation was in progress from the accused and her further physical remand was required for completing it. However, the court turned down the request and sent the accused to jail on 14-day judicial remand. The Gulberg police had registered a case under Anti-Terrorism Act against the PTI leaders and workers for damaging public and private properties, including Askari Tower.

Man awarded 3 years imprisonment for sharing compromised photos

FAISALABAD (Agencies): Additional District & Sessions Judge Munsaf Khan has awarded three years imprisonment to an accused in a case pertaining to harassing a girl and sharing her compromising photos on social media. The accused, Rashid

Minhas was also slapped with Rs 650,000 fine by the court. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had registered a case against the accused on charges of harassing a girl and sharing her photos on social media last year.

"Diwan Abu Talib" launching ceremony held at PAC

Kushk, attended as a special guest. Ms Kausar Parveen performed the duties of hosting the event. Addressing the ceremony, Dr Ghazanfar Mehdi said that the main point of Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry was monotheism and prophethood. He said, "It is important to enlighten the new generation with the achievements of Hazrat Abu Talib." Former Chairman Academy of Letters Pakistan, Dr Yousuf Kushk said that the translation of Diwan Abu Talib had led to an increase in our lit-

erary heritage. He said that translating Diwan Abu Talib from Arabic to English was difficult, which Altaf Ahmad Shah had done beautifully. The author of the book, Dr Altaf Ahmad Shah, said he expressed his love for Abu Talib by translating Diwan Abu Talib into English. Hazrat Abu Talib's praise and naat were the golden chapters of our religious studies. Prominent jurist Kokab Iqbal Advocate said that Hazrat Abu Talib's poetry collection clearly expressed his faith.

Indonesian envoy stresses on product diversification to maximize bilateral trade benefits

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The diversification of products and robust market research to identify new business sectors would be the key for the Pakistani business community to gain maximum benefits from the bilateral trade relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan. This was stated by Ambassador of Indonesia Adam M. Tugio while interacting with top CEOs at a “Dialogue on Indonesia-Pakistan Trade Relationship” organized by CEO Club Pakistan, said a news release issued here Sunday. Answering to various queries of leading business companies’ chairpersons during an engaging session, Ambassador Tugio highlighted many opportunities to further enhance bilateral trade beyond raw materials and agricultural products. “Textiles, leathers and pharmaceutical industries are the areas where business community of the two countries have the potential to team up in JV and produce items for the third country markets”, the envoy said. Responding to the prospects of

FTA, the Indonesian envoy suggested the business community to identify more items where Pakistan has comparative advantage and consult with relevant authorities to include them in Trade in Goods Agreement (TIGA) as part of the review process to expand the PTA. He reminded the audience on the important location of Indonesia as hub for expanding trade to the wider area in Southeast Asia and suggested leapfrogging strategy to explore possibility of joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which represents 15 countries and 30 percent population of the world. “By joining RCEP, Pakistan would get easy access into a huge market of ASEAN and additional 5 partner countries with vast trade potential”, added the envoy. Discussing about mutual collaboration in IT sector, Ambassador Tugio said animation, health sector, business outsourcing new apps and other innovative ideas present lucrative prospects and are attractive

areas of cooperation. He informed that the Indonesian Embassy was working hard to promote educational linkages with universities in Pakistan and to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation with COMSTECH which would also be beneficial for pharmaceutical, herbal and halal industries. Earlier, the Ambassador of Indonesia was warmly received by Ms. Nazeya Qhan, head of Corporate Communications and esteemed members of the CEO Club Pakistan. The Ambassador expressed his admiration for Pakistan’s thriving business community and its significant contributions to the country’s economic growth. The CEO Club Pakistan members reciprocated the Ambassador’s sentiments and expressed their eagerness to forge stronger economic ties with Indonesian counterparts. They acknowledged the Indonesia’s vibrant economy, its rich cultural heritage, and the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships in trade across various sector industries.

S. Korea’s import of Japanese seafood plummets for 2nd month

SEOUL (Xinhua/APP): South Korea’s import of Japanese seafood plummeted for the second consecutive month on rising worry about Japan’s planned release of radioactive wastewater from its crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean. The import of Japanese seafood, including live, refrigerated and frozen fish as well as shellfish, dropped 30.6 percent

over the year to 2,129 tons in May, after sinking 26.0 percent in April, Yonhap news agency said Monday citing data from the Korea Customs Service. The recent drop in imports of Japanese fish and shellfish seemed to be relevant to growing concerns about Japanese fishery products ahead of the planned discharge of the Fukushima-contaminated water this summer, Yonhap said.

China’s passenger vehicle sales up 26.4 pct in May

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP) China’s passenger vehicle sales stood at 2.05 million units in May, surging 26.4 percent year on year, industry data showed on Monday. Specifically, sales of sports utility vehicles, multi-purpose vehicles and cross-over utility vehicles in May all witnessed expansion from the same period last year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. During the period, China’s output of passenger cars totaled 2.01 million units, up 18.2



percent year on year. The association attributed the sales jump last month to car purchase promotional activities during the May Day holiday and gradually stabilized prices at end-market, which stimulated consumption vitality.

