



White House blasts harassment of Pakistani origin reporter who questioned Modi about human rights

WASHINGTON (APP): The White House has condemned the online harassment of Sabrina Siddiqui, an American journalist of Pakistani origin who asked India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi about his Hindu nationalist government's human rights record when he visited the White House last week. "We're aware of the reports of that harassment. It's unacceptable, and we absolutely condemn any harassment of journalists anywhere, under any circumstances," White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said about the online harassment of Ms. Siddiqui, who works for The Wall Street Journal, a leading financial newspaper. Sabrina's mother is a Pakistani and her father was born in India but raised in Pakistan. Referring to Ms. Siddiqui's online harassment by pro-Modi Indians, Kirby said, "That's just completely unacceptable, and it's antithetical to the principles of democracy that ... were on display last week during the state visit." White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that the Biden administration is "committed to the freedom of the press, which is why we held a (joint) press conference last Thursday" with US President Joe Biden and Modi, during the Indian premier's official two-day state visit. During the press conference, Ms. Siddiqui asked the Hindu leader what steps he was



taking "to improve the rights of Muslims and other minorities" in India and "to uphold free speech." "Our Constitution and our government and we have proved democracy can deliver. When I say deliver, regardless of caste, creed, religion, gender - there is absolutely no space for any discrimination (in my government)," Modi said in response. Before becoming prime minister, Modi was banned from the U.S. for the role he played in the 2002 Gujarat riots, in which some 2,000 people, most of them Muslims, were killed. Since taking office in 2014, he's faced criticism for aspects of his human rights record, including censoring journalists and stripping autonomy from the disputed re-

gion of Jammu and Kashmir. Following her exchange with Modi, Ms. Siddiqui has been the target of online abuse, mainly from the prime minister's allies in India. The Wall Street Journal responded to the attacks in a statement Monday calling Siddiqui "a respected journalist known for her integrity and unbiased reporting. This harassment of our reporter is unacceptable, and we strongly condemn it." The South Asian Journalists Association also defended Siddiqui. "We want to express our continued support of our colleague @SabrinaSiddiqui who, like many South Asian and female journalists, is experiencing harassment for simply doing her job," the group said on Twitter.

Sierra Leone president re-elected: official



Freetown (AFP/APP): Sierra Leone's President Julius Maada Bio was re-elected with 56.17 percent to serve a second term, the head of the electoral commission said on Tuesday following a process disputed by the opposition. His main challenger Samura Kamara came second with 41.16 percent of the vote, according to final results announced in Freetown by commission chief Mohamed Kenewui Konneh. Vote tallying had already been disputed by the opposition All People's Congress (APC), which condemned in a statement Monday an alleged lack of inclusiveness, transparency and responsibility by the electoral commission. The party pointed to the lack of information about which polling stations or districts the ballots were coming from. It had said it "will not accept these fake and cooked up results". In a follow-up statement, it alleged "overvoting" in some areas and said the party "continues to reject" the "fabricated results" and "reaffirms our victory".

Ex-Audi boss convicted of fraud in automaker's Diesel Emissions Scandal

BERLIN (Agencies): Former Audi boss Rupert Stadler was convicted of fraud Tuesday in connection with the automaker's diesel emissions scandal, making him the highest-ranking executive found guilty over cars that cheated on emissions tests with the help of illegal software.

Japan's military considers availing Starlink satellite internet service



TOKYO (Agencies): Japan's military is testing Elon Musk's Starlink satellite internet service with an eye to adopting the technology next fiscal year, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Sunday, citing unnamed government sources. The Ministry of Defense already has access to communication satellites in geostationary orbit, but use of Starlink technology, operated by Musk's SpaceX, would add a constellation of satellites in low Earth orbit, the Yomiuri said. Countries around the world are seeking to build resilience against the risk of jamming of

communications or attacks on satellites in the event of conflict. Japan's Self-Defence Forces have been testing Starlink since March with the system deployed in about 10 locations and in training, the newspaper said. Defence ministry spokespeople could not immediately be reached for comment on the report outside business hours. Starlink technology is being deployed by Ukraine on the battlefield, and Russia is attempting to block its use in the region. Musk said in October SpaceX could not afford to indefinitely fund Starlink's use in Ukraine.

Pope's Ukraine peace envoy on visit to Moscow

Vatican City (Agencies): Pope Francis' peace envoy to Ukraine arrived in Moscow Tuesday for a visit, just weeks after visiting Kyiv, according to the Vatican and media reports. It is the first trip to Moscow by a senior Vatican official since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. "On June 28 and 29, 2023, Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi... accompanied by an official of the (Vatican) Secretary of State, will pay a visit to Moscow as an envoy of Pope Francis," the Vatican said on Tuesday. "The main purpose of the initiative is to encourage gestures of humanity, which can help promote a solution to the current tragic situation and find ways to achieve a just peace." Italy's national RAI broadcaster said Zuppi arrived in Moscow just before 8pm (1700gmt). Pope Francis asked Zuppi, the head of the Italian bishops' conference, in May "to help ease tensions" in Ukraine in the hope of facilitating peace between Kyiv and Moscow. The 67-year-old Ital-

ian cardinal hails from the Sant'Egidio Catholic Community, which specialises in diplomacy and peace efforts. His trip to Moscow follows a visit to Kyiv on June 5 and 6 for a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who told the envoy a ceasefire would not lead to peace. Francis, head of the worldwide Catholic Church since 2013, has repeatedly called for peace in Ukraine. In the first few months after Russia's invasion in February 2022, he faced criticism for not blaming Moscow explicitly for the conflict. Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin said recently that Zuppi's mission was not aimed at mediation, at least not yet, but sought to "favour a climate that can lead to paths of peace". The pope hosted Zelensky at the Vatican in May, and Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal a few weeks earlier. Shmyhal invited the pope to visit Ukraine and also asked for help to return children forcibly taken to Russia.

Toxic chemical used in detergents found in Indian Cough Syrup blamed for deaths in Uzbekistan



NEW DELHI (Agencies): Let's go back in time. You may recall the controversy over the Indian 'cough syrup' that killed 19 children in Uzbekistan. Since 2022, we have been wondering what chemicals were used in cough syrup, and the answer is SHOCKING! According to two people with knowledge of the situation who spoke to Reuters, the Indian manufacturers of cough substituted a dangerous industrial-grade chemical instead of the legal pharmaceutical version. Reports suggest, Marion Biotech purchased propylene glycol (PG) from Maya Chemtech India. However, an insider from Marion Biotech's investigation stated that Maya Chemtech did not possess the necessary licence to sell pharmaceutical-grade substances and instead only traded in industrial-grade materials. The anonymous individual involved in the investigation stated that

they were unaware of Marion's intended use of the propylene glycol and emphasised that they were not informed about the specific application of their materials. To understand the potential hazards of this chemical, it is important to note that it caused the poisoning of 19 children in Uzbekistan. The Indian manufacturers incorporated this chemical ingredient, which is primarily utilised in liquid detergents, antifreeze, paints or coatings, and as a means to improve the efficiency of pesticides. According to a health ministry analysis conducted in Uzbekistan last year, it was discovered that the cough syrups manufactured by Marion, namely Ambronol and DOK-1 Max, contained unacceptably high levels of diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG). These toxins are typically found in products that are not intended for human consumption.

Southern US swelters in brutal heat wave

Houston (AFP/APP): A dangerous and prolonged heat wave blanketed large parts of the southern United States on Tuesday, buckling highways and forcing people to shelter indoors in what scientists called a climate-change supercharged event. Excessive heat warnings were in place from Arizona in the southwest all the way to Alabama in the southeast, with south and central Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley worst hit, the National Weather Service (NWS) said. Victor Hugo Martinez, a 57-year-old foreman who was leading workers repairing a road in Houston, told AFP: "We can't keep up with it. It's too much, we have like 10 or 12 spots like this right now." The crew wrapped bandanas around their heads to protect themselves from the blazing heat, with Martinez explaining they made sure to hydrate plenty and take several breaks to protect their health. The NWS meanwhile urged Americans in affected areas to drink water, stay indoors, and check on vulnerable friends and relatives. Andrew Pershing, a scientist with Climate Central, told AFP "the really unusual thing about this event is how big it is, and how long it has lasted." "There have been places

in Texas that have had more than two weeks of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, which are just really unusual temperatures for this time of year even in a region that is used to heat." Accumulated historic greenhouse emissions made the extreme weather event at least five times more likely than otherwise, according to preliminary calculations by a team led by Pershing. The sweltering conditions are expected to expand throughout the south beginning Wednesday and continue into the long July 4 holiday weekend. The extreme heat appears to have already claimed some lives. Last week, a 66-year-old postal worker in Dallas fainted while delivering mail as the heat index hovered around 115F. He died hours later, the US Postal Service told the media, though the cause of death is still being investigated. And on Friday, a 14-year-old boy collapsed from exhaustion while hiking in Big Bend National Park in Texas and later died, according to an official statement. His stepfather left the scene to hike back to their vehicle to find help while the teen's brother attempted to carry him back to the trailhead. The father was later found dead in a car crash.

Probe after French police kill teenage driver

Paris (AFP/APP): French police on Tuesday killed a teenager who refused to stop for a traffic check outside Paris, prompting expressions of shock and questions over the readiness of security forces to pull the trigger. The 17-year-old was in the Paris suburb of Nanterre early Tuesday when police shot him dead after he broke road rules and failed to stop, prosecutors said. Emergency services tried to resuscitate him at the scene but he died shortly afterwards. The officer accused of firing on the driver has been detained on homicide charges, the Nanterre prosecutors' office said. A video circulating on social media, authenticated by AFP, shows two police officers trying to stop the vehicle and one pointing his weapon at the driver through the window and firing at point blank when he drives off. The car moved a few dozen metres before crashing. The IGPN national police inspectorate has opened an investigation into possible intentional killing by a person holding a position of public authority. A separate probe is being carried out by regional police into the driver's failure to

halt and alleged attempt to kill a person holding a position of public authority. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told parliament the two police officers were being questioned and acknowledged that the images posted on social media were "extremely shocking". He urged people to "respect the grief of the family and the presumption of innocence of the police". Paris police chief Laurent Nunez admitted in an interview with BFM TV that the action of the policeman "raises questions" although he said it was possible the officer felt threatened. The family's lawyer Yassine Bouzrou told the same channel that while all parties needed to wait for the result of the investigation the images "clearly showed a policeman killing a young man in cold blood." "This is a long way from any kind of legitimate defence" he said, adding the family had filed a complaint, accusing police of "lying" by initially claiming the car had tried to run down the officers. Seven people were later arrested on Tuesday night after confronting riot police deployed at the scene in Nanterre, authorities said.