Goldman Sachs cuts China growth forecast as property slowdown bites

SINGAPORE (Reuters): Goldman Sachs (GS.N) analysts have cut forecasts for China’s economic growth, citing persistently weak confidence and the cloud over the property market as stronger-than-expected headwinds. The U.S. investment bank lowered its full-year real gross domestic product growth forecast for the world’s second biggest economy

from 6% to 5.4%, according to a note published late on Sunday. It also lowered its 2024 growth forecast from 4.6% to 4.5%. The cut follows similar moves by global peers, though still leaves Goldman among the most optimistic, as data shows China’s post-pandemic recovery faltering. The bank had also lately, like others, cut its outlook for China’s

currency. “No reopening boosts have faded as quickly as in China,” said the analysts, headed by economist Hui Shan, citing the property downturn and its flow-on effects as the main reason. “We judge that growth headwinds are likely persistent while policymakers are constrained by economic and political considerations in delivering meaningful stimulus.”

Russia to supply gas to Uzbekistan

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russia will begin exporting some 9 million cubic meters of natural gas daily to Uzbekistan, the Central Asian nation’s Energy Ministry confirmed on Monday, adding that Tashkent had signed a two-year deal with Russian energy giant Gazprom. Under the terms of the contract, deliveries will start on October 1 with annual volumes of gas supplies to total

nearly 2.8 billion cubic meters. The imports will be used to cover gas shortages during the cold season and will be delivered via the reversed Soviet-era pipeline connecting Central Asia to Russia, the ministry said. It did not provide specific details on the price agreed as part of the deal, but highlighted that it was “negotiated in view of market prices in the region, as well as current

prices in the republic and planned reforms based on market principles.” The agreement with Russia’s Gazprom was signed by UzGasTrade and the Uzbek Energy Ministry on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). The parties also adopted a road map for preparing Uzbekistan’s gas transportation system for receiving imports.

Intel to invest \$25 billion in Israel enterprise – PM

TEL AVIV (Agencies): US chipmaking multinational Intel will pump \$25 billion into a new factory in Israel, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said that the undertaking marks the country’s largest-ever international investment. The new production line in the Israeli city of Kiryat Gat is expected to open in 2027, to operate at least through 2035 and to provide jobs for thousands of people, the Finance Ministry said, adding that, under the deal, Intel will pay a



7.5% tax rate, up from the current 5%. According to Intel, the company has become Israel’s biggest privately held employer and exporter over its nearly five decades of operations in the country. The corporation is

reportedly the leader of the local electronics and information sector. Intel acquired Israel-based Mobileye Global, which is focused on developing and deploying advanced driver-assistance systems, for \$15 billion in 2017. Last year, the US tech giant took Mobileye public. According to Netanyahu, the deal for the facility in Kiryat Gat is “a tremendous achievement for the Israeli economy – 90 billion shekels – the largest investment ever by an international company in Israel.”

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ed to open in 2027, to operate at least through 2035 and to provide jobs for thousands of people, the Finance Ministry said, adding that, under the deal, Intel will pay a 7.5% tax rate, up from the current 5%. According to Intel, the company has become Israel’s biggest privately held employer and exporter over

its nearly five decades of operations in the country. The corporation is reportedly the leader of the local electronics and information sector. Intel acquired Israel-based Mobileye Global, which is focused on developing and deploying advanced driver-assistance systems, for \$15 billion in 2017.

Scopa signs deal with Airbus to produce helicopters in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Agencies): In a further boost to Saudi efforts to localize its defense industry, Kingdom’s Scopa Industries has signed a deal with Airbus to jointly produce civil and military helicopters. The deal was announced on the sidelines of the Saudi-French Investment Forum being held in Paris on Monday. An official statement quoted Scopa CEO Nawaz Al-Akeel as saying that the Saudi defense company expects investments to exceed SR25 billion ((\$6.67 billion) in the next 20 years. Al-Akeel said the first helicopters produced at joint Scopa and Airbus factories in Saudi Arabia would be seen within 24 months of the next February’s World Defense Show,



where he said the “foundation stone” for the project would be laid. The event is scheduled to be held in Riyadh amid the Kingdom’s push to localize 50 percent of its military spending by 2030. In an interview with Arab News last February, Andrew Pearcy said that the upcoming defense show will proclaim the growth of Saudi Arabia in the

defense sector. The Saudi-French forum, which began on Monday, seeks to address key issues across an array of sectors to create visibility for new investment opportunities for technology startups and entrepreneurship. Saudi Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih is leading a senior delegation at the forum to highlight the Kingdom’s commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and exploring new opportunities. Both sides aim to unlock new avenues, drive economic growth, and strengthen mutually beneficial ties. The forum is the latest in a series of high-level Saudi-French engagements over the last year designed to enhance the partnership.

Qatari companies partner with Iraq on \$9.5bn worth of projects

DOHA (Agencies): Three Qatari companies and Iraq’s National Investment Commission have agreed to develop \$9.5 billion worth of projects in Iraq, including the construction of a pair of power plants that will generate a total of 2,400 megawatts, according to statements issued on Sunday. UCC Holding and the investment commission on Thursday

signed a 25-year public-private partnership linked to the two power plants, which will cost \$2.5 billion to build, a statement issued by UCC Holding said. The power plants will help reduce Iraq’s reliance on neighboring Iran for its energy needs. Iraq imports electricity and gas from Iran, which in total makes up between a third and 40 percent of its power

supply, especially crucial in the sweltering summer months when temperatures can top 50 degrees Celsius and power consumption peaks. Iraq’s investment commission and Doha-based Estithmar Holding also signed deals worth \$7 billion to manage hospitals, develop two “new comprehensive cities” and to build a series of new 5-star hotels.

Ukraine starts 2023 grain harvest

KYIV (Reuters): Farmers in Ukraine’s southern region of Odesa have started the 2023 grain harvest, threshing the first winter barley, local officials said. Ukraine is a major global grain grower and exporter, but this year’s out is expected to be reduced because of Russia’s invasion to around 45 million tonnes from 53 million in 2022. The agriculture ministry said last week Ukraine’s 2023 spring sowing was almost complete at almost 13 million hectares. The total sown area as of June 16 includ-



ed 271,100 hectares of spring wheat, 810,000 hectares of barley, 138,500 hectares of peas, 146,200 hectares of oats, 4 million hectares of corn and other commodities.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (Agencies): Three ships namely, Mega-I, Golden Denise, and Santa Francesca carrying Palm oil, Chemicals and Coal, berthed at Liquid Terminal, Engro Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile, three more ships, Maud, Silhouette Island and MSC Rana with Coal and Containers also arrive at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of 06 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemical carrier ‘Golden Denise’ sailed out to sea on Monday morning & three more ships, Ullswater, Akij Moon and Dona Bibi are expected to sail on same day. A cargo volume of

74,126 tonnes, comprising 54,100 tones of imports Cargo and 20,026 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,323 Containers (145 TEUs Imports and 1,178 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours. There are six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Alexandra Kosan, MSC Rania & two more ships, EM Astoria and Navios Lapis carrying Chemicals and Containers are expected to take berths at Engro Terminal and Container Terminal on Monday & three more container ships, Maersk Hartford, MSC Madeleine and MSC Sky-II are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.

About 5,492 tractors assembled in 10 months of FY 2022-23

ISLAMABAD (APP): Domestic tractors assembling during the period from July-April, 2022-23 was recorded at 5,492 units as compared to the assembling of the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review tractors assembling in local markets decreased by 46.19 percent as against the assembling of the same period of last year, according to the data of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industries of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. About 25,645 tractors were assembled in the first 10 months of the last financial year (2021-22), whereas on a year-to-year basis, local assembling was recorded at 2,955 tractors in April 2023 as against the production of 5,495 tractors of the same month of last year. However, the output of power looms grew by 29.27 percent during last 10 months of current financial year as about 488 power looms were locally assembled as compared to the assembling of 390 looms of the same period last year. Meanwhile, local production of edible oil and vegetable also ghee grew by 4.97 percent and 16.72 percent respectively in 10 months of the current financial year



as compared to the production of the same period last year. During the period under review, about 458,231 metric tons of cooking oil were manufactured as compared to the manufacturing of 411,710 metric tons of the same period last year. Over 1.268 million metric tons of vegetable ghee was also produced in order to tackle with local requirements in last 10 months of current financial year as compared the output of 1.178 million metric tons of the same period last year. The tea blending in the country also witnessed about 5 percent growth during the period under review as about 108,345 metric tons of tea blended locally as compared to 124,062 metric tons of the same period last year.

Russian truck giant launches unmanned transportation

MOSCOW (Agencies): The first driverless trucks began carrying freight on the Moscow-Petersburg federal highway earlier this week, Russian auto maker KAMAZ announced during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. According the company, the vehicles, created around the frame of the KAMAZ-54901 truck tractor, are equipped with communication, navigation, technical vision, and incoming information-processing systems, while their braking and steering system, en-

gine and automatic transmission are controlled using an electronic CAN bus. The vehicles will operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week along the 650-kilometer route without stops in other cities. The trucks will stop only for loading and unloading, for refueling and for vehicle maintenance, KAMAZ said, adding that a test engineer, who is ready to take control in emergency situations, will sit in the cab during the trip as part of the vehicles’ ELR (experimental legal regime) program.