About Khyber Mail The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.

Commissioner calls for finalizing plan regarding disposal of sacrificial animals’ offal

PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Mardan Division Yousaf Rahim on Monday directed the authorities concerned to finalize all necessary arrangements including monitoring of livestock markets, and timely disposal of animal carcasses in the wake of Eid-ul-Azha falling on June 29. He was addressing a meeting here to review the arrangements regarding Eid-ul-Azha. Additional Commissioners (ADC) Naeem Akhtar, Samiur Rehman, ADC Swabi Gohar Ali, all Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Officers of Mardan and Swabi, Water Supply and

Sanitation Company, representatives of the Local Government Department and other relevant officials participated in the meeting. The ADCs of Mardan and Swabi presented a comprehensive report to the Commissioner on the preparations made for various matters on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha in both districts and briefed him about government cattle markets in both districts and other measures to be taken. The ADCs said that camps of the concerned departments have been set up in the registered cattle markets by the TMAs while all the

concerned departments have finalized the contingency plans. Apart from this, the district administration, police and TMAs will take legal action against the illegal cattle markets. He further said that arrangements have been made by the Livestock Department to vaccinate the animals for protection from the virus at the entry and exit points of the cattle markets. In addition, mobile teams will spray and vaccinate the sacrificial animals in different areas so that Sacrificial animals can be protected from any kind of germs and diseases.

Peshawar Institute of Cardiology declared first category-I hospital of KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) has become the first government hospital of Pakistan to get ISO certificate and declared first government category-I hospital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The spokesperson of PIC Riffat Anjum said here Tuesday that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Healthcare Commission has issued formal license to PIC after examining various hospitals, adding that PIC was declared as the best hospital owing to all facilities including standard treatment, patient-care, emergency services, pa-

tient safety and etc. Riffat said that for the first time in the province, hospitals were examined for issuance of licenses and PIC achieved this success by fulfilling all the rules and formalities set by the Healthcare Commission. Director PIC Dr Naimat Shah said that it was an honor and matter of pride for all the staff of PIC adding that ISO certification became possible due to tireless work and dedication of all the staff of the hospital. He said that Peshawar Institute of Cardiology was committed to providing quality treatment to the patients.

EPI KP launches measles vaccination campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has taken proactive measures to curb the spread of measles disease by initiating a vaccination campaign in 135 Union Councils across 14 districts identified as outbreak hotspots, said a press release issued here on Monday. Commencing last week and running until June 27, the campaign aims to administer vaccinations to a total of 896,000 children aged between 6 months and 5 years.

The EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, based on their data, reports 22 deaths linked to measles, with samples collected and sent to the National Institute of Health in Islamabad for further investigation. The results from the National Institute of Health indicate that out of the tested cases, 13 were confirmed to be positive for measles, while the remaining cases were attributed to other diseases. Within the past 9 days, the EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has successfully vaccinated 762,711 chil-

dren across the 14 districts, including D.I. Khan, Charsadda, North Wazir, Bajaur, Peshawar, Hangu, Kohat, Mardan, Karak, Dir Lower, Dir Upper, Haripur, Nowshera, and Tank. Of these children, 376,343 were male and 386,368 were female. The Director of EPI KP, in a statement, emphasized the presence of 1,844 basic health units throughout the province and the efforts made by EPI KP to conduct special campaigns to reach every unvaccinated child.

Lightning, heavy downpour claims 5 lives in district Mansehra

MANSEHRA (APP): At least five persons and a number of livestock were killed in lightning and rain-related incidents in Manshera district on Tuesday. The first incident took place in Kas Khawari village of Siran Valley during late-night, the wall of Abdul Razaq’s house was collapsed due to heavy downpour. Tragically, two siblings were buried under the debris and lost their lives on the spot while two others sustained critical injuries and were shifted to the hospital. The dead children were identified as Zafraan, 12 years old, and Alishba, 8 years old. In the second incident,

lightning struck shepherds and their herd as they were heading towards the Chormali forest in Chattrar Plain. The lightning strike claimed the lives of three shepherds and dozens of goats and sheep. The shepherds, along with their herd, were caught in heavy rain midway to the forest when the unfortunate incident occurred. The two shepherds belonged to the Torghar district, while the third shepherd hailed from Chattrar Plain. Local residents recovered the bodies of the ill-fated shepherds from the forest and handed them over to their respective families.

SCCI highlights role of global organizations in sustainable economic growth

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Cham-

ber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) stressed the need for building up a close liaison and coordination between government institutions concerned, businessmen and international development organizations to resolve trading community issues under a one-window operation. Ijaz Khan Afridi, the acting president of the SCCI said the International development organisation has played a pivotal role in sustainable economic growth and development of Pakistan. He, however, said owing to a lack of proper coordination and contacts between government relevant

institutions, chambers and relevant stakeholders, there were creating hurdles to achieving the sustainable economic development goals and setting targets under the global commitments made by Pakistan. The acting president urged the international organisations to make chambers, the business community and relevant stakeholders consultation to resolve business community difficulties, especially bringing improvement in the technical skills of factory workers, and labourers and ensuring the availability of skilled workers in the province.

UNICEF delegation visit Battagram district, lauds ALP-PIU project team

BATTAGRAM (APP): A delegation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) led by Ms.Christine Wanjala and Gulnaz Jabeen from the Education section, visited Battagram district to meet with key stakeholders involved in the Alternative Learning Program -Project Implementation Unit (ALP-PIU). During the meeting, they expressed their appreciation for the unwavering commitment and hard work demonstrated by the ALP-PIU team in ensuring the success of the project. They commended the team’s dedication to providing access to quality education for marginalized children who face barriers to formal education. Dr. Christine voiced the need for an approved non-formal ed-

ucation policy in the province, which will offer legal backing to the ALP initiative, and will enable stakeholders to access and get allocated, government resources including funds for the ALP sector and boost the efforts to reduce a huge caseload of out of school children in the province. District Coordinator Asfandiyar Khan presented the progress report of the ALP-PIU in Battagram, highlighting the positive impact it has had on the lives of the children in the district. The delegation extended gratitude to Tanvir ur Rehman, the Deputy Commissioner, and the District Education Officers for their continuous support and collaboration with the ALP-PIU project.

Hazara varsity approves budget for year 2023-24

PESHAWAR (Agencies): Senate meeting of Hazara University Manshera chaired by provincial higher education caretaker minister, Justice Retired Irshad Qaisar here Wednesday approved a budget of Rs. 4283 million for the year 2023-24. The meeting was told that Rs 800 million has been earmarked for development projects and endowment fund has also been cre-

ated to improve financial matters of the varsity. It was said that increase in pension and inflation are the reasons behind the budget deficit. It was told that a 300 KW solar system has been installed to reduce electricity expenses. Addressing the meeting, the caretaker minister stressed upon the university administration to improve income to gain self-dependency.

12 prisoners of minor offenses released in Tank

TANK (Agencies):Additional Sessions Judge Malik Muhammad Hasnain Khan and Senior Civil Judge Hafiz Aurangzeb on Tuesday visited Sub Jail Tank and ordered to release of 12 prisoners for minor offenses in accordance with Eid-ul-Azha. The judges also inspected the various chambers of the jail and expressed satisfaction over the security ar-

rangements and facilities being provided to inmates including food and drink in the jail premises. The judges also released 12 prisoners for minor offenses in accordance with Eid-ul-Azha, asking them to celebrate Eid with their families. On this occasion, Jail Superintendent Ijaz Mehsud briefed the judges about the facilities being provided to the prisoners.

RPO Malakand finalizes Eidul Azha security plan

PESHAWAR (Agencies): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Region, Nasir Mahmood Satti has finalized Eidul Azha security plan for the whole region including tourists’ attractive Swat, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. Under the security plan, about 10,000 policemen have been deployed in Malakand division, while District Police Officers (DPOs) and other officers have been assigned special tasks. All DPOs and other officers have also

been directed to provide all possible protection to the tourists, including the provision of facilities and deployment of tourist police squads to facilitate and guide tourists’ places including Bahrain, Malam Jabba, Kumrat and Chitral. The vacations of all police officers have been cancelled as the arrival of a large number of tourists is expected for which all necessary measures have been taken in advance to provide all possible facilities including security.

Commissioner directs to facilitate tourists during Eid vacations

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Commissioner and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Hazara Division Monday jointly chaired a meeting to discuss the security arrangements for tourists during Eid-ul-Azha and other important measures. Commissioner Aamir Sultan Tarin issued directives stating that all possible facilities should be provided to the tourists visiting the region during Eid, traffic flow should also be improved and appropriate arrangements should be made with the best practices. He asked to opt for a comprehensive strategy to enhance peace, and secu-

rity by working together with all departments including the Galyat Development Authority (GDA), Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) and National Highways Authority (NHA) Rescue 1122 and other agencies Tourists should be provided with all possible facilities. The meeting was attended by DIG Hazara Division, Tahir Ayub Khan, DPOs and DCs of Abbottabad and Mansehra, General Manager NHA Hazara region, DG GDA and DG KDA, SSP Traffic Warden Abbottabad, AC Abbottabad, AC Balakot and SDPOs of Galyat and Balakot.

DHIS Cell,TIS established at Upper Dir district

PESHAWAR (APP): A DHIS Main Cell (Repair and Renovation) and Training Information System (TIS) Software were established in Upper Dir district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen the health data management system. The TIS was set up online and offline in DHO and PWD offices for the training data compilation features. Both the projects were first of its kind digital program which includes data access and enrollment at the tehsil level as well. At the time of entry into the TIS, each individual is assigned a unique identifier from the data set for each provider to avoid loss or duplication of

information. This will help DOH to systematically track all trained staff. The software provides readily available records, identification and better utilization of trained personnel, assists in training need assessment and avoids duplication of training. It divided Dir Upper district into four tehsils e.g.(Wari, Dir, Sheringal and Brawal) to reduce data loss and timely reporting. GSM has set up a data cell within the Tehsil level with state-of-the-art desktop monitors and other accessories, a table and internet provision. The Tehsil data cell is linked to the data set in the Main DHIS software.