British-Pakistani Enaam Ahmed’s impressive start diminished by tyre problems,settles for 17th

ISLAMABAD (APP): British Pakistani racer Enaam Ahmed finished 17th in the 2023 IndyNXT by Firestone race at Road America due to tyre issues, despite starting from the rear and battling for a top-10 position. Nevertheless, as a determined rookie, Enaam remains focused on achieving further success and breaking records in his racing career for the remainder of the season.Enaam Ahmed competed in the sixth round of the 2023 IndyNXT by Firestone this past weekend, taking on the historic Road America racing circuit.The track is one of the most famous and challenging race tracks in America, and has hosted many of the top American racing series over the past 68 years. Ahmed was forced to start near the rear of the field due to troubles with his car’s performance during qualifying. He was not worried by the tough task ahead of him, however, and the 23-year-old put his considerable skills to work as soon as the race started. After just two laps around the four-mile course, the Pakistani Panther had muscled his way past four drivers. Ahmed went wheel to wheel with Matteo Nannini on the opening lap, and was even able to complete the pass around the outside of the Carousel, the fastest and most difficult corner on the track. He was



on a mission to get the most from his car and was already well ahead of his Cape Motorsports team-mate. When he was battling with Danial Frost for a position inside the top 10, Ahmed’s car suffered a flat spot on his front tyre. Ahmed attempted to drive through the problem, but he pushed so hard that the tyre started to come apart while he was racing at over 170 miles per hour. He was forced to back off to prevent a catastrophic failure and ended the race in 17th. “Had a really good start, got into the top 10,” said Ahmed after the race. “Car was fast. But unfortunately while fighting with Frost, I flat-spotted my front left tyre. It just delaminated as the race went on and was completely down to the cords, which is why I went

from the top 10 to the back. I’m lucky it didn’t explode. I could just see it delaminating as I drove. So, very unfortunate weekend all around.” With Ahmed racing against some of the most talented racers in the world, he knows that he cannot fight for the win every single weekend. The former British Formula 3 champion was still disappointed with the results and vowed to come back even stronger for the remainder of the season. So far this year, despite competing as a rookie in the series, the British-Pakistani racer has logged two top-five finishes. Even though he is the most accomplished racer to come from Pakistan, Ahmed has his sights on breaking many more records in his racing career.

PSL Champions Lahore Qalandars acquire Durban franchise in Zim Afro T10

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Super League Champions Lahore Qalandars have acquired the Durban franchise in the Zim Afro T10, and it will be called the Durban Qalandars. The franchise is owned by the Pakistani businessmen Atif Naeem Rana and Sameen Naeem Rana, said a press release. The Lahore Qalandars have won two titles (2022 & 2023) in the Pakistan Super League. Along expected lines, the Qalandars franchise will look to replicate their success with the Durban team in Zim Afro T10. The Zim Afro T10 represents franchise cricket’s first foray in Zimbabwe and the tournament will have five privately owned teams battling it out for the top prize. The other four teams will be Harare Hurricanes, CapeTown Samp Army, Bulawayo Braves and the

Joburg Lions. The Zim Afro T10, in association with T Ten Global Sports, will get underway on 20 July, with a grand final scheduled for 29 July, with all the games being played in Harare. The players’ draft is slated to take place on the 2nd of July at a grand ceremony in Harare. Zimbabwe Cricket Managing Director Mr Givemore Makoni said, “We are elated to welcome the Qalandars to the Zim Afro T10 and Zimbabwe Cricket family. They have been very successful in Pakistan and we hope that they can bring their entertaining brand of cricket for the local fans here as well. They come with a tradition of attracting the best players, and we hope to see more of that.” “After winning two consecutive seasons in the PSL, we want to expand our footprint and Zimbabwe is a great chance for us

to make a mark. The Zim Afro T10 is surely going to be a very exciting tournament – it is the fastest format in the game after all, and we cannot wait to connect with the fans there and create a strong fanbase for ourselves,” Sameen Naeem Rana, Owner & CEO of Durban Qalandars said. The T Ten Global Sports Founder and Chairman Nawab Shaji Ul Mulk said, “It is great to have the champions from the Pakistan Super League join us in the Zim Afro T10 as the Durban Qalandars. They have had a long-lasting effect in the PSL and we hope to see them play a similar kind of role in the Zim Afro T10. I expect stiff competition and some entertaining cricket from the Durban Qalandars from the very first ball. The fans are eagerly awaiting for this festival of cricket to begin.”