Sikh delegation from Peshawar calls on KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Peshawar based Sikh community called on the Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan here on Tuesday. Headed by Sikh Community leader, Gorpall Singh, the delegation comprised of the family members of the slain Sikh citizen Man Mohan Singh and the injured Sikh citizen Tarlok Singh who were targeted in Peshawar the other day. Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information & Minority Affairs Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Auqaf and Minority Affairs Dr. Asad Ali and other relevant authorities were also present on the occasion. Talking to the delegation, the Chief Minister strongly condemned the killing of Man Mohan Singh, and expressed sympathies with the bereaved family and the

Sikh community. He said that targeting the innocent minorities was highly regrettable and condemnable adding that people of Sikh community are patriotic and peaceful citizens; and have long been contributing to national development. The Chief Minister remarked that targeting the innocent minorities was aimed at spoiling the religious harmony and destabilizing the country; and elements behind such activities will never succeed in their nefarious designs. Azam Khan said that the caretaker provincial government was taking all possible step to ensure the security of minority communities, and will continue to do so. The Chief Minister directed the Inspector General of Police to sit with Sikh community leaders in order to get their inputs for devising an improved security plan for the community.

3 days Pashto literary festival concludes

PESHAWAR (APP): The three days pashto literary festival was concluded here Monday at Nishtar Hall where participants emphasized the need for scholarly research on various aspects of the language. The festival was aimed to foster intellectual discourse amongst the Pashto-speaking community while encouraging them to continue celebrating their rich cultural heritage. Prominent Pashto poets, researchers and scholars participated in 3 days long event.

The participants highlighted the importance of Pashto literature and emphasized the need for scholarly research on its various aspects. Commander Peshawar Corps, Lieutenant General Hassan Azhar Hayat graced the occasion as Chief Guest and also had an interactive session with the participants. Later on, Corps Commander visited the art gallery where he was briefed by students of Pukhtoonkwa College of Arts, Abdul Wali Khan University.



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IWMI training workshop on future water allocation in Okara district for agriculture, urban water use

Lahore/Okara: The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Pakistan organised a training workshop on “Basic concepts and principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)” in Okara district, to build a cadre of mid-career professionals at the district and tehsil level and develop their skills for better water allocation practices, using IWRM approach. The workshop was attended by representatives from Punjab Irrigation Department (PID), On Farm Water Management (OFWM), Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Community Development Unit (CDU), Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA),



Local Government department, and academia. Dr. Habib Ullah Habib, Director – OFWM Research Farm (Renala Khurd), OFWM Punjab, gave the welcome note and urged to increase application efficiency of irrigation in agriculture sector using ‘More Crop Per Drop’ approach. According to him, “Due to changes in weather patterns, water availability

is becoming unpredictable, leading to over-reliance on groundwater resources. This can have disastrous consequences on future generations, if our groundwater aquifers are exhausted. It is important to use water in agriculture sector wisely using IWRM approach and promote high value crops for greater revenue.” Dr. Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, Researcher – Water Resources Management, IWMI Pakistan, gave an overview of the UK Aid-funded Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme Component 1: Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG).

PM condoles demise of Babu Sarfraz Jatoi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Monday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of former President of Pakistan Muslim League(N) Sindh Babu

Sarfraz Jatoi. He prayed for the departed soul and grant of patience to the bereaved family. He said Babu Sarfraz Jatoi had rendered valuable services for the party.

Experts call for mechanisms, legal frameworks for better employment prospects for migrant labor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri on Monday urged the government to sign MoUs and agreements for safe and legal labour migration and prevention of exploitation. He was speaking at a seminar on “International Labour Migration: Development Outlook and Policy Options for Pakistan” organized by SDPI. He stressed devising mechanisms under SDG-8 to ensure legal, organized and safe immigration to avoid tragedies like the recent boat capsizing incident in Greece. He added that strengthening legal frameworks for labour migration, proactive role of diplomatic missions in host countries and urged media to raise the plight of migrant workers to the attention of the world. Dr Kailash Chandra

Das, South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM) remarked that the lack of scientific and gender-disaggregated data on migration trends hinders effective policymaking. He further highlighted that managing the cost of migration and protecting of labour rights are pertinent issues that require robust policy dialogues and attention from the government. Reintegration of returned migrants is a crucial issue and consultation with them can improve the perspective on policies for imparting competitive skills to enable access to better economic opportunities, he added. Amish Karki, Technical Officer, International Labour Organization (ILO), India stressed that Covid-19 and the recent incident in Greece highlight that the migrant workers are left on their own.

Dist admin bans swimming, bathing at water channels

ATTOCK (APP): The district administration Attock on Monday banned bathing; swimming at rivers and water channels to avert any further untoward incidents as incidents of drowning have alarmingly increased causing the loss of dozens of precious lives, especially youth. The ban was imposed by Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza through the imposition of section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. According to a handout

issued by the district information office, a ban under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code has been imposed on recommendations by the Deputy Commissioner owing to rising incidents of drowning in canals while taking baths. This order has come into force instantly and will remain in force for 90 days, he said, adding that strict action would be taken without any discrimination against those people who would be found violating this ban.

GB unveils over Rs116 bln budget for fiscal year 2023-24

GILGIT (APP): The Gilgit Baltistan government on Monday announced an Rs116 billion 15 crore budget for the next fiscal year 2023-24 in the Assembly held here on Monday. Gilgit Baltistan Finance Minister Javed Ali Manwa presented the budget in the House. In the budget of the new financial year, 74 billion rupees have been allocated for non-developmental expenditure, while 28 billion 45 crore rupees have been allocated for development expenditure. 13 billion 70 crore rupees have been proposed for subsidy on wheat. The finance minister announced a 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees up to 16 and 30 per cent in the salaries of employees from grades 17 to 22. He further said that more than one billion 37 crore

rupees have been allocated for the improvement of the health sector. Heer said that more than 1 billion 57 crore rupees have been allocated for education, 45 crore rupees for agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, and 4 billion 17 crore rupees have been proposed for the power sector. More than 24 crore rupees have been allocated for the sector irrigation, 1 billion 33 crores for physical planning and housing, 3 billion 46 crores for the communication system and 28 crore 53 lakh have been proposed for IT. Earlier, the Gilgit-Baltistan cabinet meeting was held in Gilgit, and Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid presided over the meeting. The budget proposals for the next fiscal year were approved in the meeting.

Citizens asked to adopt precautionary measures amid rainy spell

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) asked the general public to adopt precautionary measures owing to a rainy spell as a little carelessness or negligence can lead to a fatal accident. The spokesman advised the general public to follow precautionary measures for the sake of saving life and important belongings. Do not touch naked wire and get repaired defective wiring, use three pin plug along with proper earthing while using an iron, washing machine, refrigerator etc, put wooden pieces, flappers or rug under your feet and also use rubber soles shoes,

further said. Use rope while drying clothes instead of electrical wires and do not use a water pipe for it. Instruct children to avoid going near electricity installations while playing. Do not keep hold of the rope of sacrificial and other cattle heads with poles or stay wire and remain at least a hundred feet away from high tension wires. It further advised that electrocuted person must be separated from the wire with a piece of wooden or dry cloth. Do not allow any person or animal to go near the broken electricity wires till the arrival of concerned IESCO staff.

Demarche conveyed to the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission

ISLAMABAD (APP): The US Deputy Chief of Mission was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening and a demarche was made to him regarding the US-India Joint Statement, issued on 22 June 2023. Pakistan’s concerns and disappointment at the unwarranted, one-sided and misleading references to it in the Joint Statement were conveyed to the US side. It was stressed that the United States should refrain from issuing statements that may be construed as an encouragement of India’s baseless and politically motivated narrative against Pakistan. It was also emphasized that counter-terrorism co-operation between Pakistan and US had been progressing well and that an enabling environment, centered around trust and understanding, was imperative to further solidifying Pakistan-US ties.

Third phase of research on Bhitai’s poetry completed

HYDERABAD (APP): The students of Institute of Art and Design (IAD) University of Sindh Jamshoro have completed third phase of the research on the hidden aspects of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai’s poetry. The research project has been initiated by the Center of Knowledge Development (Pvt.) Ltd. in a bid to explore the undiscovered aspects of the great Sufi poet of Sindh Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai’s poetry, the university spokesman informed here on Tuesday. In this regard, the spokesman informed that incentive distribution ceremony was held in the Shaikh Ayaz auditorium of the Arts Faculty, where the researchers and students received their incentive cheques.

IRSA releases 356,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 356,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 565,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1487.26 feet and was 89.26 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 284,200 cusecs and 150,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1169.95 feet, which was 119.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 86,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 212,900, 169,300, 100,900 and 36,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 89,400 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 80,400 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

MOFA conveys demarche to US on US-India joint statement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The US Deputy Chief of Mission was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday evening and a demarche was made to him regarding the US-India Joint Statement, issued on June 22, 2023. According to a Foreign Office statement, Pakistan’s concerns and disappointment at the unwarranted, one-sided and misleading references to it in the Joint Statement

Dar chairs meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee the outsourcing of airports’ operations

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee the outsourcing of airports’ operations, at Finance Division. Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Government Effectiveness Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Aviation, DG CAA, IFC representatives and senior officers from Finance and Aviation attended the meeting.



During the meeting, IFC, transaction advisor, gave a presentation to the committee which took decisions as to the future roadmap for moving forward for outsourcing of the first airport in order to improve service delivery and match best international practices.

KNP, KVO launch cleaning campaign in Khunjarab



GILGIT (APP): Khunjarab National Park (KNP) administration in collaboration with local rural organization KVO has launched a cleaning campaign in Khunjarab top area. This step was taken as part of the ongoing efforts of the administration to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of the park. The cleanliness campaign was formally launched in the park. It should be noted that the national park area has a very unique place due to the local fauna, flora diversity and its beauty. The park

administration ensured that the park should not only be kept beautiful and clean for the tourists but also provide a safe environment for the local people and the animals in the park. At the start of the campaign, a Suzuki vehicle has been specially allocated in the park to pick up the garbage and waste inside the park for safe disposal. The park administration said that the role of local community organization KVO and other stakeholders in this cleaning campaign was very important.

Poultry output targets fixed at 2.363 million tons for fiscal year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has set a target to produce about 2.363 million tons of poultry during fiscal year 2023-24 in order to fulfill the domestic requirements of poultry meat and other value added products. The poultry output during the 11 months of current fiscal year (2022-23) was recorded at 2.160 million metric tons as compared to its fixed targets, where as about 5.809 million tons of meat also produced in order to fulfill the local requirements of the commodity as well as for exporting to exploit existing potential of halal meat in global markets. Domestic output of meat in 11 months of last year was

(2021-22) was recorded at 5.5 million tons as the government had set to produce about 5.5 million tons of meat during the year 2022-23, said an official in the Ministry of National food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that beef production targets for period under review were fixed at 2.630 million metric tons and mutton at 817,000 tons, adding that during out going fiscal year the local production of beef was recorded at 2.55 million tons as against the set targets of 2.54 million tons, where as about 799,000 metric tons of mutton also produced as compared the set targets of 799,000 metric tons.

Rice, cotton crops badly hit by water scarcity: Jam Khan Shoro

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro has deplored that the rice and cotton crops were being badly hit by water scarcity. Addressing a press conference after assuming the charge of Chairman Board of Directors of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), he said that IRSA was releasing 12,000 cusecs of water in Taunsa Panjnad and 8,000 cusecs in Chashma Jhelum link canals which were supposed to be given water only during the flood situation. He argued that under the 1991 Water Accord Sindh was supposed to supply 180,000 cusecs of water in the In-

duis river during the current season. “But at present, just 160,000 cusecs of water is being released at Taunsa which is 300 kilometers away from Guddu barrage in Sindh. He recalled that a committee formed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Water visited the barrages in Sindh and also acknowledged that Sindh should be given its due share of water. The Irrigation minister also shared the inflows and outflows of the Tarbela and Mangla dams saying that the formers were receiving 269,000 cusecs and were releasing 133,000 cusecs and the latter 133,000 cusecs and just 10,000 cusecs.

NAB Balochistan organizes series of seminars on corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Balochistan organized a number of seminars at various educational institutions to raise awareness against corruption and to make youth aware of the bad effects of this menace. In this regard, a seminar and walk were held at Government General Munsu College Quetta, a press release

received here on Monday said. The participants described corruption as a chronic disease and urged the students to play their role in curbing it. While addressing the seminar, NAB Balochistan’s deputy directors Mehboob Alam and Khurram Shehzad explained how the bureau functions and highlighted the role of students in the elimination of corruption.



were conveyed to the US side. It was stressed that the United States should refrain from issuing state-

Chief Secretary Punjab lays foundation stone of MIT Park in Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Monday laid the foundation stone of MIT Park in Murree. The chief secretary during a visit to Murree instructed the authorities to utilize all available resources to provide the best possible facilities to the tourists, particularly during the Eid ul Azha holidays. On the occasion, Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatha, Deputy Commissioner, Hasan Waqar Cheema and DG of Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi Ahmed Hasan

Ranjha were present. The DG PHA gave a detailed briefing to the Chief Secretary on the park project. A kid's area and an open-air gym would be constructed in the park, the Chief Secretary was informed. The chief secretary appreciated the performance of DG PHA and directed the authorities to complete the project within a stipulated time frame. According to a PHA spokesperson, the PHA Rawalpindi started the construction work of MIT Park in Murree to provide more recreational and tourism facilities to the tourists.

Pakistani int'l civil servant receives highest honor by Lao PDR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to Lao People's Democratic Republic Nasar Hayat on Monday received a Cross-of-Friendship Medal from the Lao government, for his contributions to the country's development. The medal is the highest civil award of the Lao government that can be conferred on a foreign national, according to a press release. The award marks the completion of Nasar Hayat's four-and-half-year tenure as a UNFAO Representative in Lao PDR, where he headed the FAO programme focused on the development of the agriculture sector, food security and disaster resilience in the country. Laos, which borders Thailand, China, Cambodia and Vietnam, and has a population of 7 million, is one of the least developed countries in the world. The award was present-

ed by Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister of Lao PDR. The ceremony was also attended by senior Lao officials from various ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the officials of the UN agencies. In his speech at the ceremony, he expressed his gratitude to the Government of Lao PDR for the honour. "I am proud that through FAO's support, the sector of agriculture has been recognized as a key driver of economic growth in Laos. I am also pleased to have played a significant role in helping Lao communities to adapt to climate change," he remarked. Prior to his tenure as FAO Representative in Lao PDR, Hayat served as Assistant FAO Representative in Pakistan.

Naeem stresses to enhance Pak-Africa economic integration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan on Monday said that the African region is very important for enhancing economic integration with Pakistan. Africa is the largest consumer market in the world due to the lack of large-scale industry and production at the local level, he said. Pakistan's High Commissioner for the African country Rwanda Naeem Khan expressed these views during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said a press release issued here. He said there are immense opportunities for Pakistan's business community in this region. Naeem Khan said that the way Islamabad Chamber has made efforts for trade relations with other African countries including Ethiopia for some time is commendable. "I hope that as the Head of Mission to Rwanda and other countries, I will continue to receive the full support of the Islamabad Chamber and the busi-

ness community." He said that the diplomatic and political importance of Africa for Pakistan has its place but the most importance is trade. In the policy given to us by the government, trade has priority,he said. "I invite the business community of the whole country, including Islamabad, to set up their display center in the Pakistani Embassy in Rwanda, we will provide full facilities, Rwanda is an excellent tourist destination, the business community should also pay attention to it." He said that the African region is of great importance at the political and diplomatic level in the whole world. "Africa is well represented in all international forums including the United Nations, OIC. We need to take advantage of it." Speaking on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the past and present of Rwanda is an example for other developing countries of the world.

FBR collects record Rs 7,000 bln tax by June 26: Dar

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said for the first time in the country's history, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had collected Rs 7,000

billion annual tax by June 26, 2023. "This Fiscal Year 2022-23 will end on June 30 and it is hoped that more revenue will be collected, which will be the first time in the history of the country," the minister wrote on Twitter.

FESCO training course concludes

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Executive Engineer (XEN) Regional Training Center (RTC) Sajjad Haider Awan has said that it is very important to develop the skills of employees and improve their performance. He expressed these views while addressing closing ceremony of promotion class from Assistant Line Man (ALM) to Line Man Second LM-II at RTC Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), here on Tuesday. He said that FESCO Regional Training Center is organizing

various courses to increase the technical abilities of FESCO employees, give them awareness about new technology, adding that departmental promotion of different categories of employees helps learn new trends related to their field and perform their work more efficiently. He directed that during the training of the line staff, they should inform how to ensure the implementation of the safety policy and how to fully use the safety equipment. He advised the Assistant Line Men who have successfully completed the training to do their

No reprieve for perpetrators of May 9 mayhem on pretext of HR issues: DG ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General of Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Monday said there would be no reprieve or leniency for the facilitators and perpetrators of the May 9 mayhem on account of fake human rights narrative. A thorough probe had clearly indicated that May 9 riots and arson were a pre-planned and orchestrated conspiracy against the armed forces, he said, adding there was no substance in the concocted narrative of any human rights abuses. Addressing a news briefing at the ISPR Directorate, Major General Ahmed Sharif informed the media about the actions and investigations

with regard to the violent incidents against military installations on the Dark Day of May 9. He said the May 9 was the darkest chapter in the 76-year history of Pakistan, and in its aftermath, the process of self-accountability within the Army was carried out without any discrimination. "Two comprehensive institutional inquiries were conducted into the incidents of violence at various garrisons on May 9. The inquiries were presided over by officers of the rank of Major General," he added. He said a disciplinary action had been initiated against the officials concerned who failed to maintain the security and sanctity of the garrisons and the Jinnah House.

"There is no distinction of rank or social status in the accountability process of the Army. The bigger the post, the bigger the responsibility." The DG ISPR said the investigations clearly established the point that the May 9 tragedy was being planned for several months and accordingly the brainwashing of the people was done to mislead them against the armed forces. "It is clear from the evidence regarding the May 9 tragedy that the planning was done a month earlier, and first an atmosphere of uncertainty was created and then the public unrest was made. However, the probe is underway and further proofs are being collected," he added.

Reservation offices of railways to remain closed on June 29

LAHORE (APP): All reservation offices of Pakistan Railways will remain closed on account of Eid-ul-Azha on June 29. According to a press release issued here on Monday, on second day of Eid-ul-Azha the reservation offices will remain closed from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, after which the offices would work as per normal working hours.

Pakistan,Kazakhstan hold political consultations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The second round of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held on Monday in Astana, Kazakhstan. Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Syed Ahsan Raza Shah led Pakistan side while Kazakh side was led by Kanat Tumysh, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. During the consultations, both sides held extensive discussions on various facets of bilateral relations in the political and diplomatic, trade, economic connectivity, science & technology and culture sectors. The two sides also exchanged views on issues of regional and global importance. Cooperation between two countries within the framework of United Nations, CICA, OIC, ECO and SCO was also reviewed.

Conference raises awareness on early childhood development

GILGIT (APP): A conference was organized at Chalt Nagar on Monday to raise awareness about the crucial role of Early Childhood Development (ECD), enabling children to reach their full potential. Around 250 parents, community leaders, educators, and representatives from local organizations attended the conference arranged by Rupani Foundation Pakistan. The participants were engaged in presentations, interactive sessions, and discussions, emphasizing the long-term benefits of investing in ECD and its positive impact on a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development. The ECD experts from various disciplines shed light on the significance of early childhood development for children aged 0 to 8, mothers and caregivers.