Australia chasing 281 to win first Ashes Test

Birmingham (AFP/APP): Australia captain Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon took four wickets each as the Ashes holders were left needing 281 to win on the fourth day of the first Test against England at Edgbaston on Monday.Cummins struck at both ends of the innings in taking 4-63, while veteran off-spinner Lyon’s haul of 4-80 included the key scalps of Joe Root and Harry Brook. Both batsmen fell just short of half-centuries in an England total of 273 all out as Lyon closed in on 500 Test wickets. But England’s last two wickets added 44

runs. Only three teams have made more than 200 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Edgbaston. The highest chase was England’s 378-3 against India last year and the next best was South Africa’s 283-5 in 2008. Australia, bidding for their first Ashes series win in England in 22 years, have plenty of time to get the runs, with 42 overs left in Monday’s play and all of Tuesday’s final day to come. England resumed on 28-2 after openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley had been dismissed in the best bowling conditions of the match during a rain-inter-

rupted third day on Sunday. Both Ollie Pope and Root, who made an unbeaten 118 in England’s first-innings 393-8 declared, had yet to get off the mark. But the sunny skies at Edgbaston suggested there would be less movement for Australia’s pacemen on a pitch labelled “soulless” by England seamer Stuart Broad. Root signalled his intentions -- and underlined England’s aggressive ‘Bazball’ approach -- from the very first delivery, when he failed to make contact with an audacious reverse scoop off Cummins, the ball just missing his off stump.

Haji sends Saudi Arabia into Asia U-17 Cup last eight

CHONBURI (Agencies): Talal Haji was the star of the show for Saudi Arabia on Monday, scoring both goals in a 2-0 win over Tajikistan to secure a place in the quarterfinals of the U-17 Asian Cup. The 15 year-old striker found the target twice in the second half with well-taken goals in Chonburi, Thailand, to make it two wins from two in Group C. Those six points in the bank mean coach Abdel Wahab Al-Harbi can start preparing for the knockout stage. So far in the tournament, the young Green Falcons have looked solid at the back for the most part and have got forward whenever possible. With the four teams that reach the semifinals also booking spots at the World Cup later this year,



the stakes are high. Knowing that Australia’s rollicking 5-3 win over China earlier in the day meant that a win would guarantee a place in the quarterfinals, Saudi Arabia started brightly and were soon asking questions of the Tajik backline in the hope of taking control of the game. There were

half-chances and blocked shots for the most part but, just after the half-hour mark, the boys in green started to take the pressure up a level. Following a corner, Nawaf Al-Jaadani came close to adding to the goal he scored against Australia, but his fierce shot from outside the area was just a little too high with the goalkeeper struggling. Four minutes before the break, they came even closer to getting the opener. Ramez Al-Attar lifted the ball smartly over the defence to find Nawaf Al-Bishri steaming in on the left side of the area but the forward, who opened the scoring against the young Soccerroos in the earlier 2-0 win, had his head in his hands after side footing against the post from close range.

Ramla Ali suffers first professional boxing loss

LONDON (Agencies): Ramla Ali suffered her first professional loss, against Julissa Alejandra Guzman, on Saturday night.The Somali-British fighter faced her Mexican opponent on the undercard of the Regis Prograis versus Danielito Zorilla WBC junior welterweight bout in New Orleans. Guzman won the fight by knockout in the eighth round, earning her the Super Bantam-weight IBF Inter-Continental title. Ali is an emerging star in



women’s boxing. She is a model, humanitarian and has launched The Sisters Club, an avenue for Muslim women to improve their boxing skills in the UK. She is also noted for being the first fighter to win a female professional boxing match in Saudi Arabia. Following the fight, Ali commented: “You win some, you lose some. Congratulations to Julissa Guzman. Tonight wasn’t my night unfortunately. I’ll be back.”

Balogun strike helps USA to Nations League title

Las Vegas (AFP/APP): Folarin Balogun scored his first goal for the United States as they clinched the CONCACAF Nations League with 2-0 win over Canada at Allegiant Stadium on Sunday. Arsenal striker Balogun, making just his second appearance since switching his national team allegiance from England, grabbed the second goal for the US after Chris Richards had headed them in front in the 12th minute. The US have won both of the Nations League tournaments held in the CONCACAF region and will now look for a regional double in the Gold Cup later this month. Both goals were created by midfielder Gio Reyna, a player who found himself involved in the off-the field sagas surrounding head coach Gregg Berhalter, who was re-appointed on Friday. Reyna’s perfectly floated corner was firmly headed in by Richards, who arrived at the back post with little close attention from the Canadian defence. The Borussia Dortmund midfielder then set up Balogun’s maiden goal for his new team, bursting out of midfield before slipping the ball through the defence and into the path of the striker who confidently drove home. Balogun spent last season on loan from Arsenal



to French Ligue 1 club Reims where hs scored 21 goals.The New York-born forward, who moved to England when he was a two-year-old, was part of the England Under-21 team before switching to the US in May. He made his debut in the 3-0 semi-final win over Mexico and on Sunday’s final he struck up a strong understanding with wingers Tim Weah and Christian Pulisic in what now looks a very promising US forward line.