AGP submits details of 102 arrested accused in SC

ISLAMABAD (APP):Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan on Tuesday, submitting details of 102 accused who were in military custody in connection with the May 9 riots of May 9, informed the Supreme Court that they were being provided all basic facilities. A six-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik heard identical petitions regarding the trial of civilian accused by military courts. At the outset of hearing, the CJP observed that it was inappropriate to take actions against somebody without any evidence. The court had trust in the AGP's statement, he added. He said the army officers had passion to sacrifice their lives for the country due to their high morale and their morale was very important. The AGP requested the court not to make public the list of May 9 riots accused, who were in the custody of army. He, however, clarified that so far the trial of not any civilian was being run in army courts as the matter was at investigation stage. Justice Ayesha Malik asked the AGP to public the list so that everyone knew that who was taken in custody. The CJP also remarked that the public should know on Eid day that who was in the custody of army. He questioned whether the prisoners had the phone call facility to their family members on daily basis as in many jails such a facility was available. CJP Bandial observed that being the citizens of Pakistan the prisoners should be taken care. The court was viewing the matter in a positive way, and women, children, journalists and lawyers should particularly be taken care.The AGP said the accused in army custody had the facility to talk with family members on phone and they also had the permission to meet their families once in a week. However, for availing the facility they had to submit a request He

further said all the 102 prisoners would be provided books for reading, besides the basic facilities. Earlier, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan, addressing the lawyer of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said Article 175 (3) was introduced in 1986, and the current circumstances were different from the court verdicts referred to by him. Justice Ahsan asked how the accused were being kept in army custody as according to available record none of them been charged. Justice Yahya Afridi said it would be appropriate if the list of the accused was made public, or their contacts with their families through phones should be arranged. The AGP said the contacts of the accused with their families on phones would be ensured in next 24 hours. Arrangements were in place to deal with any medical emergency situation, he said, adding the accused had the right to hire the services of lawyers. Justice Munib remarked that as per army rule, firstly an accused was arrested and then the investigation process against him started. The civilian accused, he added, could only be tried in military courts in a war like situation. Even a magistrate could not take action against any accused until a police report was submitted. How someone, who did not fall in the ambit of the Army Act, could be investigated by the institution, he asked. Justice Naqvi questioned when the crime was not on record as per the Army Act then how the anti-terrorism court (ATC) granted custody of the accused. Justice Yahya Afridi asked under which law the ATC had handed over the custody of the accused to the army. The AGP replied Section-II D(1) was imposed. The chief justice observed that it was strange that the Official Secrets Act was not available to the bench and asked which crimes fell under Section-II D(1).PTI chairman's counsel Aziz Bhandari gave arguments on behalf of his client.The court also rejected the petitioners' request to grant a stay order into the matter and adjourned the case till next week.

District and session judge ordered to release prisoners involved in minor crimes on eve Eid

ABBOTTABAD (APP):Following the orders of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Masarat Halali, District and Session Judge Shahnaz Hamid Khat-tak along with Judicial Magistrate-1 Arshad Mahmood Jadoon visited Central Jail Haripur and issued orders for the release of prisoners involved in minor crimes, bringing relief to those incarcerated. Similarly, District and Session Judge Abbotabad Ejaz Khan, accompanied by Senior Civil Judge Judicial Ziya Jahangir paid a visit to Abbotabad Jail. During their visit, they listened to the grievances and issues raised by the inmates and subsequently issued orders for the release of prisoners involved in various minor offenses. A total of 18 prisoners were

granted the opportunity to participate in camp court proceedings, ultimately allowing them to celebrate Eid at home. The primary objective of these visits was to provide relief to prisoners on the auspicious occasion of Eid, as per the directives of the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court.As part of their comprehensive assessment, the judges inspected various sections of the jail, including the Women's Section, Hospital Section, Juvenile Section, Kitchen, and the adult prisoners' barracks throughout the entirety of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They diligently evaluated the healthcare facilities available, ensuring advanced pathology labs, X-ray services, and dental provisions were in place for the inmates.

MUST varsity to conduct entry tests for Engineering Programmes

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Mirpur University of Science & Technology (MUST) has been empowered as Pakistan Engineering Council's (PEC's) Designated Entity to conduct entry tests for Engineering programmes. The MUST authoritative sources told APP here on Tuesday that in August 2022, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) the apex body of Engineering in Pakistan after making extensive discussions in 45th Vice-Chancellors Committee (VCC) meeting, took a

policy decision & introduced a mechanism for unified entry test. Accordingly, for admissions in all Engineering programmes, bodies which were formed for execution of subject policy include; University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore for Punjab, NED University of Engineering and Technology for Sindh (Urban) & MUET Jamshoro for Sindh (Rural), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad for Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K),



Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and The Federal Capital Territory (FCT), National

Testing Service (NTS) for Baluchistan Province and ETEA for Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. The decision of 45th Vice Chancellors Committee (VCC) meeting totally altered the process of MUST Mirpur AJ&K indigenous framework. Most importantly such an arrangement was destined to shut the doors of hope especially to those students of Azad Jammu and Kashmir who were living in the remote/ far-flung areas and was predetermined to deprive them of the facility of appearing in entry test at the nearest District & Divisional Headquarters.

Turkiye stays top destination for Russian June diesel loadings

MOSCOW (Agencies): Turkiye will again be the top destination for Russian diesel exports in June, while total shipments are set to rise after seasonal refinery maintenance, traders said and Refinitiv Eikon data showed, according to Reuters. Russia's estimated offline primary oil refining capacity for June could total 4.029 million tons versus 4.95 million tons in May, Refinitiv data shows. Since the full EU embargo on Russian oil products



took effect on Feb. 5, traders have diverted diesel export supplies from Russian ports to Africa, Asia and the Middle East instead of Europe, which was previously the main buyer. In

June to date, Russia has sent about 0.9 million tons of diesel to Turkiye versus 1 million tons the previous month, Refinitiv data shows. About 320,000 tons of that are still in transit with the port of discharge not yet confirmed. Brazil is also among the top destinations of Russian seaborne diesel exports, totalling about 280,000 tons since the start of this month versus 450,000 tons in May, according to Revinitiv data.

Baidu boasts Ernie Bot's edge over ChatGPT

SHANGHAI (Agencies): Baidu Inc's ChatGPT-style service has outperformed OpenAI's seminal product on several measures, China's search leader said on Tuesday. Ernie 3.5, the latest iteration of Baidu's foundation model, has surpassed OpenAI's chatbot built on GPT-3.5 in general abilities and outperformed the more advanced GPT-4 on several Chinese-language capabilities, the company said in a statement. It cited



a test by the state newspaper China Science Daily, based on datasets including AGIEval and C-Eval, benchmarks designed for evaluating such AI models. Baidu's new model also

boosted its training and inference efficiency, making it faster and cheaper to iterate and upgrade to future versions. The company's ChatGPT rival has been in public beta testing for the past three months. The Beijing-based search provider debuted Ernie Bot in March as China's first major riposte to ChatGPT, sparking a race by domestic tech firms including Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and Tencent Holdings Ltd to unveil rival platforms.

China on track to hit 5% GDP growth, says Premier Li

TIANJIN (Agencies): China's economic growth in the second quarter will be higher than the first and was projected to reach the annual economic growth target of around 5%, China's Premier Li Qiang told delegates at the World Economic Forum in Tianjin on Tuesday. As factory output slows amid weak external and domestic demand, Li said China will roll out more effective policies to expand domestic demand and open markets, as well as continue to act as a strong driving force for the global



economy. However, analysts are now downgrading their economic growth forecasts for China for the rest of the year. Several major banks have cut their 2023 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecasts after May industrial output and retail sales data

missed forecasts and indicated that Beijing will need to take further steps to shore up a shaky post-Covid recovery. The pandemic is unlikely to be the last public health crisis the world faces, Li said, adding that it will be over and visible and invisible barriers will disappear. The trend of globalisation remains intact despite some setbacks, said the Chinese premier, reiterating a key theme of his since taking up his post that China remains open for business and welcomes foreign investors.

Surging India internet stocks trounce China peers

NEW DELHI (Agencies): India's consumer technology stocks are on a tear this year, handsomely beating their larger rivals in China and widening the divergence between two of the world's largest equity markets. An equal-weighted custom index of India's five flagship Internet stocks including Paytm parent One 97 Communications Ltd and Zomato Ltd. has risen more than 20% in 2023, bolstered by the firms' focus on profitability and a buzzing economy. That compares with a lacklustre performance among



China's tech behemoths, whose share prices are languishing below their January highs. India's outperformance highlights a broader shift as global money managers look for opportunities outside China. While dwarfed in terms of market cap and

revenue, Indian companies are luring investors given the nation's growth potential and favourable ties with the West. That's as Chinese growth stocks lag a global tech boom amid geopolitical and regulatory risks. "Investors are turning to India as it remains one of the best consumption stories in Asia," according to Rajat Agarwal, Asia equity strategist at Societe Generale SA. India is still an under-penetrated market for digital tech and "there is definitely a long runway of growth ahead", Agarwal said.

Goldman joins brokers, predict Tesla's rally to end

NEW YORK (Agencies): Goldman Sachs Group Inc joined a list of brokers turning less bullish on Tesla Inc shares after the electric-vehicle maker's blistering rally this year. The stock dropped 6.1% Monday after Goldman's Mark Delaney downgraded his recommendation to neutral from buy, noting the substantial surge in the shares as well as price declines for new cars. "The stock now better reflects our positive long-term view of the company's growth potential and competitive positioning," Delaney



wrote in a note. "We are also cognizant of the difficult pricing environment for new vehicles." After Tesla's biggest annual stock decline ever in 2022, the automaker's shares have more than doubled this year to close Friday at US\$256.60, giving the com-

pany a market value of US\$813 billion. Just in the past month Tesla has gained 38%. Last week, Wall Street warned that Tesla's lightning-quick rally had started to show signs of unravelling, warning that investors were too optimistic about its artificial intelligence credentials and that the stock had become "overbought". Goldman's downgrade is at least the fourth in the past week. Morgan Stanley, citing optimism related to AI taking the stock to "fair valuation", cut Tesla to equal-weight.

Engineers axed in Ford's US\$50bil cost-cutting EV shift

DETROIT (Agencies): Ford Motor Co plans to fire hundreds of salaried workers, primarily engineers, in the US this week to boost profit and lower costs amid a US\$50 billion shift to electric vehicles, according to people familiar with the matter. The automaker is cutting engineers in all three areas of its business, EVs, traditional internal combustion-engine models and commercial vehicles, said TR Reid, a company spokesman. The workers will be informed Tuesday and Wednesday. "We're not



cost competitive," Reid said in an interview. "We have specific priorities and ambitions that have implications for skills, assignments and staffing needs. These changes are consistent with that. They'll make us cost-effective." Ford didn't say how many work-

ers it is cutting, but people familiar with the actions, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters, said it was in the hundreds. Chief executive officer Jim Farley said earlier this year that Ford needed 25% more engineers to produce its models than rivals and that is costing the company billions in profit. The company has said it will lose US\$3 billion in 2023 on its nascent EV business, but Farley pledged that battery-powered models would generate an 8% return, before interest and taxes, by the end of 2026.

BHP rejects global critical mineral protectionism

BRISBANE (Agencies): BHP Group Ltd CEO Mike Henry has warned too much government intervention in global critical minerals supply chains could undermine efforts to fight climate change. The boss of the world's biggest mining company said it was "understandable" that nations were scrambling to secure domestic supply of the metals needed in renewable energy and electric vehicles, but warned against an excessively domestic focus and over-reliance on the "sugar hit" of state-provided subsidies. "Governments striving to secure their own critical mineral supplies must ensure they don't undermine the outcome



the world needs to achieve - where in fact a combination of pragmatic international cooperation and competition can jointly accelerate the energy transition," Henry said at a conference in Brisbane on Tuesday. Henry's warning comes as global competition for minerals such as lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earths continues to heat up as nations and industry

rush to meet ambitious emissions reduction goals. China controls a large chunk of the supply chains of these minerals, which has worried the US, Europe and other economies. The US Inflation Reduction Act, legislated last year, set aside almost US\$400 billion to subsidise clean energy, and the US has set up partnerships with allies, including key miner Australia, to build critical mineral supply chains that exclude China. While Henry didn't explicitly criticise these efforts in his speech, he said any moves to mimic the new law in a smaller country like Australia would be "a losing proposition".

BOE set to tip UK into recession, economists warn

LONDON (Agencies): The Bank of England will push the UK into recession by the end of the year in its battle to curb the worst inflation of any Group of Seven economy. That's the warning from Bloomberg Economics, which says a shallow if a protracted downturn is the price of taming an inflation rate that remains stubbornly close to double digits — despite 13 straight interest-rate increases since the end of 2021. Economists Dan Hanson and Ana Andrade now expect a yearlong recession starting in the fourth quarter to cost just over 1% of economic output. That assumes the BOE raises rates to 5.75% by November from



the current 5%. However, money markets are almost fully pricing in 6.25% by December, raising the possibility of a far worse slump. "The risk is the data continue to prove unresponsive to the BOE's actions and interest rates rise further than our baseline," Hanson and Andrade wrote. "As borrowing costs move above 5%, we think the risk of a financial stability shock increases exponentially."

Dollar steady ahead of US durable goods, housing data

TOKYO (Agencies): The US dollar held its ground against major currencies on Tuesday as tension in Russia simmered and traders looked ahead to US data that may determine the timing of interest rate hikes. Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday he let an aborted mutiny go on as long as it did to avoid bloodshed, a crisis that pushed the greenback to a 15-month high against the rouble. The dollar index rose 0.04% to 102.770. The rouble was flat at 84.40 per dollar after hitting its weakest level since March 2022. The greenback traded at 143.43 yen, down 0.06% from late US levels. Japanese officials have sounded the alarm in recent days over the rapid weakening of the currency. US data



this week include new orders for durable goods, housing figures, and consumer surveys from The Conference Board and University of Michigan. Market participants expect the Federal Reserve to raise its funds target rate by 25 basis points in July, but the path beyond is less clear. "We will have many US indicators, which I think will be mixed, so there will be no strong momentum, at least today," said Masafumi Yamamoto, chief currency strategist at Mizuho Securities.

US publication reveals India electric buses deal has gone bust over funding failures

ISLAMABAD (APP): A UK and European electrical vehicles partnership company is struggling to raise funds of around \$8 billion to implement a Rs 28 billion electric buses deal with the Mumbai authorities, Indian govt sources told a US publication. The American Daily Post reported that Indian-Canadian businessman Sri Ram Tumuluri's England & Wales registered Causis Group Ltd won in October 2021 a tender for supplying The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) with 1,400 electric

vehicles but nearly two years later the company is struggling to raise funds and the whole deal is under threat, according to Indian sources familiar with the backdoor discussions around the deal. UK-based Causis is wholly owned by Tumuluri. Its operating entity is India-registered Causis E-Mobility Pvt Ltd. While on paper it is owned by its directors Marudur Subramanyam Chandrasekar and Ravi Kumar Panga, Causis E-Mobility is in reality controlled by Tumuluri, said the Post.

SBP raises policy rate to 22 percent amid recent financial developments

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan, on Monday, decided to raise the policy rate by 100 bps to 22 percent for keeping real interest rate firmly in the positive territory amid recent developments. The decision, effective from 27th June 2023, was taken in an emergency meeting of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) convened here to review the overall economic situation particularly the potential effects of budgetary measures and relaxation in imports, said a statement issued here by the Central Bank. The MPC in its meeting held on 12th June decided to maintain the policy rate unchanged at 21 % terming the then monetary policy stance as appropriate to achieve the

objective of price stability "barring any unexpected domestic and external shocks." The MPC further noted that, this outlook was "contingent on effectively addressing the prevailing domestic uncertainty and external vulnerabilities." The Committee in its emergency meeting, however, had noted two important domestic developments since the last meeting- certain upward revisions in taxes, duties and PDL rate in FY24 budget and withdrawal of SBP's general guidance for commercial banks on prioritisation of imports- that have slightly deteriorated inflation outlook and which could potentially increase pressure on the already stressed external account, the statement said.

Pakistan participates in Algeria Economic Fair after 18 year

ISLAMABAD (APP): After a lapse of 18 years, Pakistan has participated in the 54th session of the Algeria International Economic Fair. A total of 638 companies, including 165 companies from 30 countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Arab region, and 473 Algerian - 157 public and 316 private institutions, took part in fair, said a news release issued by Algerian Embassy in Pakistan on Monday. The Pakistani delegation comprising over 20 businessmen representing 11 companies working in textile, sportswear,

pharmaceutical industry and food industry, under the supervision of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) represented the country. "For the first time, the launch of a digital Algerian salon presents the five strategic sectors that Algeria relies on, to achieve an economic leap outside the hydrocarbon sector, which is represented in all kinds of industrial sectors, agriculture, renewable energies, media technologies, knowledge economy and the tourism sector," the news release said.

Daraz Pakistan to donate 200 laptops to govt schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Daraz Pakistan has announced the donation of 200 refurbished laptops to government schools in Okara, a testament to the company's dedication to supporting education and ensuring that students have access to essential technology resources. The donation aims to provide students enrolled in eight schools in Okara with refurbished laptops, enabling them to thrive in today's learning environments. Recognizing the

importance of assisting the most vulnerable groups in society, this donation will be benefiting 3600 students, according to a press release issued on Monday. This donation will help create a more equal educational landscape by granting children access to computers. The laptops will facilitate innovative online learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, breaking down barriers and ensuring equitable solutions.

England’s Tongue ‘living the dream’ with Ashes call-up

London (Agencies): Josh Tongue said it was a “dream come true” after the fast bowler was selected in England’s XI for the second Test against Australia at Lord’s starting Wednesday. It was only earlier this month the 25-year-old made his Test debut, against Ireland at Lord’s, and Tongue did not feature in England’s agonising two-wicket defeat by Australia in the Ashes opener at Edgbaston last week. But he has replaced off-spinner Moeen Ali in an all-seam attack after being chosen ahead of express quick Mark Wood, whose career has been blighted by injuries. Tongue only learned he would be playing in the second of a five-match series against arch-rivals Australia prior to England’s practice session on Tuesday. “Finding out today in the huddle before training was an amazing feeling,” he said. “I’ve dreamt as a young kid growing up about playing in an Ashes series so to get the nod now is that dream come true.” Tongue took five wickets on debut against Ireland, his extra speed a point of difference on a docile pitch. “I knew the step up from county cricket to international cricket would be a big one, and playing here at Lord’s



was a very special moment for myself having never played here before,” he said. “To then get five wickets against

Ireland on my debut was an incredible feeling and should give me confidence ahead of another chance against Australia.” Tongue did spend the first two days of the match at Edgbaston in England’s dressing room before leaving to play for county side Worcestershire. And having heard the roar of the crowd when England’s Zak Crawley hit the first ball of that Test for four, Tongue cannot wait to be involved. “Obviously, that first ball that Zak hit to the boundary, the noise was just unbelievable,” he said. “I’d never heard anything like it and just being in the dressing room for the start of the game was a great environment,” added Tongue, who was also grateful for the support he has received from England captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum. “Right from the first moment I stepped into the dressing room ahead of the Ireland game, I’ve been made to feel so welcome,” he said. “And coming into the side now for the next Test I feel like I can add a bit more pace and bounce to the attack and hopefully I can get a few wickets for the team as well. “Whatever Stokesy asks me to do for the team, I’m here to do it as best I can.”

Institutional racism and sexism infects English cricket, an independent report finds

LONDON (Agencies): Institutional racism, sexism and class-based discrimination continue to infect English cricket, an independent commission has found. A long-awaited report into the state of the sport was published on Tuesday by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, known as the ICEC. Among its findings, racism was “entrenched” in the English game, women were treated as “second-class citizens,” and cricket was a rare option in state schools. Then, if anybody wanted to complain about the problems, the ICEC says the system was confusing and not fit for purpose. England and Wales Cricket Board chair Richard Thompson issued a public apology and described the report as a “wake up call.” “I apologize unreservedly to anyone who has ever been excluded from cricket or made to feel like they don’t belong,” Thompson said. “Powerful conclusions within the report also highlight that for too long women and Black people were neglected. We are truly sorry for this.” English cricket was rocked in 2020 when former Yorkshire player Azeem Rafiq said he was a victim of racial harassment and bullying through two spells at the nation’s most successful

club from 2008-18. During a tearful testimony at a parliamentary hearing in 2021, he spoke of the Islamophobia and bullying he was subjected to. “Do I believe I lost my career to racism? Yes, I do,” Rafiq said at the hearing. The ICEC was commissioned in November 2020 as part of the ECB’s wide-ranging effort to address allegations of discrimination and improve equality, diversity and inclusion in cricket. The findings were initially scheduled to be reported last year. The report calls for “decisive action,” makes 44 recommendations and a number of sub-recommendations. The ECB said some reforms could be “implemented swiftly” but others would require “fundamental, longer-term changes to cricket in England and Wales, and its funding model.” Thompson said the ruling body would take three months to consult with affected communities and form a plan of action, on timelines set out by the ICEC. “We will use this moment to demonstrate that it is a game for all and we have a duty to put this right for current and future generations,” Thompson said. “My absolute commitment is for cricket to strive to be the most inclusive sport in England and Wales.” The commission was

chaired by Cindy Butts, who, among many roles, has held positions with the Independent Police Complaints Commission and anti-discrimination soccer charity Kick it Out. The ICEC received more than 4,000 submissions from people at all levels. Half said they experienced discrimination in the previous five years. But the figures were higher when separated by ethnicity: 87 percent of people with Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage, 82 percent of people with Indian heritage, and 75 percent of all Black contributors. “We apologize unreservedly for these experiences, and are thankful for the courage of those who have shared them with the ICEC, whilst recognizing there will be many more who felt unable to give their accounts,” Thompson said. The ECB said it had already made “significant improvements” since 2018, but added “the report makes clear that much more needs to be done.” Chief executive officer Richard Gould added, “Making cricket more inclusive and reflective of the communities it serves is my No. 1 priority. This cannot and will not be a quick fix. We should view this as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore trust in the game we love.”