Wyndham Clark holds off McIlroy to win first major title at US Open

Los Angeles (AFP/APP): Wyndham Clark fired an even-par 70 on Sunday to win the 123rd US Open, capturing his first major title and denying four-time major winner Rory McIlroy his first in nine years. Clark, whose previous best finish in six prior major starts was a tie for 75th, held his nerve at Los Angeles Country Club, where his 10-under-par total of 270 gave him an one-shot win over McIlroy, who also shot 70. Clark, ranked 32nd in the world, started the day tied for the lead with Rickie Fowler and had a three-shot lead after his fourth birdie of the day at the par-five 14th. His lead dwindled to one shot after bogeys at 15 and 16, and McIlroy kept the pressure on with an unlikely par at 17 -- where his tee shot was left onto the fairway of the neighboring second hole. Clark missed the green at the par-four 17th, but stuck his third shot within two feet of the pin for a needed par: His approach at 18 left him 60 feet, and he made a confident run with his first putt and sealed the victory with a par putt from within three feet. McIlroy had opened with a birdie, then parred 12 straight, finding green after green but unable to get any birdie putts to drop. He bogeyed 14, where his third shot was plugged deep in the muddy



bank of a bunker and he received a free drop, only to miss a nine-foot par-saving putt. World number one Scottie Scheffler also carded a 70 to finish third, two shots behind McIlroy. Reigning British Open champion Cameron Smith of Australia climbed the leaderboard with a 67 to grab fourth place on six-under 274. Fowler, trying to claim his first major title to cement his return from a slump that saw him fall to 185th in the world, endured a nightmare day with seven bogeys in a five-over 75, sharing fifth with Min Woo Lee and Tommy Fleetwood -- who carded a superb seven-under par 63.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JUNE 20, 2023



– It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
–**ARIES:** Your energy is perfect for physical exercise of any kind, from walking an extra block to running a marathon. Don’t overdo it, of course, but expect a little boost just when you need it most.
–**TAURUS:** Let others take center stage today even if you disapprove of what they’re doing. Don’t let them try anything dangerous, of course, but it’s not the best time for you to make any speeches
–**GEMINI:** Your incredible intellectual energy is perfect for the day’s adventures, so don’t be shy about putting it to good use! You may need to find a like-minded friend to test ideas against.
–**CANCER:** You’ve got to think long term now. You’re in a unique position to affect your future! Even if you don’t know exactly what you want or how to get there, you can still make a good guess.
–**LEO:** Everything comes together and you show people exactly what you can do. It’s definitely your time in the spotlight and you eat it up, though you’re

good about sharing credit where it’s due.
–**VIRGO:** You’re feeling brainy today and should be able to figure out what’s really going on even if people are trying to keep it from you. Of course you can’t read minds, but your reasoning is sound..
–**LIBRA:** You and your friends are in the right place at the moment, and you should be able to tune in to their feelings and needs with ease. It’s a wonderful time for hanging out together and bonding
–**SCORPIO:** You need to challenge the rules a bit, though it may end up being a delicate situation. If you can keep everyone’s needs balanced, you should be fine, but expect a bit of cleanup later
–**SAGITTARIUS:** Your ability to communicate even with those who think quite differently (even animals, children, and electronic gadgets) is suddenly spiking, so make use of it to make sense of the world
–**CAPRICORN:** People are awfully full of themselves today and might make totally unreasonable demands that they think are perfectly normal. Push back as much as you can, but you still may have to cater to them.
–**ACQUARIUS:** You feel as if you’re filled with energy, but it’s not quite what you’re used to. You can do almost anything as long as it’s unexpected. Your so-called “normal” life can wait for the time being!
–**PISCES:** You should step back a little from the crazy melodramas going on all around you, especially at work. You don’t have to take part, even when folks try to drag you on stage. Watch from the wings! Gain

Balochistan Govt unveils Rs 750 bn budget for FY 2023-24

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Finance Engineer Zmarak Khan Achakzai on Monday unveiled the province's budget for the fiscal year 2023-24, with a total size of Rs 750 billion. The Balochistan Assembly session was chaired by Speaker Balochistan Assembly Jan Muhammad Jamali, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, ministers and members of the provincial Assembly were also present. The Finance Minister said in his budget speech that over Rs 229.301 billion have been earmarked for the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), and the volume of non-development expenditure was kept at Rs 437 billion. Zmarak Khan

said that the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 was tax-free. He said that the budget deficit for the next financial year was Rs 49 billion rupees, while Rs 65 billion have been allocated for health in the budget. He said that 35 percent of salaries were increased from grade one to 16 grades while 30 percent of salaries have been enhanced for grades 17 to 22 and 17.5 percent were increased in the pensioners in the financial budget. A total of Rs 87 billion have been earmarked for the education sector in the budget of the next financial year. He said that Rs 53 billion have been set for law and order situation and security in the budget. The total revenue of Balochistan is

estimated at Rs 701 billion for the next financial year, he said adding Rs 170 billion was allocated for 4721 on-going schemes during the new financial year. He said that Rs 58 billion allocated for 5068 new schemes, while 100 new primary schools would be given the status of secondary and 50 primary schools to be given the status of high schools. The Minister said that 863 new posts would be created in the education sector for the betterment of the education sector, saying that in the budget, Rs 12 billion have been allocated for the development of primary and secondary education. Earlier, lawmakers prayed for the Pakistani victims of the Greece incident in the session of the Assembly.

CS directs administrative secretaries to follow instructions of ECP

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Monday directed the administrative secretaries of all departments to follow instructions of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and rules of business in discharging day-to-day affairs of government. The Chief Secretary gave the instruction in a meeting held here at Civil Secretariat to review good governance initiatives. He stressed that good governance measures should be continued for public welfare. He advised that in case of urgency, administrative secretaries should approach the Election Commission for prior approval. The Chief Secretary directed the Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) department to strictly monitor the attendance of teachers in schools through the Independent Monitoring Unit. Similarly, the action was also ordered against principals or heads of the schools showing the passing ratio of students in board examinations very low or unsatisfactory. Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry further directed that students who have taken matriculation examinations should be imparted technical skills. During summer vacation, the Chief Secretary directed the E&SE de-

partment to initiate a skill development programme in each district in collaboration with Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) to teach students various skills in government schools. Along with regular education, he said that such initiatives would enable them to acquire technical skills. Director PMRU briefed the meeting regarding the performance of departments during the last three months. He informed the meeting that the file tracking system is being used in 28 percent of sections of the civil secretariat. Chief Secretary strictly directed to ensure cent percent implementation of the file tracking system. It was further informed that 98 percent of complaints received on the Pakistan Citizen Portal have been resolved so far. Moreover, over 55 percent of citizens have expressed their satisfaction over the resolution of complaints. The Chief Secretary asked for fast resolution of pending complaints against various departments on the portal. The Chief Secretary also ordered strict action against illegal encroachments on the banks of water channels, saying that during the rainy season, the risk of flooding increases many times due to obstruction in the flow of water in waterways.

Three day workshop started to increase bamboo production

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-day training workshop "Mobile-App Base Bamboo Resource Assessment Training for Pakistan" has been started on Monday at Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar to increase the production of bamboo crops and to know their number and types through mobile-app launched throughout the country. Organized by International Bamboo and Rattan organization in collaboration with the Ministry of climate change and environmental co-ordination government of Pakistan and Pakistan Forest Institute Peshawar, the workshop was inaugurated by Director General PFI Peshawar Khalid Ilyas while Additional Director General PFI Safdar Ali Shah, Assistant Inspector General Forest Parveen Ijaz, INBAR Consultant Hoang Viet Anh, consultant Muhammad Khurshid and experts from all provinces of the country participated in the workshop. Experts said that Bamboo is one of the fastest-growing species and is distributed widely across some of the

most bio-diverse and carbon-rich areas of the tropics and sub-tropics in Africa, Asia and South America. They said that bamboo is a proven pro-poor resource that has enormous potential for income and employment generation. In particular, activities related to bamboo growing, management of bamboo forests, harvesting, pre-processing and processing create employment and a source of income for communities. They were of the view that Bamboo can play a significant role in ecosystem restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation. Bamboo has proved to be a potential crop for restoring degraded land, conserving soil and water and can play an important role in climate change adaptation, especially in bamboo-based smart agricultural systems. With modern technology, bamboo products can be made very durable, they can last for 30 years or more and can be a sustainable substitute for other materials such as wood, aluminum, PVC, concrete and metal etc. The speakers said that Pa-

Dams play important role in agricultural development: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker provincial minister for irrigation, Haji Fazl Elahi on Monday said that dams play an important role in the agricultural development of any country, while the agriculture sector is affected due to the lack of an excellent irrigation system, which results in shortage of food items. After the completion of the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project, the water flow in the Warsak canals will increase up to 1250 cusecs. The flow of seven hundred cusecs of water will increase with this project. Most of the areas of Peshawar and Nowshera are irrigated from the canals coming out of Warsak Dam. Unfortunately, a lot of our water is being wasted. He expressed these views during his visits to various ongoing projects of the Irrigation Department in the Khyber and Mohmand districts. During the visit, Chief Engineer South Yasin Khan,

Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal Rooh ul Mohsin, Superintending Engineer Batoor Zaman Khan and relevant officials of the Irrigation Department were present. Minister Irrigation visited the pump house of Warsak Canal in Jamrud where he inspected various parts of the pump house and inquired about their functions. On this occasion, Project Director Remodelling of Warsak Canal System Roohul Mohsin said during the briefing that the total number of pumps in the pump house is five of which four are in use while one pump is on standby, work is going on for the upgradation of the grade station in the pump house, which will be completed soon. Meanwhile, minister Haji Fazl Elahi reviewed the work on the tunnel under the Remodelling of Warsak Canal project in Malaguri where the Chinese company is doing development work.