Bold man Cavendish plots Tour de France last hurrah

BILBAO, SPAIN (Agencies): Cycling’s all time great sprinter Mark Cavendish has nothing to prove except perhaps to himself as he embarks on his final Tour de France on Saturday. Fans will crowd finish lines along the 3,404km route from Bilbao to Paris hoping to witness the 38-year-old celebrate sole ownership for the record of Tour de France stage wins. Locked with Belgian legend Eddy Merckx since an astonishing return to form on the 2021 Tour lifted his tally to 34, he was encouraged to bow out on a high after being over-



looked for the 2022 edition. Cavendish scorched into the cycling limelight in 2008 celebrating his first four Tour de France stage wins with ingenious craft and celebrations of such passion he at-

tracted new fans to the sport. Prickly post-stage interviews only added lustre to a burgeoning star quality among the hardcore of fans who admire his old school hard-man persona. Grand tour cycling has undergone profound change as planners have jazzed up the format for television viewers with routes that invite a maverick approach resulting in fewer stages for the pure sprinters such as Cavendish. Whether he manages to pull off another stage win or not, his and Merckx’s massive tally will likely never be beaten.

Brazil aim high at Women’s World Cup despite Marta’s injuries

SAO PAULO (Agencies): Marta has won the world player of the year award six times but has never won the Women’s World Cup in five previous attempts with Brazil. That’s something she and the team want to change. Marta has been recovering from a knee injury but the 37-year-old striker is expected to play a role in Brazil’s bid for the title at the tournament co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand. Brazil will be coached at a World Cup by a European for the first time; Pia Sundhage has had nearly four years to transform the team. Sundhage, who led the US to



two Olympic gold medals, called up Marta for friendlies against England and Germany in April but the forward remained in Florida to recover from a muscle injury in her left leg. She later declared she was 100 percent ready to play, although the doubts over her fitness have persisted. Marta had sur-

gery to a repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament last year after injuring her left knee during a club game in the US. She was sidelined from the national team for 11 months, only returning to play for Brazil in a friendly against Japan in February. Regardless of Marta’s level of fitness, Sundhage believes Brazil are among a group of 10 teams that could win the title. The coach also insists her team has improved since the penalty shootout loss in the quarterfinals to eventual champion Canada at the Tokyo Olympics, a result that cast doubt on the team rebuilding job started in 2019.

Talor Gooch, 4Aces GC top LIV Golf individual, team tables at halfway ark

(Agencies): Seven events into the LIV Golf League’s first official 14-tournament season and the individual and team championship competitions are heating up, while those at the bottom of the table face possible relegation. Talor Gooch of RangeGoats GC leads the individual standings with 96 points, thanks to impressive back-to-back wins in Ad-

elaide and Singapore. Stinger GC’s Branden Grace and Smash GC captain and 2023 PGA Championship winner Brooks Koepka trail closely behind with 86 and 85 points, respectively. 4Aces GC, captained by Dustin Johnson, lead the team competition with 124 points, followed by Stinger GC (108) and Torque GC (97). Torque, captained by Joaquin

Niemann, took home the team trophy at LIV Golf DC and became this season’s first two-time team champions. “The incredible performances this season in Mexico, Australia, Singapore and throughout the US have matched the fan energy and global excitement for the league’s launch,” said Greg Norman, CEO and commissioner of LIV Golf.

Duplantis sets new 2023 pole vault best at 6.12m

Ostrava, Czech Republic (AFP/APP): Armand Duplantis improved his own best pole vault attempt of 2023 by a centimetre to 6.12 metres at the Golden Spike athletics meet in the Czech Republic on Tuesday. The US-born Swedish athlete, the reigning Olympic and world champion, previously cleared 6.11 metres in Hengelo, Netherlands, on June 4. In February, Duplantis set a world record of 6.22 metres at an indoor meet in France. In the eastern Czech city of Ostrava on Tuesday, Duplantis only managed 5.90m at the second attempt on the rather chilly summer day. But he got over 6.00m with ease as the only pole vaulter left in competition and then had the bar raised straight to 6.12m which he also cleared at the first attempt. He then tried 6.17m but failed as the 23-year-old hones his form ahead of this year’s world championships in Budapest starting on August 19. “I think 6.12 was pretty much about the highest I was going to make today,” Duplantis said. “I’m pretty satisfied. I liked the way I was jumping. “The jump at 6.12 was good, it was good for the day. It was a little bit colder than I would have liked today,” he added. Also at Ostrava, South Africa’s Akani Simbine won the men’s 100 metres in 9.98 seconds ahead of Italy’s European 60m indoor champion Samuele Ceccarelli, in 10.15sec. Canada’s Olympic 200m champion Andre De Grasse rounded out the podium in



third in a season’s best of 10.21. Ethiopian Lamecha Girma, the world record holder in the 3,000m steeplechase, won the 1500m in a personal best of 3min 33.15sec. Girma’s teammate Dibré Welteji clocked 3:57.38 to win the women’s 1500m as three Ethiopians took the podium with times under four minutes. Reigning Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico claimed victory in the women’s 100m hurdles in 12.42sec. She beat Nia Ali of the United States and Nigerian world record holder and reigning world champion Tobi Amusan, with all three sandwiched within 0.05 seconds.

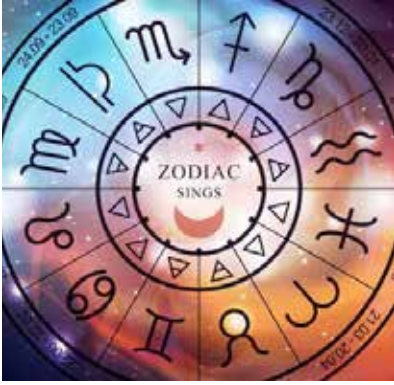
Swiatek overcomes fright from Maria to win on Bad Homburg Open debut

BAD HOMBURG, Germany (Agencies): Iga Swiatek overcame a slow start before powering her way into the second round of the Bad Homburg Open with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-0 win over grasscourt specialist Tatjana Maria on Monday. Swiatek, making her first competitive appearance since winning the French Open two weeks before, took time to get going in her first match on grass this season. Maria saved three of the four break points she faced and converted both of her opportunities to win the first set. But Swiatek answered the 2022 Wimbledon semifinalist in the next and lost only two more games for the rest of the match, wrapping up the win in 1 hour, 52 minutes. It’s Swiatek’s eighth consecutive win and a tour-leading 36th of the season. “At the beginning it was tricky,” Swiatek said. “But I’m pretty glad that I figured it out because I guess problem-solving on grass is the most important thing.” Grass remains the only surface on which she has yet to win a title. She’s yet to make it past



the round of 16 at Wimbledon. The top-ranked Polish player next faces Jil Teichmann in the second round. The Swiss player rallied to beat Claire Liu of the United States 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Fellow American Emma Navarro eased to a 6-2, 6-0 win over Argentine Nadia Podoroska for a second-round meeting with Alizé Cornet of France. Also, the fourth-seeded Mayar Sherif edged Germany’s Anna-Lena Friedsam 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 for her first main-draw win on grass. Katerina Siniakova defeated the seventh-seeded Elisabetta Cocciaretto 6-3, 6-4, and Bianca Andreescu edged Sonay Kartal of Britain 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

DAILY HOROSCOPE: JUNE 28, 2023



you face. There are hidden tricks and pitfalls that you should be able to avoid with ease. Information really is power, so make use of it!

- **VIRGO**: You’re feeling pretty sure of yourself and ought to be able to make a lot of progress -- as long as you aren’t trying to fly to the moon or something equally unrealistic. Focus on what you can actually achieve.
- **LIBRA**: It’s a really good time for you to focus on work and business issues -- your eye for details and ability to scope out opportunities is quite strong. See if you can sew up a deal before evening
- **SCORPIO**: Whatever you’ve been meaning to do, now is the time to take care of it. You should find that people are much more willing to step aside when you step up, so don’t worry about any resistance.
- **SAGITTARIUS**: Your weird dreams aren’t just random (though sometimes they are, of course). Right now, they’re trying to tell you something that’s pretty important and the message is most likely pretty straightforward.
- **CAPRICORN**: You’re feeling pretty overwhelmed with good feelings about friends today. They are more helpful than ever and should be looking out for your best interests without your needing to ask.
- **ACQUARIUS**: You need to feel like part of the team, or at least like you’re making a difference. See if you can divine what people are looking for and then offer it up as best you can. Things are getting better!
- **PISCES**: You need to take greater care with your signature than ever before. Read everything twice, then a third time, before agreeing to it.
- It’s a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
- **ARIES**: It might feel as if this isn’t your day, what with all the minor setbacks and troubles that seem to follow you around. It’s a good time for you to pull back and let others get ahead of you.
- **TAURUS**: You’re feeling pretty great about how things have been going at work or at school and may find that the people around you see you in a new and better light. It’s a good time to win those popularity contests you’ve struggled with.
- **GEMINI**: You’re feeling a bit low-key right now and should certainly take a break from the hustle and bustle, if that suits you. It’s a good day to reflect and possibly to make momentous internal decisions.
- **CANCER**: You should politely decline any invitations that you’re not totally sure about -- you don’t have the time to say ‘yes’ to everyone! Let your intuition be your guide and you’ll be fine.
- **LEO**: You’ve got to make sure that you’re looking carefully at the issues

Global refugee resettlement needs to grow in 2024: UNHCR

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Over 2.4 million refugees will be in need of resettlement, marking a 20 per cent increase compared to 2023, according to UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. In its Projected Global Resettlement Needs Assessment for 2024 released on Monday, the UN agency called for urgent action to address the escalating challenges faced by millions forced on the run worldwide. “We are witnessing a concerning increase in the number of refugees in need of resettlement in 2024. Resettlement remains a critical lifeline for those most at risk and with specific needs,” Filip-

Prince William launches new UK homelessness initiative

LONDON: Britain’s Prince William on Monday unveiled a new UK-wide initiative aiming to show that “homelessness can be ended for good” through collaboration between public, private and voluntary sectors. William, 41, the heir to the throne, and his charitable Royal Foundation will help give six flagship locations across Britain “space, tools, and relationships” to work on preventing homelessness locally. Announcing the five-year programme, called Homewards, in Lambeth, south London -- one of the six places selected -- the prince said it will “put collaboration at the heart of the response”. “I believe that we have a unique opportunity to develop innovative new solutions and scale tangible impact,” he told an audience at a community centre offering mental health support. “This will inspire belief throughout the UK -- and beyond -- that homelessness can be ended for good. Promising a “transformative approach” to the issue, William said the initiative will rely on “locally led coalitions of committed people, organisations and businesses”. He hopes it will ultimately make homelessness “rare, brief, and unrepeatable” in the targeted areas, which can then serve as models for the rest of the UK. The initiative will provide access to an unprecedented network of “best-in-class expertise, partners and funders at a local and national level”, his Kensington Palace office said. That includes up to £500,000 (\$635,000) of flexible seed funding in each location that can be accessed to support the delivery of their action plans, it added. William, who noted he first visited a homeless shelter aged 11 with his late mother, Princess Diana, launched the scheme alongside new research suggesting that one in five people in Britain have some experience of homelessness.

Census: 15-day Post Enumeration Survey from July 8

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Census Monitoring Committee (CMC) on Tuesday announced commencing the 15-day Post Enumeration Survey (PES) on July 8 aimed at validating the data collected during the field operation of Pakistan’s first-ever Digital Population and Housing Census. “The enumeration process will also take place in the remaining three districts of Kohistan, as well as the snow-bound areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), starting from July 8, 2023,” the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) stated in a news release. The decision was taken in the 16th meeting of the CMC, chaired by Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal. Among others, all CMC members, including Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Syed Amin ul Haque, attended the meeting. During the meeting, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the importance of completing the PES in 15 days while maintaining accuracy to enhance the credibility of the census. He also urged provincial chief secretaries to instruct relevant authorities to provide completion certificates for the Field Enumeration of the 7th Population and Housing Census, 2023 by July 15.

po Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugee, said in a statement.. The Asia region tops the list, with nearly 730,000 refugees likely requiring resettlement support, representing around 30 per cent of the total. With the Syrian war extending into its 13th year and remaining the world’s largest refugee situation, refugees there continue to need the most resettlement support for the eighth consecutive year, with around 754,000 requiring urgent assistance. Refugees from Afghanistan are estimated to have the second-highest level of needs, followed by refugees from South Sudan,

LHC declares super tax valid

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday declared the super tax, imposed by the federal government last year, as valid. However, the court reduced the rate of the super tax to 4 percent from 10 percent on 16 sectors, including fertilizer, tobacco and cement. Justice Jawad Hassan announced the verdict while partially allowing 387 petitions filed by various companies. The court had reserved the judgement on April 12, after hearing arguments of the parties and it was announced on

PMDC completes investigation on past PMC’s embezzlement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Executive Committee of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC) has investigated and exposed major embezzlement of the erstwhile Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC). According to PMDC spokesperson, they gathered the evidence, proof, and all other necessary documents. After scrutinizing, the committee has decided to hold the responsible parties accountable and implement measures to prevent future incidents. The Executive committee has decided to refer the matter to the third party for audit and investigation. They decided to bring all culprits to face consequences. The PMDC committee has investigated many irregularities in payments made in the previous tenure by the erstwhile (PMC) amounting million of rupees which included payments made to a private consortium before the signing of the agreements, nebulous payments for IT equipment, software, etc. The committee recently investigated anomalies in payments made in the previous tenure (PMC) in conducting MDCAT-22 amounting Rs. 409.32 million of rupees which included payments made to a private consortium of around Rs 122 million, a day before the signing of the agreements. The erstwhile PMC made an agreement of Rs 409.32 million on 17th of August, 2022 out of which an advance payment of Rs 122. 78 million which was 30% was paid on 6th of August-2022 before the execution of agreement a consortium for conduction of MDCAT examination-2022. Astonishingly the payment was made to the private consortium and the taxes were paid through another company. The company to whom this big amount was paid was not even registered with the FBR nor with SECP as a consortium. It did not fall under the definition of government entity and the agreement made was in clear violation of PPRA rules. After detailed scrutiny the committee found another scam of erstwhile (PMC) by violating in the procurement of Network IT Equipment like Servers, Switches, Controllers, Access Points and Firewall etc and has severely violated the PPRA Rules. The installed Software License in Servers and the tender documents were completely different. Moreover, items delivered in erstwhile PMC

Pak-China collaboration to promote Pakistan’s pharmaceutical development

BELJING (APP): China has equalized or surpassed the developed nations’ pharma standards over a period of time. With 30 years of experience in cooperation with China, our progress is accompanied by the dividend of the development of China’s pharmaceutical industry,”highlighted Waheed Ahmed, Chief Executive of Shaigan Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd at the CPHI & PMEC China. As Asia’s leading pharmaceutical show for trading, knowledge sharing and networking, CPHI & PMEC China spans all industry sectors along the pharmaceutical supply chain including APIs, excipients, finished

Myanmar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). “I ask all States with the means to step up and provide sustainable and multi-year resettlement commitments to offer safety and protection to those in need and to share the international community’s responsibility for refugees”, Grandi urged. Resettlement provides a lifeline of hope and protection to those facing extreme risks by offering a durable solution while at the same time playing a pivotal role in relieving the pressure on host countries and strengthening the broader protection framework.

Tuesday. The petitioners had challenged the retrospective application of Section 4C of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 and the vires of the First Proviso to Division IIB of Part I of the First Schedule of the Ordinance, introduced through the Finance Act, 2022. The petitioners had submitted that the super tax could not be imposed retrospectively and that its imposition for the previous period was illegal. They had pleaded with the court to set aside the super tax for being illegal.

were mismatched with Bill of Quantities (BOQ’s) published in Tender document for the captioned procurement. Shockingly, anomalies were also found in the procurement of miscellaneous equipment like cameras, NVR, UPS, and cables etc. By violating PPRA rules and all the procurements were done to give financial favors to their blue-eyed company. While talking to the Council Executive Committee, (responsible body for financial and administrative affairs of PM&DC) while highlighting the scams previous Council, ensured to bring the culprits to face consequences. They said that the PM&DC Council is combination of best eminent members from all over the country with highest reputations as doctors, professors, surgeon general, legal experts, auditor, health secretaries of all provinces. After assuming the charge, the Council has started working for betterment medical and dental profession and working tirelessly to make PM&DC more efficient as a regulator as well as a facilitator, they said. The council has taken up all the matters and affairs of PMDC on priority as per rules and law. They added that after making all necessary arrangements of transition from PMC to PMDC, the first priority of the council was to achieve the accreditation of WFME so that our doctor and students may not face any problem internationally. They showed concerned that as PM&DC has highlighted the scams previous regime, a group of vested interest has started a media campaign merely to undermine and malign PM&DC whose preamble are not even correct neither near to truth. They said PM&DC refutes all such information being shared and published. The culprit vested group is trying to delay in achieving the PM&DC objectives and just to malign the working of the current Council. These malafide intentions of this vested group may create hurdles in creating liaison between the international medical communities and relations with WFME. They said that the PM&DC is conducting MDCAT 2023 examination first time in the history in time without wasting students precious time through public sector medical and dental universities from all provinces to streamline the gaps that were previously emerged by the erstwhile PMC.

BBH renovated emergency block opens



RAWALPINDI (APP) The first floor of the emergency block of Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) was opened for patients less than two months after renovation and repair. Minister for Primary Health and Population Welfare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir Tuesday visited the emergency block and reviewed the quality of the construction work. He praised the hospital administration for making the first floor functional in a short period of time. Dr Jamal said that medical facilities were being provided to the patients at 37 beds on the first floor while 16 beds were available on the ground floor of the emergency block. He directed the officials concerned to make functional the ground floor of the emergency block at the earliest and said that the pace of work should not be affected due to Eid

ul Azha holidays. The minister said that last week Caretaker Chief Minister, Punjab Mohsin Naqvi had paid a surprise visit to BBH and expressed his concern over the increasing number of patients in the emergency block. He said that provision of health facilities was the priority of the government and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Muhammad Umar and MS BBH Dr Tahir Rizvi were also present on the occasion.

New carbon accounting rules target ‘greenwashing’

PARIS: Common standards unveiled on Monday for companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions could curb misleading climate claims in the corporate world, the chair of the body that wrote the norms said. Currently, most large companies report how many tonnes of carbon they emit into the atmosphere each year, but the data is often not reliable. The poor quality of data and lack of common standards allows companies to overstate their climate credentials — the practice of “greenwashing”. The new standards issued by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) on Monday will set uniform sustainability and climate standards for companies to follow worldwide from 2024. “Greenwashing... will end the day our standards have gained a sufficiently significant position in the markets,” ISSB chairman Emmanuel Faber said. The standards aim to “reassure the financial market about the information it is given”, said Faber, the former chief executive of French food company Danone. The ISSB was created by the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation, a non-profit organisation governing international accounting rules. The new standards — dubbed IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 — “will help to improve trust and confidence in company disclosures about sustainability to inform investment decisions,” the ISSB said. “And for the first time, the standards create a common language for disclosing the effect of climate-related risks and opportunities on a company’s prospects,” it added. Companies have to voluntarily adopt the standards, or governments have to decide whether to require them to do so.

LHC stays elections for slot of PCB chairman



LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday stayed the elections for the slot of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman. Justice Anwaar Hussain passed the orders on a petition filed by Malik Zulifqar challenging the formation of a new PCB Board of Governors. The court also issued notices to the respondents, including the federal government, and sought a reply to the petition. Earlier, the petitioner’s counsel Nida Kafeel advanced arguments before the court and questioned the formation of a new PCB Board of Governors. She termed the step illegal and pleaded with the court to set aside it and stayed the elections for slot of PCB chairman, to be held on June 27, till the final decision on the petition. The court, after hearing the arguments of the counsel, stayed the elections for the slot of PCB chairman and sought reply from respondents. It is pertinent to mention here that a Balochistan High Court division bench had already stayed the elections for the PCB chairman slot, a day earlier.

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