Coordination cell set up at Interior Ministry for Greece boat victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Interior on Monday set up a coordination cell in its control room to provide updates and information regarding the victims of the tragic boat incident in Greece. According to an Interior Ministry notification, the decision

was taken on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The coordination cell, headed by the Additional Secretary (Border Management) from the Ministry of Interior, comprises Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Naemullah, Director

New e-services launched to aid Hajj and Umrah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance has introduced several electronic services to improve pilgrim experience and the tasks of ministry staff. The services include a Sharia awareness app that educates pilgrims on Hajj rituals and offers a translator if the pilgrim requires a language other than Arabic. A "Rushd" application is designed to distribute reliable e-books and is integrated with an e-library. The services include a new electronic transaction platform, reports management, and a "virtual workspace" for use by ministry staff. Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdullatif bin Abdulaziz Al-Asheikh said: "The ministry aims to implement all digital transformation standards according to the Kingdom's Vision 2030." The Hajj and Visit Committee said a total of 744,862

people have arrived in Madinah so far to perform this year's pilgrimage. It said 587,845 of those were now traveling to or had arrived in Makkah, Arab News reported. Meanwhile, the Women's Affairs Agency at the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah is delivering services to visiting female pilgrims. A series of training sessions have helped staff manage crowd flow, clarify regulations, and learn basic language skills to assist visitors. The Presidency in Madinah has also launched a program titled "Comfort and Spirituality in the Prophet's Mosque," which welcomes pilgrims to the site. Furthermore, the Health Affairs department said that Jdeidet Arar Central Hospital has been upgraded to accommodate 50 beds, including six highly equipped intensive care beds.

KP Governor takes notice of excessive load shedding of gas, electricity in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Monday summoned the meeting of Wapda and Suigas authorities at Governor House Peshawar after people complaints about excessive load shedding of these services and issued a letter to their high-ups to attend it on Tuesday. The governor directed the Chief Executive of PESCO and the General Manager of SNGPL to come to Governor's House along with concerned staff on Tuesday. He said people's complaints were being received over several hours of load shedding and the unavailability of gas in Peshawar City and its adjoining areas was a matter of great concern. Matters related to demand and consumption of electricity and gas besides periods of load shedding and consumer problems would come under discussion during the meeting. The governor reiterated that he would make efforts to provide relief to masses during hot weather from load shedding.

UoS approves conditional budget of Rs731.388 mln

PESHAWAR (Agencies): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Law and Higher Education Justice (ret'd) Irshad Qaiser chaired the 11th Senate meeting of the University of Swabi on Monday, the Senate approved the conditional budget of Rs731.388 million for the year 2023-2024. The Senate approved the conditional budget by constituting a committee to revise the specific expenditures of the University of Swabi. The administration University of Swabi told the Senate that 26 million rupees are also being given to us by the Chamber of Commerce, which will benefit us economically. Rs 35 mln for bringing the university on solar power and 15 mln for the development of labs. Due to the budget deficit and reduced revenue, the senate asked the university to reconsider its budget plans. The minister told University of Swabi to further increase its revenue sources and reduce its expenses. He said that the first priority of the university should be to provide the best educational facilities to the students.

Minister emphasizes for promotion of tourism in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education Adnan Jalil on Sunday emphasized the need for concerted efforts to explore and promote the countless tourist attractions in our province to invite foreign visitors. He expressed these views during a briefing held at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), which focused on tourism opportunities in the province and the efforts of KPCTA to explore them. He said that cultural and tourism activities should be effectively promoted at the local, national, and international levels to inform both local and foreign tourists about our rich traditions and to highlight the tourism potential and beautiful spots in the province. He mentioned that the KP Board of Investment and Trade would also promote and highlight KPCTA projects at various forums with the aim of attracting foreign investment in the tourism sector of KP. During the briefing, Director General (KPCTA) Muhammad Bakhtiar Khan, General Manager Planning Hayat Ali Shah, Manager Marketing and Information Hamyoon Khan, GM Tourism Sajjad Hamid, Manager Digital and Transformation Cell Baseer Ahmad and other officials were present. The DG KPCTA highlighted various initiatives aimed at attracting tourists and the efforts being made to facilitate and guide them at tourist places.

Zil Hajj moon sighted, Eid ul Azha on June 29

KARACHI (APP): The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan announced on Monday that the Zil Hajj moon has been sighted in Pakistan, adding that Zil Hajj 01, 1444 A.H, will fall on June 20 (Tuesday), thus Eid ul Azha in Pakistan will be observed on June 29 (Thursday). Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad announced the decision following a meeting of the committee, held at the Met Complex here after Maghrib prayers to sight the crescent moon. Later, talking to media, Maulana Azad said that reliable testimonies of the moon sighting were received, therefore, Zil Hajj 01, 1444 A.H, will fall on June 20.

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